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## California Natural Disaster Unemployment News

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As a result of wildfires in California on August 14, 2020, the president has made a Major Disaster Declaration. The declaration was made on August 22, 2020 for Lake, Monterey, Napa, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo Counties.

### Filing Details:

- Deadline to file is Monday, September 28, 2020
- Individuals whose employment has been affected should apply for DUA by going to [https://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment/UI\\_Online.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment/UI_Online.htm)
- Individuals can also apply by phone between 8AM PT and 12PM PT, M-F at English: 1-800-300-5616 or Spanish: 1-800-326-8937

### What is Disaster Unemployment Assistance?

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is a partnering program between the USDOL and FEMA to provide funds to state UI agencies for the payment of UI benefits under certain circumstances. It provides disaster unemployment assistance to individuals who have lost employment as the result of a major disaster and are NOT otherwise eligible for regular UI benefits.

DUA is available to those who:

- Worked or were a business owner or 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
- Have applied for and used all regular unemployment benefits from any state, or do not qualify for regular unemployment benefits and remain unemployed as a direct result of the disaster

DUA will apply to losses beginning the week of August 16, 2020.

DUA benefits are only payable during the Disaster Assistance Period (DAP) and shall not exceed 27 weeks. The weekly benefit amount for which the person may be eligible is determined by the governing laws in the state in which the claim was filed. Any benefits claimed under the DUA program are 100% federally funded.

### What is Required to File?

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 other documentation to support that the individuals were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred. Documentation for the self-employed can be obtained from banks, government entities, or affidavits from individuals having knowledge of their business.

Click here for more information: [https://www.edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/disaster\\_related\\_services.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/disaster_related_services.htm)