



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

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

**Release Date:** September 30, 2009

**Release Number:** American Samoa 11893-02

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## **SBA DISASTER ASSISTANCE WORKERS DEPART SACRAMENTO FOR AMERICAN SAMOA**

**SACRAMENTO** – Sacramento-based U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster assistance workers left today for American Samoa to assist in the recovery efforts from the tsunami which struck the island on Tuesday, September 29, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West. “Our staff will begin arriving on the island Thursday evening. Over the next several days, we expect the number of workers on the island to grow to about 40,” he said.

Given the widespread destruction of homes and businesses caused by the tsunami, SBA is launching a significant relief effort to help the island begin its recovery. SBA expects to remain on American Samoa for months to come,” Judd said.

“While in American Samoa, customer service representatives will meet with each disaster victim face to face. We will issue disaster loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application,” Judd continued.

“This is not the first time SBA has responded to a disaster on American Samoa. In response to 2004’s Tropical Cyclone Heta, SBA approved nearly \$7.3 million in low interest disaster loans to more than 1,030 American Samoa residents and businesses. SBA disaster loans are one of the largest federal disaster assistance programs for individuals and business owners and are a critical source of financial assistance essential to recovery,” he continued.

SBA disaster loans are the primary form of federal disaster assistance for the owners of private property. For disaster losses not fully covered by insurance, the basic federal financial assistance is a disaster loan from SBA. These direct federal loans are the only form of SBA assistance not limited to small businesses. These disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations.

*For more information visit SBA’s Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*  
**SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841**

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