



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Texas Residents and Businesses Affected by Bastrop County Wildland Fire

Sacramento, CA – The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) today announced that low-interest disaster loans are now available to residents and business owners affected by the wildland fire that began February 28 in Bastrop County. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster in response to a March 6, 2009 request from Governor Rick Perry.

The disaster declaration approved by Darryl K. Hairston, Acting SBA Administrator, makes SBA assistance available in the Texas counties of **Bastrop, Caldwell, Fayette, Lee, Travis and Williamson.**

“The U.S. Small Business Administration is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist Texas residents and businesses with federal disaster loans,” said Hairston. “Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

“Low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the disaster,” said Pamela Sapia, SBA’s San Antonio District Director. “Beginning Wednesday, March 11, 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,” Sapia continued. The center will be open on the days and times indicated. No appointment is necessary.

BASTROP COUNTY
Grady Tuck Building
Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management
104 Loop 150 West
Bastrop, TX

Mondays through Fridays: 9 am to 6 pm

Opens Wednesday, March 11
Closes Tuesday, March 31

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 \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can

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also lend additional funds to homeowners and businesses 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 and most private, non-profit organizations of any size, 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.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

Applicants may also apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **May 11, 2009**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **December 10, 2009**.

For more information visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov.

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