

# C O N G R E S S W O M A N JULIA BROWNLEY SERVING CALIFORNIA'S 26TH DISTRICT

# MOUNTAIN FIRE RECOVERY GUIDE





CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA BROWNLEY 223 E. THOUSAND OAKS BLVD. SUITE 220 THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360 (805) 379-1779 juliabrownley.house.gov [] 🛛 Orepbrownley

**A NOTE FROM** CONGRESSWOMAN

Dear Friend,

Ventura County has experienced devastating wildfires that have forced thousands of people to evacuate their communities, destroyed homes, and left many families with nothing. The Mountain Fire, which started on November 6, 2024, burned more than 20,630 acres. The fire destroyed over 200 structures, many of which were homes, and countless people have been impacted by the fire.

I remain committed to working with local, state, and federal officials to ensure that the federal government provides all necessary resources to support our community in this time of need.

If you or someone you know have been impacted by the Mountain Fire and need assistance with local, state, and federal agencies, a Local Assistance Center has opened in Camarillo. The center is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the Ventura County Office of Education, located at 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo. My staff is on-hand at the Local Assistance Center to provide information and resources through the recovery process. For more information, visit <u>Ventura County Recovers</u>.

Together, we will continue to overcome this difficult time, stronger than ever. If you need any assistance, I am here to help!

Sincerely,

SVVVV

JULIA BROWNLEY Member of Congress



# ····· QUICK GUIDE ·····

**Replacing Lost Documents:** If you have lost important documents or identification in the fires, many can be replaced. You can learn more about how to replace these common documents by contacting these agencies directly:

- California Driver's License:
  - Phone: 800-777-0133
  - Website: www.dmv.ca.gov
  - Replacement license forms must be delivered in person.
- Green Cards and Naturalization Certificates:
  - Phone: 800-375-5283
  - Website: <u>www.uscis.gov</u>
- Medicare Cards:
  - Phone: 800-772-1213; (TTY) 800-325-0778
  - Website: <u>www.ssa.gov/medicare</u>
- Medicaid/Benefits Issuance (BIC) Cards:
  - Phone: 800-541-5555, or 916-636-1980
  - Website: <u>www.benefitscal.com</u>
- Military Records:
  - Phone: 866-272-6272
  - Website: <u>www.archives.gov</u>
- Passport:
  - Phone: 1-877-487-2778; 888-874-7793 (TTY)
  - Website: <u>www.travel.state.gov</u>
- Social Security Card:
  - Phone: 800-772-1213; (TTY) 800-325-0778
  - Website: www.ssa.gov/number-card/replace-card
- U.S. Saving Bonds:
  - Phone: 844-284-2676
  - Website: <u>www.treasurydirect.gov</u>
- U.S. Tax Returns:
  - Phone: 800-829-1040
  - Website: <u>www.irs.gov</u>

**Tax Assistance:** Taxpayers may download forms and publications from the official IRS website, <u>https://www.irs.gov/</u>, or order them by calling 800-829-3676. The IRS toll-free number for general tax questions is 800-829-1040.

**Veterans Assistance:** If you need information regarding VA death benefits, pensions, insurance settlements, or other information related to VA, contact the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at 800-827-1000 (TDD 800-829-4833), or visit the Ask VA website at <u>https://ask.va.gov/</u>.

**Rebuilding and Recovery Services**: As fire survivors begin the process of recovery and rebuilding, the County of Ventura is available to help. <u>VenturaCountyRecovers</u> is a one-stop site to help aid the recovery process.

VenturaCountyRecovers offers information on:

- <u>Needs Assessment Form</u>
- Agricultural Assistance
- <u>Debris Removal</u>
- Damaged Property
- <u>Housing</u>
- <u>Road Closures</u>
- <u>Rebuilding</u>
- <u>Safety Updates</u>
- <u>Air Quality</u>
- Tax Relief
- Financial Assistance

# **Crisis Counseling:**

Short-term counseling may be available for emotional or mental health problems caused by the impacts of a disaster. For more information, contact the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department at 866-998-2243

- English: www.vchca.org/agency-divisions/behavioral-health
- Spanish: <u>www.saludsiemprevc.org/</u>

# ······ USDA ASSISTANCE ······

USDA is making resources available to help rural people and communities recover from the effects of California Wildfires.

