



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in 29 Utah counties (plus neighboring counties in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by the combined effects of multiple disasters. The disasters include severe drought, insect infestations, killing frosts, hot dry winds, below normal run off, wildfires and flash floods, that occurred in the following 24 Primary Utah counties beginning January 1, 2007, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary Utah counties:

Beaver	Box Elder	Cache	Carbon	Davis
Duchesne	Emery	Garfield	Iron	Juab
Kane	Millard	Morgan	Piute	Rich
Salt Lake	San Juan	Sanpete	Summit	Tooele
Uintah	Utah	Washington	Weber	

Neighboring Utah counties:

Daggett	Grand	Sevier	Wasatch	Wayne
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Neighboring Arizona counties:

Apache	Coconino	Mohave	Navajo
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Neighboring Colorado counties:

Dolores	Garfield	Mesa	Moffat	Montezuma
Montrose	Rio Blanco	San Miguel		

Neighboring Idaho counties:

Bear Lake	Cassia	Franklin	Oneida
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Neighboring Nevada counties:

Elko	Lincoln	White Pine
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Neighboring New Mexico counties:

San Juan

Neighboring Wyoming counties:

Lincoln	Sweetwater	Uinta
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Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. “Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are

restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship,” Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster at the request of Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary’s declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

For information and application forms, call toll-free **(800) 659-2955**, or visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **April 21, 2008**.