

Wildfire Resource Guide



Congressman Jared Huffman

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Office of Rep. Jared Huffman (CA-2)

A letter from Congressman Huffman

Dear friends,

My thoughts go out to all who have been affected by the recent firestorms in our region, some of the worst in California history. For the past couple of years, I have been along the fire lines throughout the North Coast and have worked with many of you to hear your stories, thoughts, and concerns to ensure a thorough recovery moving forward. If there's anything that these events have proven, it's the impressive strength and resiliency of our communities that continue to make me proud to serve you in Congress.

I also remain grateful for the first responders, the thousands of men and women who have answered the call from across the country to protect homes and save lives, and the thousands more who volunteer and serve in affected communities. The community response to these disasters has been fast and large — and inspiring. As all of these responsive efforts continue, my office, and the offices of my colleagues in state and federal government, are here to help you navigate the available government recovery programs and services.

- If you need help replace missing Social Security cards, passports, other federal documents, or lost or damaged medals for veterans—call us.
- If you are looking for your mail—we can help.
- If you are a farmer, rancher, vineyard owner, or other producer, or if you are in another specialized industry that might need targeted assistance—please don't hesitate to ask.

Most importantly: If you aren't sure where to go to solve your issues, please call or visit my offices. If we aren't the right place to get you what you need, my staff will guide you to the state and local resources too.

My staff and I are here to help—indeed, we are eager to help—in any way we can.

We are here for the long haul. As your representative, I will work with my colleagues and government partners to make sure that rebuilding efforts in California are fully supported, just as that support must be there for all the other communities around the country who are dealing with natural disasters.

Sincerely,



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

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Summary of Assistance

Quick Guide



Shelters

Find Sonoma County shelters at
<https://tinyurl.com/kincadeshelters>



Returning Home

Find resources for returning
home at
<https://tinyurl.com/02returnhome>



Assistance Info

Find information about
federal assistance at
www.DisasterAssistance.gov

FEMA: Depending on post-disaster conditions and severity, a Major Disaster Declaration may be established for any Northern California counties affected by wildfires. If you are affected by the fires, please start by registering at www.disasterassistance.gov so that you can get the help you need. If you have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, call 1-800-462-7585. Para Español: www.disasterassistance.gov/es o llame al 800-621-3362

Small Business Administration (SBA): The disaster declarations have made Small Business Administration (SBA) loans available for the affected area. These low-interest disaster loans are not just for small businesses. They are available to qualifying businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters. SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace the following items damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster: real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets. Learn more online: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

Disaster Unemployment Assistance: If you have lost a job due to the disaster, or if you are an employer who had to shut down operations, you may be eligible for relief from the State of California, including Unemployment Insurance or extensions on state payroll reports and taxes. You can learn more about disaster related services from the California Employment Development Department at http://www.edd.ca.gov/About_EDD/Disaster_Related_Services.htm and you can file for unemployment benefits online at <https://eapply4ui.edd.ca.gov/>. You can also file by phone, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., by calling 1-800-300-5616 for English or 1-800-326-8937 para Español.

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Local Resources

Local Assistance Centers

Local Assistance Centers (LACs) are a one-stop-shop with critical government services for residents who have been impacted by fires. At these centers, you can replace lost or destroyed vital documents (IDs, financial information, etc.) and get connected with supportive services.

Residents impacted by the Kincade Fire can access recovery services and resources at the Local Assistance Center (LAC), open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily through Wednesday, November 6, 2019. The LAC may remain open after this date if needed. Language access services, including Spanish interpretation, will be available. All Sonoma County residents can access services regardless of immigration status.

Healdsburg Community Center
1557 Healdsburg Avenue
Healdsburg, CA 95448
10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The PG&E Warming Center will remain open at St. Paul's Episcopal Church until all gas service is restored.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 Matheson Street
Healdsburg CA
95448

For the latest updates and information on local assistance centers, visit <https://socoemergency.org/local-assistance-center/>

If you want to help

The state of California coordinates aid and assistance programs through <http://www.californiavolunteers.org> or you can call them at (916) 323-7646.

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Major Disaster Assistance Programs

FEMA

Depending on post-disaster conditions and severity, a Major Disaster Declaration may be established for any Northern California counties affected by wildfires. This declaration includes three programs:

- **Public Assistance:** helps communities – state and local governments and certain nonprofit organizations – absorb the costs of emergency measures such as removing debris and repairing or replacing structures such as public buildings, roads, bridges, and public utilities.
- **Hazard Mitigation:** grants to local governments and tribes for post-disaster mitigation activities to reduce the risk and effects of future disasters, such as acquisition of high-risk properties, retrofitting buildings, and code enforcement.
- **Individual Assistance:** covers individual needs like disaster housing for displaced individuals, grants for needs not covered by insurance, crisis counseling, and disaster-related unemployment assistance.

If you are affected by the fires, please start by registering at www.disasterassistance.gov so that you can get the help you need.