## Help for Communities

Rural communities that have been impacted by the fires can receive assistance through the <u>Community Facilities Program</u> to repair or rebuild essential community buildings and infrastructure and replace damaged equipment. Also, USDA can provide relief through the <u>Water and Waste Disposal Loan and</u> <u>Grant Program</u> to help repair or rebuild rural water and wastewater systems in the aftermath of this disaster.

## Help for Businesses

Rural Development can help businesses recover from the damage caused by wildfires by guaranteeing their business loans with eligible lenders through the <u>Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program</u>. Funds also may be available from Rural Development's intermediary lenders.

## Rural Development

More detailed information on available resources from Rural Development may be found at <u>https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/services/ruraldevelopment-disaster-assistance</u>. Additional resources from USDA and other organizations for those impacted by disasters may also be found at <u>https://www.usda.gov/topics/disaster</u>.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; homeownership; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/ca.

## Agriculture Assistance

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing).

Those impacted by the fire can can complete the <u>Mountain Fire Damage</u> <u>Agricultural Assessment Form</u> through the County of Ventura Agricultural Commissioner. The Commissioner's office can be reached by phone at 805-933-2926, or by email at Ag.commissioner@ventura.org. The Farm Bureau of Ventura County can also be reached by phone at 805-289-0155 or by email at admin@farmbureauvc.com.

## Livestock Assistance

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) compensates producers for livestock death due to natural disasters. Compensation is based on roughly 75 percent of the national average price of livestock by type and age. Report losses within 30 days.

Tree Assistance Program provides financial assistance to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters. Forests are not eligible.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) compensates producers for a percentage of the pasture or forage loss on private lands due to natural disasters. Payments are subject to a national payment factor. Report losses within 30 days.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) the Agency covers a portion of the cost to replace fence or other conservation practices. This program is contingent on funding available.

Emergency Loan Program is available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Presidential or Secretarial disaster designation, like Ventura County. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program compensates producers who suffer pasture or forage loss due to drought or who have federally managed grazing leases but are not allowed to graze the lease because of wildfire. Report losses within 30 days.

For more information about these programs, visit

http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov.

# ····· USPS ASSISTANCE ·····

To ensure uninterrupted mail delivery, the United States Postal Service (USPS) is offering support to residents affected by the Mountain Fire. For residents who lost their homes, you can access mail as follows:

## Free Mailbox at the Local Post Office

Residents impacted by the fire can receive a free mailbox at the local post office. This service is being provided to help maintain access to your mail during this time.

# Mail Forwarding Options

If you prefer to have your mail forwarded to a new address, you can:

- Visit the USPS mail forwarding website: <u>https://moversguide.usps.com/mgo/mail-forwarding-instructions</u>
- You can also visit your local USPS location for assistance.

United States Postal Service 2150 Pickwick Drive Camarillo, CA 93010 (800) 275-8777

# Mail Forwarding Applications at City Hall

To make things easier, mail forwarding applications are also available at Camarillo City Hall, located at 601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo. Please visit the Building & Safety counter in the City Hall lobby.

# **Retaining Your Current Address**

Residents whose homes were gravely impacted or destroyed may still retain their current address if desired.

If you have questions, please reach out to your local post office or call Camarillo City Hall for assistance at (805) 388-5300, ext. 123.

> If you or someone you know is having an issue with the United States Postal Service and local delivery of mail, please contact my office at (805) 379-1779.

