**WATER SYSTEM FIRE RECOVERY FUNDING**

* **GET INFORMED:** Review the following federal disaster funding information for Water Systems at: <https://www.epa.gov/fedfunds>. Review important documents such as:
  1. “Public Assistance for Water and Wastewater Utilities in Emergencies and Disasters” at: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/documents/public-assistance-for-water-and-wastewater-utilities-in-emergencies-and-disasters.pdf>.
  2. “Critical Actions for Water and Wastewater Utilities to Document Damage, Cost, and Repairs” <https://www.epa.gov/fedfunds/critical-actions-water-and-wastewater-utilities-document-damage-costs-and-repairs>.
  3. The Division of Drinking Water highly recommends physical interties to other nearby water systems be included as a hazard mitigation measure to increase water system resiliency and add future fire protection.
* **CONTACT YOUR COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA ABOUT FEMA GRANTS:** Your county Operational Area should be one of the first locations to share water system damage assessments for FEMA Public Assistance Funding requests. **The FEMA process has important deadlines, with initial submittals usually within 30 days after the disaster is declared. Emergency work typically must be completed in 6 months and permanent work completed within 18 months.** Be sure to document all disaster recovery costs: engineering, labor, materials, administration, mileage, CEQA/NEPA, fuel, generators, etc. Anticipate contracting out labor to expedite recovery schedules. EPA/FEMA report form templates are found online at https://www.epa.gov/fedfunds/sample-water-and-wastewater-damage-assessment-photolog-emergency-repair-and-mutual.

In Sonoma County, larger water systems will be in direct contact with the Operational Areas. For now, small water systems should contact your local assistance center as a small business. See the following link for the location of assistance centers: <http://wildfirerecovery.org/local-assistance-centers/>. There is one assistance center in Santa Rosa, closing on October 22nd, and one assistance center in Sonoma with no current closing date. Additional business information can also be found at <http://sonomaedb.org/>.

* **CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE PROVIDER:** Contact your insurance provider to determine what they require.
* **OTHER POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES:** You may also want to contact other funding sources such as:
  1. USDA’s Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (focus on rural communities)

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants>

* 1. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Community Block Grants (HUD-CDBG) Disaster Recovery Assistance (focused on financially disadvantaged communities)

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-dr/>

* 1. U.S. Small Business Administration: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans>
* **CONTACT SWRCB-DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER STAFF:** Depending on staffing availability, State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB)-Division of Drinking Water district staff will also help you make contact with our Division of Financial Assistance (DFA), as necessary. In Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Sonoma and Marin Counties, contact your local Santa Rosa office engineer at (707) 576-2145. If you do not know who your assigned engineer is, our staff will assist you. We will also be out in the field doing our own damage assessments with you and can discuss additional funding then.  **Please try to obtain cost estimates for any emergency needs prior to our field visits.**
* **CONTACT STATE FUNDING:** The California Financing Coordinating Committee provides a one-stop location for all State of California funding. However, this is designed for normal infrastructure funding projects, not disaster relief funding. Disaster relief funding methods should be attempted first since they are quicker and more in tune with the recovery processes. However, if emergency response funding is unavailable this is an alternative funding mechanism. Submit a one-page CFCC Inquiry Form, to the best of your ability, to see what State funding sources may be available. The website is: <http://www.cfcc.ca.gov/>. An estimate of the median household income, requested in the form, can be obtained using US census data from: <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml>.

**PERSONAL FIRE RECOVERY INFORMATION**

1. **FEMA Disaster Relief**

Fire survivors can [apply online](http://disasterassistance.gov/) for FEMA Disaster Relief, at DisasterAssistance.gov, or by phone at 800-621-3362 or the TTY number, 800-462-7585. Applicants who use 711 or Video Relay Service may call 800-621-3362. The toll-free numbers are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Disaster survivors must register with FEMA to receive federal aid, even if they have registered with another disaster-relief organization, such as the Red Cross.1

Below are locations of additional information:

<http://wildfirerecovery.org/federal-individual-assistance/>

<http://www.oesnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Help-After-a-Disaster-English-Version4.pdf>

<http://www.oesnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Help-After-a-Disaster-Spanish-Version.pdf>

1. **Local Assistance Centers and Operational Dates (Most close by October 22, 2017)**

<http://wildfirerecovery.org/local-assistance-centers/>

1. **Contact Insurance Companies**

1. **If your house was destroyed, make sure that you also do the following (some of these may apply to public water systems recovery too):**
2. Get a post office box to receive mail (you can also purchase one online at usps.com) and forward your mail.
3. Cancel all household services (water and sewer, trash, electricity, security, cable, internet, phone, etc.)
4. Many credit cards offer damage/disaster protection on purchases made in the last 3-6 months so contact your credit card companies to get these purchases refunded.
5. Save receipts for all your expenses to document your purchases.