Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

FEMA

August 24, 2020
DR-4558-CA NR 001
Cal OES News Desk: 916-800-3943
FEMA News Desk: 916-718-8540

News Release

Applying For FEMA Disaster Assistance

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – If you were impacted by the on-going wildfires in Lake, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo counties, you may be eligible for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Grants may help eligible survivors with financial assistance that include rent, home repair, home replacement and other disaster-related needs such as childcare, medical and dental expenses.

Before you apply, contact your insurance company and file a claim for the disaster-caused damage. Take photographs or video of the damage and keep all receipts related to home repair.

If you have uninsured or underinsured losses, contact FEMA online at disasterassistance.gov, download the FEMA app and register on your smartphone or tablet, or call 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585).

Be prepared with the following information:

- Social Security Number
- Insurance policy information
- Address of the damaged primary dwelling
- A description of disaster-caused damage and losses
- Current mailing address
- Current telephone number
- Total household annual income
- Routing and account number of your checking or savings account (for direct transfer to your bank account)

After registering, create an account to check the status of your application, view messages from FEMA, update your personal information, and upload important documents.

If you are unable to upload your documents, mail them to FEMA at P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD, 20782-8055 or fax them to 800-827-8112.

If you have any questions, you please contact the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585). For TTY call 800-462-7585. If you use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), please call 800-621-3362.

INSPECTIONS

During COVID-19, inspections will be conducted by phone. Remote inspections are comparable to traditional, in-person inspections and can expedite recovery assistance, based on eligibility. For security purposes, the inspector will verify your identity by asking a series of qualifying questions and then provide you with the first four digits of your application to complete the verification.

If you reported that you cannot safely live in your home, a FEMA inspector will contact you by phone and ask about the type and extent of damage sustained. Survivors with minimal damage who can live in their homes will not automatically be scheduled for a home inspection when applying to FEMA, but they still may request an inspection.

Remote inspections have no impact on the types of Other Needs Assistance available that do not require an inspection, including grants for childcare, transportation, medical, dental, funeral expenses, moving and storage assistance.

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has established a Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center to help homeowners and renters. Customer service representatives are available to assist business owners and individuals to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each person complete their electronic loan application.

Virtual Business Recovery Center and Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center
Mondays – Fridays
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
FOCWAssistance@sba.gov
(916) 735-1500

These services are only available for the California disaster declaration as a result of the wildfires that began Aug. 14, 2020, and not for COVID-19-related assistance.

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All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, economic status, or retaliation. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, call 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585(TTY/TDD).

FEMA's mission: Helping people before, during, and after disasters.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is the federal government's primary source of money for the long term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property.

For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955. TTY users may also call 800-877-8339. Applicants may also email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or visit SBA at SBA.gov/disaster.

August 27, 2020
DR-4558-CA NR 002
Cal OES News Desk: 916-800-3943
FEMA News Desk: 916-718-8540

News Release

The Next Step After Applying For Disaster Assistance

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – If you have uninsured or underinsured losses from the recent California wildfires and have registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the next step is the home inspection.

All inspections will be conducted by phone due to COVID-19 and the need to protect the safety and health of our workforce and survivors. Remote inspections are comparable to traditional, in-person inspections and can expedite recovery assistance, based on eligibility.

For security purposes, the inspector will verify your identity by asking a series of qualifying questions and then provide you with the first four digits of your application to complete the verification.

Expect calls from inspection teams to come from a variety of area codes. Check missed calls and voicemails frequently to ensure the inspection is arranged and completed.

Survivors with minimal damage who can live in their homes will not automatically be scheduled for a home inspection when applying for FEMA assistance. Instead, they will receive a letter from FEMA explaining that they may call the FEMA Helpline to request an inspection if they find significant disaster-caused damage to their home after they applied.

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Cal OES
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OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

FEMA

August 29, 2020
DR-4558-CA NR 003
Cal OES News Desk: 916-800-3943
FEMA News Desk: 916-718-8540
SBA 916-847-2638

News Release

Beware of Fraud and Scams

SACRAMENTO, Calif.– When natural disasters occur, it is common to find people who want to take advantage of survivors by posing as official disaster aid workers or as relatives trying to help survivors complete their applications.

FEMA encourages survivors to be aware of fraud and scams. FEMA also encourages survivors to report any suspicious activity or potential fraud from scam artists, identity thieves and other criminals.

Survivors should also be aware that this kind of situation doesn't happen only at the beginning of the response to the disaster when people might be more vulnerable. It can happen anytime. It is important to know that FEMA does not endorse any commercial businesses, products or services.

Residents in Lake, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties need to identify the common tactics used by these criminals, such as phone calls from people claiming to work for FEMA.

The caller might ask for the survivor's Social Security number and income or banking information. Giving out this type of information can help an unscrupulous person make a false claim for assistance or commit identity theft.

FEMA encourages survivors and business owners to be vigilant for these common post-disaster fraud practices:

Housing inspectors claiming to represent FEMA.