## **Emergency Information & Resources**

•••••••







Official Incident Information Source: VCemergency.com

Official Recovery Information for Ventura County: <u>VenturaCountyRecovers.org</u>

List of food resources, hygiene services, donations and more: Dial 211, text your zip code to 898-211, or visit <u>211ventura.org</u>

For additional emergency resources and to sign up for VC Alert: <u>ReadyVenturaCounty.org</u>

# **Local Assistance Center**

# Mountain Fire Local Assistance Center 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo Monday - Saturday from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM

A Local Assistance Center (LAC) opened on November 14, 2024, at the Ventura County Office of Education (located at 5100 Adolfo Road in Camarillo) to assist residents with the Mountain Fire recovery process.

There are a number of county, city and state agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations, offering support, services and information related to rebuilding, tax relief, business and employment assistance, debris removal, permits, housing, rental assistance, vital records, property assessments, public assistance, crisis intervention stress management and basic needs. Services such as replacement of driver's licenses and connection to healthcare resources will also be available.

Hours and days are subject to change depending on demand. Bilingual staff is available to provide assistance.

# •••••••••••••

# **Housing & Shelter**

Homeless Services (805) 385-1800	Those in need of housing information may leave a message for Homeless Services. <i>Calls will be returned</i> .
Homeless Shelters <u>VCHSA.org</u>	Year-round shelters are available in Oxnard, Ventura and Santa Paula.
Housing Assistance (805) 385-8585 <u>VCHSA.org/help</u> HSA.help@ventura.org	Call or visit the website to learn about eligibility criteria and potential assistance with rent, moving and storage costs, utilities, and other housing services. Calls and emails will be returned.
	Please include the following in your message: Name, phone number, number of people in your household, address of residence prior to wildfires, description of need for assistance.
HomeShare (805) 477-7300 VCAAA.org/housing	A housing program that matches people looking for housing with people who have extra space.

Food

Food Share (805) 983-7100 FoodShare.com

For emergency food distributions, local food pantries and food drives.

#### 

## **Benefits & Cash Aid**

	Ventura County Human Services Agency (HSA) offices
Ways to apply for	are open to accept applications for CalFresh (food
benefits & cash aid	stamps), Medi-Cal (health insurance), CalWORKs (cash
	assistance) and General Relief for those who qualify.

Ways to A	pply	Medi-Cal	CalFresh	CalWORKs	General Relief
Online	VSHSA.org/apply	Х	Х	Х	Х
By Phone	888-472-4463	Х	Х	Х	Х
By Fax	805-658-4530	Х	Х	Х	Х
By Mail	VCHSA.org/locations	х	Х	Х	Х
In Person	VCHSA.org/locations	Х	Х	Х	Х

Replace Medi-Cal BIC 888-472-4463 To replace a Medi-Cal Benefits Information Card (BIC) lost or damaged in the fire, call or visit an <u>HSA</u> <u>Community Service Center (VCHSA.org/locations)</u>.

**Replace EBT Card** 877-328-9677 To replace an EBT card lost or damaged in the fire, call EBT Customer Service. They will stop the use of your card and will tell you how to get a new card. You may also visit an <u>HSA Community Service Center</u> (VCHSA.org/locations).

# **Medi-Cal**

Gold Coast Health Plan Member Services 888-301-1228 / TTY 711  Medical equipment: GCHP Member Services, 888-301-1228 / TTY 711

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) members who need

help may contact the following resources:

- Prescriptions: Medi-Cal Rx, 800-977-2273 / TTY 711
- Transportation: Ventura Transit System (VTS), 855-628-7433 / TTY 711

#### 

## Farmworker Resource Program

Farmer work one and in a projeton on many reaches and the

<b>Referrals for services</b> (805) 385-1899 HSA-AGFRP@ventura.org	Farmworkers seeking assistance may reach out to the Farmworker Resource Program for referrals and other information.		
In	ternet Access & Employment		
Internet available at library locations <u>vencolibrary.org</u>	Ventura County Libraries provide free access to internet-connected desktop or laptop computers for public use.		
Internet for job searching	The America's Job Centers in Oxnard (2901 N. Ventura Road) and Simi Valley (2900 N. Madera Road) are open to assist those seeking employment, including those who may have lost their jobs due to the fire.		
Older Adults			
VCAAA (805) 477-7300 VCAAA.org	The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) has programs to help older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. These programs include senior nutrition and transportation (free bus tickets, Dial-A-Ride passes or Medi-Rides may be available).		

