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FEMA

December 18, 2008
DR-1810-CA NR-31
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Disaster News

NOVEMBER WILDFIRE VICTIMS HAVE 30 DAYS TO REGISTER FOR FEDERAL-STATE ASSISTANCE

PASADENA, Calif. – California homeowners, renters and business owners who suffered damages in the November wildfires have only one month left to apply for disaster assistance, said state and federal officials.

“January 20, 2009, is the last day applications will be accepted for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Individual Assistance program,” said Mark Neveau, federal coordinating officer. Loan applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for disaster-related losses to real and personal property must be submitted by January 21, 2009.

Federal and state disaster recovery officials urge those who have not applied, to do so as soon as possible by calling the toll-free application and help number **1-800-621-3362 (FEMA)** (TTY 1-800-462-7585) or register online at www.fema.gov. After the January 20 application deadline, FEMA’s toll-free phone lines will still be available to help people who have already registered.

“Even if you have insurance and believe all your losses are covered, we urge you to register if you’ve had wildfire damages. If you find some losses weren’t covered, it will be too late to apply for federal-state assistance after January 20, 2009,” said Tom Maruyama, deputy state coordinating officer.

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FEMA coordinates the federal government’s role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates overall state agency response to major disasters in support of local government. OES maintains the State Emergency Plan, which outlines the organizational structure for state management of the response to natural and manmade disasters. OES assists local governments and their state agencies in developing their own emergency preparedness and response plans in accordance with the Standardized Emergency Management System and the State Emergency Plan.

SBA is the federal government’s primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans

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cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For information about SBA programs, applicants may call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY 1-800-977-8339.)