

News Release from: Oregon Office of Emergency Management
Media Advisory: OREGON SMALL BUSINESSES ECONOMICALLY IMPACTED BY
FOREST FIRES ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL DISASTER LOANS
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Oregon small businesses economically impacted by forest fires that began on July 26, may be eligible for low interest working capital federal disaster loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Multiple fire complexes including the Douglas Complex, Big Windy Complex, Whiskey Complex, Labrador Fire and Brimstone Fire have burned more than 100,000 acres in Oregon affecting local business in the area.

"The fires changed the economics of our region this summer, from the smoke and evacuations to river and road closures, local businesses were impacted," said Jessica Schwarz, Josephine County Emergency Manager. "I hope local businesses utilize the resources of the federal disaster loans to help recover from the financial impacts of the disaster."

SBA acted on its own to declare a disaster after receiving a request on Sept. 3, from Gov. Kitzhaber. The Governor has called the fires in Southern Oregon the worst the state has seen in more than a decade.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in Deschutes and Josephine counties and the neighboring Oregon counties of Crook, Curry, Douglas, Harney, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Lane and Linn.

Eligibility is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. The loans have an interest rate of 4 percent for small businesses and 2.875 percent for private, nonprofit organizations with terms of up to 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship.

SBA application and information Links:

Information on this declaration <http://www.sba.gov/about-offices-content/4/2820/news/752915>

Online applications <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>

Or call SBA at (800) 659-2955

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