



# DISASTER NEWS

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

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## **SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Colorado Residents & Businesses Affected By the Castle West Apartment Complex Fire**

**Sacramento, CA** – Steven C. Preston, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced that low-interest disaster loans will be available to Colorado residents and businesses affected by the Castle West Apartment Complex Fire that occurred on January 16, 2007. Preston’s action responded to a February 2, 2007 request from Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.

By declaring a disaster, Administrator Preston’s action makes SBA assistance available. The declaration covers **El Paso County** and the neighboring counties of **Crowley, Douglas, Elbert, Fremont, Lincoln, Pueblo** and **Teller**. “We look forward to working with Colorado and the people affected by the fire to make SBA disaster loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes,” said Administrator Preston.

“Low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to residents and businesses whose property was damaged or destroyed by the apartment complex fire on January 16,” said Patricia Barela Rivera, SBA’s Colorado District Director. “SBA Customer Service Representatives will be on hand at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Center to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process, and help each individual complete their application,” she continued. The center will be located in **Colorado Springs** on the following days and times:

**Colorado Springs Fire Department Complex  
375 Printers Parkway**

**Mondays through Fridays  
8:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Open Friday, February 9 through Thursday, March 1**

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses only, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit SBA in person may obtain information and loan applications by calling SBA toll-free at **(800) 659-2955**, or by visiting the web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **April 9, 2007**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **November 7, 2007**.

*For more information visit SBA’s website at <http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance>*

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