# **Additional Resources & Assistance**

Ventura County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VC VOAD) Disaster Needs Assessment - https://icfs.communityos.org/gethelpventuracounty

# Ventura County Community Foundation

VCCF.org

American Red Cross RedCross.org

Deferrels for convisoo

# Información y Recursos de Emergencia



Sitio oficial con información sobre incidentes: VCemergency.com



Sitio oficial con información sobre asistencia de desastre para el Condado de Ventura: <u>VenturaCountyRecovers.org</u>





Lista de organizaciones que ofrecen recursos de comida, de higiene, donaciones, y mucho más: Llame al 211, mande un texto con su código postal al: 898-211, o visite **211ventura.org** 

Para recursos adicionales de emergencia y para inscribirse a VC Alert, visite: <u>ReadyVenturaCounty.org</u>

# Centro de Asistencia Local

# Centro de Asistencia Local 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo Lunes - Sábado de 9:00 AM a 7:00 PM

Un Centro de Asistencia Local (LAC) se abriro el 14 de noviembre del 2024, en la Oficina de Educación del Condado de Ventura (VCOE), ubicado en el 5100 Adolfo Road en Camarillo.

En este centro encontrará una variedad de agencias del condado, de la ciudad y del estado, así como organizaciones sin fines de lucro, que ofrecerán apoyo, servicios e información relacionados con la reconstrucción, asistencia para su negocio y empleo, asistencia para sus impuestos, eliminación de escombros, permisos, vivienda, asistencia para renta, registros y documentación vitales, evaluaciones de su propiedad, asistencia pública, como manejar el estrés e intervención en casos de crisis y necesidades básicas. También habrá servicios disponibles para reemplazar su licencia de manejo, y le conectaran con recursos adicionales de salud.

El horario y los días están sujetos a cambios según sea requerido. Habrá personal bilingüe que estará disponible para brindar asistencia.

# Vivienda y Refugios

Servicios para Indigentes (805) 385-1800	Aquellos que necesiten información para Vivienda pueden dejar un mensaje para servicios de indigentes. Por favor, deje un mensaje y las <i>Llamadas serán devueltas</i> .	
Refugios para Indigentes <u>VCHSA.org</u>	Refugios todo el año están disponibles en Oxnard, Ventura y Santa Paula.	
Asistencia para Vivienda (805) 385-8585 <u>VCHSA.org/help</u> HSA.help@ventura.org	Llame o visite el sitio web para conocer los criterios de elegibilidad y posible asistencia para la renta, costo de mudanza y almacenamiento, servicios públicos y otros servicios de vivienda. Las llamadas y correos electrónicos serán respondidos.	
	Por favor, incluya la siguiente información en su mensaje: Nombre, número de teléfono, número de personas en su hogar, dirección de residencia antes del incendio, describa la asistencia que necesita.	
HomeShare (Compartir un Hogar) (805) 477-7300 VCAAA.org/housing	Un programa de vivienda que conecta a las personas que buscan vivienda con aquellas que tienen espacio adicional.	
Comida		

**Food Share** (805) 983-7100 **FoodShare.com** 

Para distribución de alimentos de emergencia, despensas de alimentos y colectas de alimentos.

## **Beneficios y Asistencia en Efectivo**

	Las oficinas de la Agencia de Servicios Humanos del
Formas de solicitar	Condado de Ventura (HSA) están abiertas para aceptar
beneficios y asistencia	solicitudes para CalFresh (estampillas de comida),
en efectivo	Medi-Cal (seguro de salud), CalWORKs (asistencia en
	efectivo) y Ayuda General para aquellos que califiquen.

