

# Recovery News

## **\$14.1 MILLION GOING TO TEXAS WILDFIRE SURVIVORS**

**AUSTIN, Texas** — Nearly one month since a Sept. 9 presidential disaster declaration made state and federal recovery funds available to eligible Texas wildfire survivors, total assistance has topped \$14.1 million.

The aid includes grants to eligible homeowners and renters as well as short-term unemployment benefits for Texans whose jobs were affected by the blazes, officials from the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said Friday.

Low-interest disaster loans for qualified homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and nonprofit organizations from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) represent more than one-third of the total assistance. SBA loans are the federal government's primary source of funding for disaster-related repairs or rebuilding costs that are not covered by insurance or other sources.

State and federal assistance is available to eligible residents of all 23 Texas counties affected by wildfires that occurred on or after Aug. 30.

“The wildfires have caused great hardship for many Texans,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Kevin L. Hannes. “Survivors receiving state and federal assistance can now move ahead with their recovery.”

The **\$14,136,196 in total disaster assistance approved for Texas** as of October 7 comes from four sources:

<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>TOTAL ASSISTANCE</b>
<b>Housing Assistance</b>	<b>\$7,001,522</b>
<b>Other Needs Assistance</b>	<b>\$1,708,919</b>
<b>SBA loans</b>	<b>\$5,418,300</b>
<b>Disaster Unemployment Assistance</b>	<b>\$7,455</b>

Housing Assistance is reaching eligible individuals and families whose property was damaged or destroyed and whose losses are not covered by insurance. While the grants are not intended to restore damaged property to its pre-disaster condition, they will help survivors get started again.

ONA grants help qualified survivors repair or replace personal property damaged or destroyed during the wildfires. Grants also can cover transportation costs, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial costs directly linked to the disaster.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance provides temporary payments to workers or the self-employed who lost their jobs or have been unable to work due to the disaster.

Homeowners may borrow up to \$200,000 from the SBA to repair or replace their primary residence. Homeowners and renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to replace personal property. Businesses may borrow up to \$2 million for any combination of property damage or economic injury.

Texans can register for state and federal disaster assistance any of three ways: at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov), via web-enabled phone at [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov), or by calling **1-800-621-3362** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585**. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services can call **1-800-621-3362**. Assistants are available by phone from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

Follow FEMA tweets about the Texas disaster at [www.twitter.com/femaregion6](https://www.twitter.com/femaregion6). Other online resources are <http://blog.fema.gov>, [www.facebook.com/fema](http://www.facebook.com/fema) and [www.youtube.com/fema](http://www.youtube.com/fema).

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*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362. For TTY call 800-462-7585.*

*The mission of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety, is to support the citizens of Texas and local jurisdictions as they plan for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the impacts of all hazards, emergencies and disasters. For more information, see: [www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem).*

*FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.*

*SBA is the federal government's primary source of funding 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 cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For information about SBA programs, applicants may call 800-659-2955 (TTY 800-877-8339).*