



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Contact: Rick Jenkins
Phone: (916) 735-1500

SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Small Businesses Financially Hurt by Montana Wildland Fires

Sacramento, CA – Steven Preston, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced that the SBA is making low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to small businesses that were economically impacted by wildland fires that began July 21, 2007. The declaration covers the Montana counties of **Broadwater, Cascade, Flathead, Granite, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders and Teton**, and the Idaho counties of **Clearwater and Idaho**.

SBA's disaster declaration immediately makes these low-interest loans available to help small businesses meet financial needs caused by a decrease in customer sales as a result of the disaster. "We look forward to working with small business owners who were affected by the wildland fires to make SBA disaster loans available to their small businesses," said Administrator Preston.

Mr. Preston's action responded to a request received on September 20, 2007 from Governor Brian Schweitzer. Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West, said SBA acted under its own authority to declare these counties a disaster area.

SBA is offering working capital loans of up to \$1.5 million at an interest rate of 4 percent with terms up to 30 years. "These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. These loans can provide vital economic assistance to small businesses affected by the wildfires to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing," said Judd.

According to Michelle Johnston, Director of SBA's Montana District Office, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following location on the days and times indicated below to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application. "You don't need an appointment to meet with a customer service representative," she said.

**Seeley Lake, MT
Seeley Lake Chamber of Commerce
2920 Montana Highway 83 North**

**Tuesdays through Fridays
11 am to 4 pm**

**Open Thursday, September 27
through
Thursday, October 11**

Business owners also may obtain information by calling toll-free (800) **659-2955** or by visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339. The deadline to apply for these loans is **June 25, 2008**.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance

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SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841