



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

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CRITICAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Santa Cruz County Emergency Operations Center is pleased to announce the extension of a deadline to apply for \$500 in critical needs funding for individuals impacted by the CZU Lightning Complex fires, and urges all residents to begin the disaster assistance application process immediately.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides a variety of disaster assistance programs, including cash assistance to help cover immediate critical needs. Previously set to expire Sept. 5, the new deadline to apply for immediate needs funding is Sept. 12, 2020.

“This will help many constituents who qualify for this emergency cash assistance,” said Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, who requested the extension. “I urge all constituents impacted in any way by the fires to register with FEMA so that you can qualify for other programs.”

Residents impacted by the fires and who have out-of-pocket expenses, including hotel expenses, may also be eligible for FEMA funding. Residents should immediately register with FEMA by visiting [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/assistance), downloading the FEMA app for your smartphone or calling 800-621-FEMA (3362).

Residents are also advised that if they have applied for FEMA assistance and have received a letter saying their application cannot be processed, those letters do NOT constitute denials of applications. Those residents are urged to update damage estimates as they become available and to provide current contact information throughout the FEMA application process on FEMA’s website, [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/assistance), or by calling 800-621-3362. All federal FEMA assistance is provided without discrimination, and U.S. citizenship is not required.



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For those who have not begun the FEMA application process, be prepared to provide your social security number, insurance information, damage information, household financial information, and contact information. Direct deposit information for your financial institution may also be requested.

FEMA representatives will be available on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at Paradox Hotel, 611 Ocean St., Santa Cruz. Assistance will be available from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Assistance is also available at the Recovery Resource Center at Kaiser Permanente Arena, 140 Front St., Santa Cruz. FEMA assistance is located in the parking lot across Front Street from Kaiser Arena. The RRC is open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. daily. No appointment needed.

In addition, a virtual Recovery Resource Center is available the Santa Cruz County Fire Recovery website, www.santacruzcounty.us/firerecovery.aspx.

Free disaster legal assistance is available to help navigate landlord-tenant, employment, FEMA benefits, insurance, repair and construction scams and loan repayment issues and more. Visit <https://disasterlegalservicesca.org/czu/> or call 888-382-3406.

Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to employees, small business owners and self-employed individuals who have lost jobs or businesses or have seen work hours substantially reduced as a result of the CZU Lightning Complex fires. Visit https://edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/UI_Online.htm or call 800-300-5616 (English) or 800-326-8937 (Spanish).

American Red Cross is also offering immediate assistance to heads of households whose primary residence was destroyed or suffered major damage in the CZU Lightning Complex fire zone. Red Cross is conducting outreach to impacted residents, but households may also call 800-RED CROSS, select Option #4 and follow the prompts to begin the process.