



FEMA

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News Release

FEMA Assistance Available for Eligible Disaster-damaged Wells and Septic Systems

SACRAMENTO, Calif.- Residents who lost access to water through their private wells or had damage to their septic system caused by the severe winter storms may be eligible for financial assistance under FEMA’s Individuals and Households Program.

The 14 counties designated for this assistance program are: **Butte, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Mono, Monterey, Nevada, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, Tulare and Tuolumne.**

Damage to wells and septic systems must have been caused by severe storms, straight-line winds, flooding, landslides and mudslides between **Feb. 21 and July 10, 2023.**

For private wells and septic systems, FEMA may provide assistance or reimbursement for the cost of a professional, licensed technician’s estimate of the repair or replacement of these items.

You also may receive assistance for the actual repair or replacement cost of these items not typically covered by homeowner’s insurance.

If you have applied for FEMA assistance and have not had a home inspection, you should call the **FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362** (Helpline operators are available from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. PDT daily.) If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give the FEMA representative your number for that service. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for an interpreter who speaks your language.

At the time of your inspection, let the FEMA inspector know you have a private well and/or septic system that may have been damaged by the storm.

If the damage is determined to be caused by the disaster, you may be eligible for FEMA assistance.

If you have already had an inspection and damage to the well or septic system wasn't reported, contact the FEMA Helpline to receive instructions about how to amend your application.

For the latest information on California's recovery from the severe winter storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides, visit [FEMA.gov/disaster/4699](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4699). You may also follow twitter.com/Cal_OES, facebook.com/CaliforniaOES, [@FEMARegion9/Twitter](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion9) and Facebook.com/FEMA.

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FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency or economic status. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, call the Civil Rights Resource line at 833-285-7448.

Recently, U.S. SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman [announced a policy change granting 12 months of no payments and 0% interest](#). This pertains to all disaster loans approved in response to disasters declared on or after September 21, 2022, through September 30, 2023. This policy change will benefit disaster survivors and help them to decrease the overall cost of recovery by reducing the amount of accrued interest they must repay.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is the federal government's primary source of funds for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private, nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters, fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at [Disaster Loan Assistance](#) .

Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 711 to access telecommunications relay services.