

Brian S. Marshall
Fire Chief & Director of Emergency Services



KERN COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

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DATE: June 30, 2016

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ERSKINE FIRE EOC MEDIA EVENING UPDATE

June 30, 2016 – Repopulation Effort: All road closures have been lifted.

A Local Assistance Center (LAC) is scheduled to open tomorrow from noon until 6PM at Wallace Middle School, 3240 Erskine Creek Rd. Hours of operation are 9:00AM-6:00PM M-F and 9:00AM-4:00PM Sat-Sun. The LAC will be closed on Monday July 4th. The LAC serves as a one-stop shop for information services on disaster relief; how to replace records lost in the fire, and apply for assistance. The LAC provides a single place for those affected by the fire to receive information on how to start on the road to recovery. State Departments offering services include: DMV, Contractors State License Board, Department of Insurance, Employment Development Department, and Department of Public Health - Vital Records. Various County Agencies and other Non-Profit Organizations will also be present.

Employers Affected By The Fires

Employers in Kern County directly affected by the Erskine wildfire may request up to a 60-day extension of time from the EDD, to file their state payroll reports and/or deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest. This extension may be granted under Section 1111.5 of the California Unemployment Insurance Code (CUIC). A written request for extension must be received within 60 days from the original delinquent date of the payment or return to file/pay. Visit the [Emergency and Disaster Assistance for Employers](#) page for more information. If you have any questions, contact our Taxpayer Assistance Center at [1-888-745-3886](tel:1-888-745-3886).

Unemployment Insurance Benefits: The recent Governor's Emergency Proclamation waives the non-payable, one-week waiting period for Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients. This means individuals can be paid unemployment benefits for the first week they are unemployed due to the disaster. Individuals can access UI services, including claim filing, by calling our toll-free number at 1-800-300-5616. Additional phone numbers for Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese and TTY: http://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Telephone_Numbers.htm. Individuals can also access UI and other EDD services online at: http://www.edd.ca.gov/About_EDD/Online_Services.htm

For those without reliable internet or phone services, individuals can also receive EDD services, including assistance with their UI claims, at the following nearby America's Job Centers of California (AJCC). The management teams at these offices have been advised and are ready to assist individuals impacted by the disaster:

AJCC- Bakersfield 1600 E. Belle Terrace, Bakersfield, CA 93307

AJCC- Ridgecrest 1400 N. Norma Street, Suite 105, Ridgecrest, CA 93555

AJCC- Delano 1816 Cecil Avenue, Delano, CA 93215

The currently opened Transition Center will convert to the Local Assistance Center tomorrow at noon. It will be open until 6PM today. The location of the Transition Center is Wallace Middle School, 3240 Erskine Creek Rd., in Lake Isabella.

The local call center at our EOC will be open from 8AM-4PM on Thursday and Friday. Starting Saturday the call center will be open from 10AM-2PM. The number to call is 661-873-2660. Calls made outside of hours of operation will be answered by 211 Information and Referral Services.

Public Works: In coordination with Kern Regional Transit, a shuttle program has been established to take occupants from both evacuation shelters to the Transition Center and to Kern Valley High School at 3340 Erskine Creek Rd. in Lake Isabella. In coordination with Kern County Fire Department and the Kern High School District, the Sikh Friends of Bakersfield are offering free meals to Erskine fire victims, responders, and volunteers at Kern Valley High School from 11 AM to 5 PM daily.

Four temporary collection sites have been set up to assist residents from the affected areas with disposal of food waste resulting by the prolonged power outage. This service is scheduled to end Friday, July 1, 2016. Lined roll-off containers will be available to residents from 8AM to 8PM at the following locations: Mtn. Mesa Park, Weldon Southern Baptist Church 20647 Hwy 178, South Lake Car Wash off the Frontage Rd. and Hwy 178, Onyx Store 23822 Hwy 178 and Easy Street. Items accepted at these temporary collection sites include ONLY food waste and other household trash that is placed in bags. Further efforts to address other fire debris will be set up as part of the recovery process.

The Kern County Public Works Department has scheduled a special One Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on **Saturday, July 23, 2016** to target and collect the household hazardous waste from affected properties. Residents living in the areas affected by the Erskine Fire, with household hazardous waste items in need of disposal, can stop by Mt. Mesa Park located at 4361 McCray Road from 9AM to 3PM, Saturday, July 23, 2016. For more information or updates visit the website at www.kerncountywaste.com.

Public Health: Kern County Public Health and the State of California will be offering a debris cleanup assistance program for residences affected by the Erskine Fire. The purpose of this program is to assist in getting your property clean, safe, and ready for rebuild. As soon as more information is available, residents will be able to sign up for the program. Residents are invited to attend a community meeting to learn about this program on Wednesday July 6th at 6:00pm, at Woodrow Wallace Elementary.

Utilities: As of 2:00PM, slightly more than 100 customers remain without power. Customers with power that has been restored may experience brief service interruptions due to ongoing infrastructure and repair work to stabilize the system. We expect most of the power disrupted by the fire to be restored by weeks end. However, some customers may remain without power into the weekend. Customers on generator power may experience outages as they are switched back to grid power. SCE is coordinating with county officials on their distribution of ice and water to residents in the area. Restoration of electric service to properties damaged in the fires that will require further customer repairs and inspections by local county inspectors may be delayed.

Amerigas Propane wants to encourage customers returning to their homes to call their energy provider prior to turning their system back on, if their system was turned off, or if they have had any interruption of service. Amerigas Propane will waive the leak check fee for all Amerigas Propane customers in areas affected by the fire.

Donations: For the most up to date information on where to receive or donate goods, please contact our call center at 661-873-2660. For a list of donation sites where items are available for distribution please visit our website at www.kerncountyfire.org.

Monetary donations are being encouraged for the local chapter of the Red Cross and for the United Way of Kern County. Animal related donations should be directed to Lake Isabella County Animal Shelter at 14891 Hwy 178, Monday-Friday, from 8AM-5PM.

Do not send donations to the emergency shelters.

Non-monetary donations (non-food) in Bakersfield should be directed to Good Will locations throughout the county between 8AM-5PM. The Elks Lodge at 7608 Wofford Blvd in Wofford Heights, in conjunction with the Salvation Army, is also accepting non-monetary donations.

The following list of non-food donations are needed. Diapers and wipes, non-perishable food, paper towels, plastic cutlery, can openers, blankets, towels, wash cloths, sleeping bags, and NEW underwear. In general, due to the generosity of the community, donations of used goods and used clothes are no longer necessary at this time.

Non-perishable food donations should be directed to the Lake Isabella Food Pantry at 4621 Lake Isabella Blvd attention Steve or Phillis. Donations here are accepted 24/7. They need food that can make a meal such as canned chili, canned ravioli, canned soup, hamburger helper, etc.