



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Small Businesses Financially Hurt by the Central Idaho Wildland Complex Fire

Sacramento, CA – Steven Preston, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), announced that the SBA is making low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to small businesses that were economically impacted by the Central Idaho Wildland Complex Fire that began July 7, 2007. The declaration covers the Idaho counties of **Ada, Adams, Boise, Butte, Canyon, Clark, Clearwater, Custer, Gem, Idaho, Lemhi, Lewis, Nez Perce, Owyhee, Payette and Valley; Beaverhead, Missoula and Ravalli** counties in Montana; and **Malheur** and **Wallowa** Counties in Oregon.

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 fire to make SBA disaster loans available to their small businesses,” said Administrator Preston.

Preston’s action responded to a request received on September 21, 2007 from Governor C. L. “Butch” Otter. 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 Central Idaho Wildland Complex Fire to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing,” said Judd.

According to Thomas E. Bergdoll, Director of SBA’s Idaho District Office, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following locations on the days and times indicated 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,” he said.

McCall, ID

**Idaho Department of Labor
299 South Third Street**

**Monday, October 1
Tuesdays, October 2 and 9
Wednesdays, October 3 and 10
8:00 am to 5:00 pm**

Opens Monday, October 1

Grangeville, ID

**Idaho County Court House Law Library
320 West Main Street**

**Thursdays, October 4 and October 11
Friday, October 5
8:30 am to 5:00 pm**

Opens Thursday, October 4

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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