Formas de aplicar		Medi-Cal	CalFresh	CalWORKs	General Relief
Por Internet	<u>VSHSA.org/apply</u>	Х	Х	Х	Х
Por Teléfono	888-472-4463	Х	Х	Х	Х
Por Fax	805-658-4530	Х	Х	х	Х
Por correo	VCHSA.org/locations	Х	Х	Х	Х
En persona	VCHSA.org/locations	×	Х	Х	Х

<b>Reemplazo de Medi-Cal BIC</b> 888-472-4463	Para reemplazar una tarjeta de información de beneficios de Medi-Cal (BIC) perdida o dañada en el incendio, llame o visite un Centro de Servicios Comunitarios de HSA. <u>(VCHSA.org/locations)</u>	
<b>Reemplazo de EBT card</b> 877-328-9677	Para reemplazar una tarjeta EBT perdida o dañada en el incendio, llame al Servicio al Cliente de EBT. Detendrán el uso de su tarjeta y le indicarán como obtener una tarjeta nueva. También puede visitar un Centro de Servicios Comunitarios de HSA. <u>(VCHSA.org/locations)</u>	
Medi-Cal		

**Gold Coast Health Plan** Servicios para Miembros 888-301-1228 / TTY 711

Miembros del Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) que necesiten ayuda pueden llamar a los siguientes números:

#### • Equipo Médico: GCHP servicios para miembros, 888-301-1228 / TTY 711

- Recetas Médicas: Medi-Cal Rx, 800-977-2273 / TTY 711
- Transporte: Sistema de Tránsito de Ventura (VTS), 855-628-7433 / TTY 71

## Programa de Recursos Para Trabajadores Agrícolas

Referencias para	<b>-</b>
servicios	Trabajadores agrícolas buscando ayuda pueden
(805) 385-1899 HSA-AGFRP@ventura.org	contactar el programa de recursos para trabajadores agrícolas para referencias y otra información.

Acceso a Internet e Información Laboral			
Internet está disponible en las bibliotecas <u>vencolibrary.org</u>	Las bibliotecas del condado de ventura tienen computadoras con acceso a Internet disponible para uso público. El servicio es gratis para todos.		
Internet para buscar trabajo	El Centro de Empleo de América en Oxnard (2901 N. Ventura Rd.) y Simi Valley (2900 N. Madera Rd.) están abiertos para asistir personas buscando trabajo, incluyendo personas que perdieron sus trabajos debido al incendio.		
	Personas Mayores		
VCAAA (805) 477-7300 VCAAA.org	La Agencia sobre el Envejecimiento del Area del Condado de Ventura (VCAAA) tiene programas para ayudar personas mayores, personas con discapacidad, y sus cuidadores. Estos programas incluyen comidas para personas mayores y transporte. El transporte puede incluir pases de autobús gratis o viajes médicos a través de Medi-Rides.		

# **Recursos y Asistencia Adicionales**

Ventura County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VC VOAD) Disaster Needs Assessment - https://icfs.communityos.org/gethelpventuracounty

# Ventura County Community Foundation

VCCF.org

American Red Cross (Cruz Roja) RedCross.org

## Health Information:

For information on health concerns related to a disaster you can contact 916-650-6416 or visit the California Department of Public Health website at <u>www.bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov</u>.

## **Insurance and Rebuilding:**

California Department of Insurance – CA Department of Insurance provides assistance on insurance issues, such as claim handling delays, additional living expenses, underinsurance disputes, etc. The Insurance Commissioner wants to make sure that the claim process moves as smoothly and as quickly as possible and that any underinsurance issues are investigated. If you are experiencing difficulty with the processing of your claim or wish to have an underinsurance issue investigated, contact the officers at the Department's Consumer Hotline at 800-927-HELP (4357); TDD 800-482-4833 for assistance. For additional information you may also wish to visit the Department's Web site at www.insurance.ca.gov

