

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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**Workers who suffered work losses due to recent wildfires are reminded
of November 16 deadline for Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) is alerting workers and self-employed individuals who suffered work losses because of the wildfires in Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sonoma, and Yuba counties that the deadline for filing claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is **November 16, 2017**.

Fire victims who have any interest in collecting DUA benefits are encouraged to file a claim with the EDD as soon as possible.

As [announced by Governor Brown](#) on October 17, 2017, DUA provides temporary unemployment benefits to a wide range of people who lost their jobs or had work hours cut as a direct result of the fires, but who are not eligible for regular Unemployment Insurance benefits. DUA applies to losses beginning the week of October 15, 2017. Eligible workers can receive benefits of up to \$450 a week for a maximum period of 26 weeks.

Workers potentially eligible for DUA benefits include those who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Worked or were self-employed or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in the disaster area.
- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of the disaster, or cannot reach work because of the disaster.
- Can establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income.
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury as a direct result of the disaster.

(more)

- Became the head of their households because of a death caused by the disaster.
- Have applied for and used all regular unemployment benefits from any state, or who do not qualify for unemployment benefits.

President Trump's federal disaster declaration of October 10, 2017, opened the way for DUA benefits.

To receive DUA benefits, all required documentation must be submitted within 21 days from the day the DUA application is filed. Required documentation includes a Social Security number and a copy of the most recent federal income tax form or check stubs, or documentation to support that the individuals were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred. Such documentation for the self-employed can be obtained from banks or government entities, or affidavits from individuals having knowledge of their business.

The fastest and easiest way for people to apply for DUA is to use EDD's online application, ["eApply4UI"](#), which is available in both English and Spanish.

Claimants also can file for DUA by phone between 8 a.m. and 12 noon, Monday through Friday:

- English: 1-800-300-5616
- Spanish: 1-800-326-8937
- Chinese (Cantonese): 1-800-547-3506
- Chinese (Mandarin): 1-866-303-0706
- Vietnamese: 1-800-547-2058

The EDD administers the federal disaster-benefits program in California for the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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