

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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**Workers affected by October 2017 wildfires have until December 18 to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) is reminding workers and self-employed individuals who suffered work losses because of the October 2017 wildfires that the deadline for filing claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is **December 18, 2017**.

As announced by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on October 17, DUA provides temporary unemployment benefits to jobless workers and self-employed people whose jobs or work hour losses are a direct result of the fires.

The EDD will first check to see if applicants can qualify for regular state unemployment benefits, and if not, process the claim for federal disaster benefits. Business owners or self-employed individuals who are ineligible for state unemployment benefits may qualify for DUA. Those whose unemployment benefits have run out, but are still unemployed due to the disaster, may also file a claim for DUA.

DUA applies to losses beginning the week of October 15, 2017, for qualifying individuals in Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sonoma, and Yuba counties. Eligible workers can receive benefits of up to \$450 a week for a maximum period of 26 weeks.

Workers who are potentially eligible for DUA benefits must 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.
- Cannot reach work because of the disaster or 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.
- 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.
- Became the head of their households because of a death caused by the disaster.

(more)

- Have applied for and used all regular unemployment benefits from any state, or who do not qualify for the regular 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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