Contractors State License Board (CSLB) verifies contractor licenses, investigates complaints, and provides helpful information about hiring a licensed contractor. For information on hiring or filing a complaint regarding a contractor, disaster victims may call CSLB's Disaster Hotline M-F from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 1-800-962-1125, or the 24-hour automated telephone response system, 1-800-321-CSLB (2752). Licenses can also be checked online at: www.cslb.ca.gov or www.CheckTheLicenseFirst.com. You can also view a video, "Rebuilding After a Natural Disaster" on the CSLB Web site.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) can assist with manufactured housing questions including repairs, installations and/or registration and titling. For information on obtaining construction permits for manufactured homes or parks contact the Riverside Area Office at 951-782-4420 or the Sacramento Area Office at 916-255-2501. For information concerning Registration and Titling call 800-952-8356; TDD 800-735-2929 or visit the website at: www.hcd.ca.gov/.

#### · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

## Tax Advice and Assistance:

California Board of Equalization - For questions regarding sales and use, property and special taxes, contact the Board of Equalization at 1-800-400-7115 (TTY: 1-800-735-2929) or visit the website at: <u>www.boe.ca.gov</u>.

Employment Development Department – \*Assistance for Employers\*: CA employers who are directly affected by a state of emergency may request up to a 60-day extension to file their state payroll reports and to deposit state payroll taxes with the Employment Development Department (EDD), without penalty or interest. For further information, call EDD Taxpayer Assistance Center at 1-888-745-3886; TTY 1-800-547-9565 or visit EDD's website at: <u>www.edd.ca.gov</u>. The Franchise Tax Board (FTB) provides guidance in obtaining tax relief for disaster casualty losses. Contact FTB at 800-852-5711 (TTY/TDD for hearing or speech impaired: 800-822- 6268) or visit the website at <u>www.ftb.ca.gov</u>.

## Veterans:

California Department of Veterans Affairs - If you have a California Department of Veterans Affairs (CALVET) loan and have suffered damage caused by a disaster, contact CALVET at 800-952-5626; TDD 800-324-5966 or visit the website at: <u>https://www.calvet.ca.gov/</u>.

## Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program:

The Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) program helps low-to-moderateincome pregnant women, new mothers and their babies and young children to eat well and stay healthy. WIC provides:

- Special checks to buy healthy foods such as milk, juice, eggs, cheese, fruits, vegetables, baby foods, and whole grains;
- Information about nutrition and health;
- Breast feeding support and referrals to health care and community services.

For more information, call 1-888-942-9675 or visit the website at: <u>www.cdph.ca.gov</u> and click on "Find a Local WIC Agency" under Program Information.

# VC ALERT EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM



VC ALERT is an emergency notification system for Ventura County residents that may be used to alert you if there is an emergency in your community. Register your home or business address, landline, cell phone, email, and TTY device to receive emergency alerts. Alerts will be sent in both English and Spanish.

These messages may include, but are not limited to evacuation warnings or orders, severe weather advisories, community policing incidents, searches for missing at-risk individuals and public health alerts.

VC Alerts can only be sent to locations within Ventura County. To receive alerts by phone, text, email, fax, TTY/TDD device, or numeric page for your home, work or loved one's location, register by one of the methods below:

Internet: Go to <u>www.vcalert.org</u>. Create a profile and manage your preferences.

Email: vc.alert@ventura.org

Mobile App: Download the Everbridge App from your iOS or Android device. Click on "Find an Organization or Subscription," type "VC Alert" into the search bar, click on "Ventura County, CA: VC Alert Emergency Notification System."



For assistance, please contact any of Congresswoman Brownley's offices, or visit her website at **JuliaBrownley.House.gov** 

## Washington, DC Office:

2262 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5811 Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM-6:00 PM ET

#### **Thousand Oaks Office:**

223 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd. Suite 220 Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 Phone: (805) 379-1779 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM PT

#### **Oxnard Office:**

201 E. Fourth Street Suite 209B Oxnard, CA 93030 Phone: (805) 379-1779 By appointment only