- Be cautious if somebody asks for your nine-digit registration number. A FEMA inspector will never ask for this information. They already have it in their records.

- Don't give anyone your banking information. FEMA inspectors never require banking or other personal information such as a Social Security number.

Fake offers of local or federal aid.

• Don't trust someone who asks for money. Federal and local disaster workers do not solicit or accept money. FEMA and U.S. Small Business Administration staff never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections or help in filling out applications.

• Don't believe anyone who promises a disaster grant and asks for large cash deposits or advance payments in full.

Fraudulent building contractors.

• Use licensed or verified local contractors backed by reliable references.

• To find licensed certified contractors check the Department of Consumer Affairs of California.

• Don't pay more than half the costs of repairs in advance.

• Demand that contractors detail the job to be done with guarantees in writing.

If you suspect fraud, call the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at **866-720-5721.**

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Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

FEMA

September 5, 2020
DR-4558-CA NR 008
Cal OES News Desk: 916-800-3943
FEMA News Desk: 916-718-8540
SBA 916-847-2638

News Release

Six Counties Receive Federal Help with Wildfire Debris Removal

Sacramento, Ca.-The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today that Lake, Monterey, Napa, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma counties have been designated to receive federal assistance for debris removal under FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

On August 22, 2020, President Donald J. Trump granted a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of California triggering the release of federal funds to help people and communities recovering from wildfires that occurred August 14, 2020, and continuing. That disaster declaration was amended today to add the six counties for assistance with debris removal.

Those six counties plus San Mateo and Yolo counties were previously designated for FEMA's Individual Assistance Program and for Public Assistance with emergency protective measures.

Eligible applicants for Public Assistance funds include state, county and local governments, federally recognized tribal governments, and some private non-profits such as educational and medical facilities. FEMA provides 75 percent of the cost of eligible projects.

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Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

FEMA

September 7, 2020
DR-4558-CA PSA 002
Cal OES News Desk: 916-800-3943
FEMA News Desk: 916-718-8540
SBA 916-847-2638

Public Service Announcement

Stay in Touch With FEMA

START DATE: **September 7, 2020**
RUN TIME: **:30**
KILL DATE: **October 7, 2020**

FEMA WANTS TO REMIND EVERYONE WHO APPLIED FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE DUE TO WILDFIRE-RELATED LOSSES TO **STAY IN TOUCH**.

TELL FEMA IF YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGES.
IF WARRANTED, FILE AN INSURANCE CLAIM AND REPORT YOUR DAMAGES TO FEMA.

WITHOUT YOUR INPUT, FEMA CANNOT PROCESS YOUR APPLICATION.

TO UPDATE YOUR FILE OR FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT FEMA ASSISTANCE, CALL THE FEMA HELPLINE AT 1-800-621-3362 (F-E-M-A.)

ALSO - YOU CAN UPDATE YOUR INFO **ONLINE** AT WWW DOT DISASTERASSISTANCE DOT GOV OR BY DOWNLOADING THE FEMA APP ONTO YOUR SMARTPHONE OR TABLET.

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FEMA

September 5, 2020
DR-4558-CA PSA 001
Cal OES News Desk: 916-800-3943
FEMA News Desk: 916-718-8540
SBA 916-847-2638

Public Service Announcement

Three ways people can apply for FEMA assistance

START DATE: **September 5, 2020**
KILL DATE: **October 5, 2020**
RUN TIME: **:30**

IF YOU WERE IMPACTED BY THE ON-GOING WILDFIRES IN **LAKE, MONTEREY, NAPA, SAN MATEO, SANTA CRUZ, SOLANO, SONOMA, AND YOLO COUNTIES**, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA).

IF YOU SUFFERED LOSS, CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE PROVIDER TO FILE A CLAIM AND ALSO, BE SURE TO APPLY WITH FEMA.

YOU CAN APPLY ONLINE AT WWW DOT DISASTERASSISTANCE DOT GOV; USING THE FEMA APP FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE OR TABLET OR BY CALLING 1-800-621-3362. (FEMA)

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Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

FEMA

September 6, 2020
DR-4558-CA NR 007
Cal OES News Desk: 916-800-3943
FEMA News Desk: 916-718-8540
SBA: 916-847-2638

News Release

Apply with FEMA for disaster assistance for critical and immediate needs

SACRAMENTO, Calif.— A Major Disaster Declaration for the wildfires in California was approved, which authorized Individual Assistance in Lake, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo Counties

Individuals and households who reside in those counties and who have immediate or critical needs due to being displaced from their homes as a result of the wildfires may be eligible for FEMA financial assistance.

Apply with FEMA one of three ways: online at www.disasterassistance.gov; by downloading the FEMA app to a smartphone or tablet; or by calling the **FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362** (TTY 800-462-7585) between 7 a.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Applicants with questions about their FEMA registrations should call the FEMA Helpline. between 7 a.m. and 10:30 p.m PST.

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