Please have the following information available when you call or visit:

- A phone number and a reliable alternate in case FEMA needs to call you back
- Address of the damaged property
- Social Security number
- Bank account information (or direct deposit information)
- Insurance information (if you have insurance)
- Brief description of damages
- Current mailing address
- Pen and paper to write down your registration number

Government disaster assistance only covers basic needs and usually will not compensate you for your entire loss. If you have insurance, the government may help pay for basic needs not covered under your insurance policy.

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Disaster-related assistance may include:

- Rental payments for temporary housing for those whose homes are unlivable
- Grants for home repairs and replacement of essential household items
- Unemployment payments for workers who temporarily lost jobs because of the disaster and do not qualify for state benefits (self-employed)
- Low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance
- Crisis counseling for those traumatized by the disaster
- Advisory assistance for legal veterans' benefits and social security matters.

Assistance for Indian tribal governments:

- A Chief Executive of a federally recognized tribal government may request (through FEMA) the President declare an emergency or major disaster for the tribal government **or** be considered as part of a state's declaration request.
- The tribal government, however, cannot receive the same type of assistance (i.e., Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, Hazard Mitigation) through both tribal **and** state declarations for the same incident.
- Before requesting a declaration, your tribal government must confirm that it has activated its emergency plan.
- Learn more online: <https://www.fema.gov/tribal-declaration-and-disaster-assistance-resources>

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Depending on post-disaster conditions and severity, the SBA can offer low-interest disaster loans. These loans are not just for small businesses. They are available to qualifying businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters.

SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace the following items damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster: real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets. Learn more online: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

The process to apply for disaster assistance is simple. To qualify, your business or home must be in an affected area as stated by a disaster declaration at disasterloan.sba.gov.

- **Step 1:** Check disaster declarations
 - See if the SBA has issued a disaster declaration in your area
 - *If this hasn't happened yet, check back – it's possible a declaration hasn't been requested yet but will still come.*
- **Step 2:** Apply for a disaster loan

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- Loans are available for businesses and homes affected by disaster
- **Step 3: Check your status**
 - Log in to your account and check your email for updates

State taxes and Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

The IRS automatically identifies taxpayers located in the covered disaster area and applies automatic filing and payment relief. But affected taxpayers who reside or have a business located outside the covered disaster area must call the IRS disaster hotline at 866-562-5227 to request this tax relief. Learn more here: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-relief-for-victims-of-wildfires-in-california>

In addition, for wineries and other businesses whose operations were affected by the fires TTB will consider waiving late filing, payment, or deposit penalties on a case-by-case basis. To qualify for such a waiver, a taxpayer must:

- Demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the appropriate TTB officer, that the fires directly affected your ability to timely file, pay, or deposit
- Contact the TTB National Revenue Center (NRC) at: 877-882-3277 or on their online contact form: https://www.ttb.gov/webforms/contact_nrc.shtml

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The USDA has several disaster assistance programs for crop and livestock losses, to rehabilitate farmland, watersheds, and forests, and to provide support for rural businesses and homes. Please review their disaster resources online at: <https://www.usda.gov/topics/disaster/reference-guide-usda-disaster-resources-farmers-ranchers-and-communities>

And you can contact your local USDA Service Center to get started:

Ukiah Service Center
1252 Airport Park Blvd Ste B1
(707) 468-9223

Petaluma Service Center
5401 Old Redwood Hwy Ste 100
(707) 794-1242 ext 3

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Lost Document Replacement

Document	Who to Contact for Replacement
EBT Card	California's CalFresh is part of the federal program known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – formerly known as Food Stamps). For lost EBT card replacements call 877-328-9677 right away or contact your local county social services worker.
Birth and Death Certificates	Visit California Department of Public Health online at www.cdph.ca.gov or call 916-445-2684. \$25 fee for replacement.
Lost Green Card	Visit www.uscis.gov and complete Form I-90, application to replace a permanent resident card, and file it online or by mail. Call 800-375-5283 to check the application status.
California Driver License	Visit a California DMV office to complete an application. Replacement license forms must be delivered in person. For more information, call 800-777-0133.
Insurance information	The California Department of Insurance has resources available to help. Call their hotline at 800-927-4357 or visit the Department's website for tips and advice at https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/140-catastrophes/WildfireResources.cfm
Medicare Cards	Visit www.ssa.gov/medicare or call 800-772-1213 (TTY) 800-325-0778
Social Security Card	Visit www.ssa.gov or call 800-772-1213 (TTY) 888-874-7793
Military Records	Visit www.archives.gov/contact/ or call 866-272-6272
Passport	Visit www.travel.state.gov or call 1-877-487-2778 or (TTY) 888-874-7793
U.S. Tax Returns	Visit www.irs.gov or call 800-829-1040

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Contact my office with any questions

We can assist you with any of these federal forms and processes; ensure that federal agencies are providing appropriate services; help you replace missing Social Security cards, passports, and other federal documents, or lost or damaged medals for veterans; and guide you to any other state or federal services you may need.

Start with my San Rafael Office, and my staff can guide you to the most appropriate regional office:

San Rafael District Office

999 Fifth Ave. Suite 290
San Rafael, CA 94901
(415) 258-9657

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P.O. Box 2208 Fort Bragg 95437
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