



JARED HUFFMAN

U.S. CONGRESSMAN SERVING CALIFORNIA'S 2ND DISTRICT

2023 WILDFIRE RESOURCE GUIDE

Information current as of 8/25/2023

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A Letter from Congressman Huffman

Dear friends,

My thoughts go out to all who have been affected by the wildfires in our region. I continue to find inspiration in the strength and resiliency of our communities in response to disasters, and I am proud to serve you in Congress.

I remain grateful for the first responders, the thousands of people who have answered the call to protect homes and save lives, and the thousands more who volunteer and serve in affected communities; all while following new protocols. As these efforts continue, my office is 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 [one of my district 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. And we are here for the longhaul to provide recovery assistance for as long as it takes. As your representative, I will continue to work with my colleagues and government partners to make sure that dealing with natural disasters in California are fully supported.

Sincerely,

JARED HUFFMAN



Member of Congress

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Summary of Assistance

Quick Guide

Summary (see page pp. 9-13 for more details)

Road Closures: Updated information on road closures county-by-county can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

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 that have this designation, 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): SBA has a separate activation process from other emergency declarations. If that process is initiated, Small Business Administration (SBA) loans will be 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://edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/UI_Online.htm. 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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Protecting Your Health

Preparing to Go to a Public Shelter

- If you may need to evacuate, prepare a “go kit” with [personal items](#) you cannot do without during an emergency. Include items that can help protect you and others from illness and disease, such as hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, bar or liquid soap, disinfectant wipes (if available), and face masks.
- [Make a plan and prepare a disaster kit for your pets](#). Find out if your disaster shelter will accept pets. Typically, when shelters accommodate pets, the pets are housed in a separate area from people.
- Find out if your local public shelter is open by checking with your county office of emergency services in case you need to evacuate your home and go there. Follow guidance from your local public health or emergency management officials on when and where to shelter.

Wildfire Smoke

When wildfires create smoky conditions it’s important for everyone to [reduce their exposure to smoke](#). [Wildfire smoke](#) irritates your eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. It can make it hard to breathe and make you cough or wheeze. [Children](#) and people with [asthma](#), [COPD](#), heart disease, or who are [pregnant](#) need to be especially careful about breathing wildfire smoke.

Keep smoke outside.

- Choose a room you can close off from outside air.
- Set up a portable air cleaner or a [filter](#) to keep the air in this room clean even when it’s smoky in the rest of the building and outdoors. If you use a [do-it-yourself box fan](#) filtration unit, never leave it unattended.

Reduce your smoke exposure by wearing a [respirator \[PDF – 329 KB\]](#).

- A respirator is a mask that fits tightly to your face to filter out smoke before you breathe it in.
- You must wear the right respirator and wear it [correctly \[PDF – 2.7 MB\]](#). Children ages 2 years and older can wear respirators and masks. However, [NIOSH Approved respirators](#) do not come in suitable sizes for very young children.
- If you have heart or lung disease, ask your doctor if it is safe for you to wear a respirator.
- Avoid using candles, gas, propane, wood-burning stoves, fireplaces, or aerosol sprays and don’t fry or broil meat, smoke tobacco products, or vacuum.
- If you have a central air conditioning system, use high efficiency filters to capture fine particles from smoke. If your system has a fresh air intake, set the system to recirculate

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mode or close the outdoor intake damper.

Pets and other animals can be affected by wildfire smoke too.

- Learn how to protect [pets](#) and [livestock](#).
- Some evacuation centers do not accept animals. Check [Petfinder's Shelter Center](#) or [RedRover](#) for information on local animal shelters and rescue groups

Keep track of fires near you so you can be ready.

- AirNow's "[Fire and Smoke Map](#)" has a map of fires throughout North America.
- NOAA's "[Fire weather outlook](#)" page maps fire watches and warnings.
- Listen to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio for emergency alerts.

Pay attention to any health symptoms if you have [asthma](#), [COPD](#), [heart disease](#), or are [pregnant](#). Get medical help if you need it.

Learn more about protecting yourself from [wildfire smoke](#).

Local Resources

Evacuations

For information on evacuation, Rep. Huffman advised residents of California's Second Congressional District to monitor alerts from local Sheriff's offices and the National Forest Service.

Humboldt County Sheriff's Office: (707) 445-7251 Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/HumboldtSheriff Twitter Page: https://twitter.com/HumCoSO Sign up for alerts: https://humboldtgov.org/2014/Emergency-Notifications	Sonoma County: Sonoma County Sheriff: (707) 565-2511 Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/sonoma.sheriff Twitter Page: https://twitter.com/CountyofSonoma Sign up for Sonoma County Emergency Alerts: https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/sign-up/
Trinity County Sheriff's Office: (530) 623-2611 Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-County-Sheriffs-Office-1635934306689276/ Sign up for CodeRED alerts: https://www.trinitycounty.org/oes/codered	Marin County: Marin County Sheriff: (415) 473-7250 Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/MarinCountySheriff/ Twitter Page: https://twitter.com/MarinSheriff Sign up for Marin County Emergency Alerts: https://www.marinsheriff.org/services/emergency-services/alert-marin
Del Norte County: Sheriff's Office: (707) 464-4191 Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteCountySheriffDepartment Sign up for Del Norte County alerts: https://www.co.del-norte.ca.us/CommunityAlertSystem	Mendocino County: Mendocino County Sheriff: (707) 463-4086 Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/MendocinoSheriff/ Twitter Page: https://twitter.com/MendoSheriff Sign up for Mendocino County Emergency Alerts: https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/executive-office/office-of-emergency-services/emergency-notifications-and-alerts

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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 <http://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.

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.
- Disaster [SNAP](#) (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

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/about/organization/tribes>

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 will automatically identify 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.

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

Fire Management Assistance Grant Program

Depending on disaster conditions and severity these grants may be awarded to communities.

The grants are available to states, local and tribal governments, for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands. The FMAG Program provides a 75 percent Federal cost share and the State pays the remaining 25 percent for actual costs. Eligible firefighting costs may include expenses for field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; tools, materials and supplies; and mobilization and demobilization activities.

For more information on this program, visit <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/fire-management-assistance#>

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.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index>

You can contact your local USDA Service Center to get started:

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

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

Humboldt and Del Norte Service Center
5630 S Broadway, Eureka
(707) 443-6714

Trinity Service Center
3644 Avtech Pkwy, Redding, CA 96002
(530) 226-2589

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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 http://www.cdph.ca.gov or call 916-445-2684. \$25 fee for replacement.
Lost Green Card	Visit http://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 https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv-online/ or 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 http://www.ssa.gov/medicare or call 800-772-1213 (TTY) 800-325-0778
Social Security Card	Visit http://www.ssa.gov or call 800-772-1213 (TTY) 888-874-7793
Military Records	Visit http://www.archives.gov/contact/ or call 866-272-6272
Passport	Visit http://www.travel.state.gov or call 1-877-487-2778 or (TTY) 888-874-7793
U.S. Tax Returns	Visit http://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

Fort Bragg District Office
430 North Franklin St.
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
P.O. Box 2208 Fort Bragg
95437
(707) 962-0933

Ukiah District Office
200 South School Street
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