



**SONOMA COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
600 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403**

**PUBLIC
INFORMATION
OFFICE

(707) 565-3040**

****PRESS RELEASE****

**Event: Flood Recovery
Release #009**

**Date: 02/8/06
Time: 4:00p.m.**

Declaration of Emergency: Sonoma County received a Federal Major Disaster Declaration (**DR-1628**) on February 3rd, 2006, making state and federal funds available for qualifying individuals and families, (as well as State and local governments), for housing assistance, repairs, emergency protective measures, and debris removal.

Effective on February 3, 2006, FEMA Assistance can be obtained by:

- Telephone: FEMA Hotline 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
- For the hearing impaired, call 1-800-462-7585 (this is a TTY number)
- Online: <http://www.fema.gov/register.shtm>
- Sonoma County has provided the following facilities as Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) for State and Federal agencies located at:
 - Guerneville Veterans Memorial Building, 1st and Church Streets, Guerneville (707-869-5030)
 - Sonoma County Agriculture Building, 2604 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa (707-565-8670)

State and Federal agencies available at FEMA's Sonoma County DRC's will include: FEMA Individual Assistance and Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loans for homes and businesses. Other invited agencies include: State Department of Social Services, State Employment Development Department, State Department of Insurance, State Contractors License Board, the Franchise Tax Board and/or the Internal Revenue Service, Board of Equalization, the Department of Aging, and the Sonoma County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Referral information will continue to be available for County Departments.

The Disaster Recovery Centers will open Friday, February 10th, 2006.

Hours are:

Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00p.m.
Saturday 10:00am to 2:00pm.

We strongly recommend property owners, including business owners, to contact their insurance carriers. To assist in providing accurate structural damage assessment estimates, residents should report damage to the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Development Department (PRMD) at (707) 565-1900. Residents should document flood-related damage, preferably by taking photographs and keep original receipts for replacement materials purchased. PRMD can also provide you with a handout of tips for hiring contractors to repair flood-damaged homes.

Public Information Hot line: The public information hot-line (707) 565-3856 is currently closed. To contact FEMA for disaster assistance call the FEMA Hotline at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). For information specific to a County Department contact the appropriate agency directly (see list below). The most recent press release can be found on the County's website at www.sonoma-county.org. Click on the Emergency Information button.

Damage Assessment: Sonoma County's current damage estimates including the cities and most rural fire districts total approximately \$104 million. The County's damage assessment teams have

completed 1,917 inspections. Eighty-seven (87) residences have been declared uninhabitable. **To assist in providing accurate damage assessment estimates please report property damage to the Permit and Resource Management Department at (707) 565-1900.**

County Department/Organization	Services
Permit and Resource Management Department (707) 565-1900	Permits for flood damage and repairs (furnaces, water heaters, structural flood damage); no fee for repair permits for flood-damaged homes. Well and septic system information.
Assessor (707) 565-1888	Tax adjustments due to flood damage. Business owners – damage over \$10,000
Public Health (707) 565-4400	Medical assistance and referrals, including assistance with prescription refills.
Environmental Health (707) 565-6565	Vector control, hazardous materials, solid waste, food facility sanitation, well disinfection, and small water systems.
Mental Health (707) 565-4850	Mental health counseling for families and individuals.
Housing Authority (707) 565-7500	Housing for Section 8 (HUD) recipients and those displaced from permanent housing.
Community Development Commission (707) 565-7500	Housing repairs for income-eligible homeowners (criteria same as HUD).
Human Services (707) 565-2715	Food Stamp applications; may have Food Stamp cards available soon. Public Health Insurance (Medi-Cal and County Medical Services Program) applications. TANF Cash aid and SonomaWORKs (employment) services.
Red Cross (707) 577-7600	Food, shelter, clean-up kits, comfort (toiletry) kits, short-term shelter, mental health counseling, health screening, referrals to other agencies. Financial assistance to qualified individuals and families
Salvation Army (707) 869-3661	Emergency food assistance through Saturday at the Food Pantry, Community Church at 14540 Armstrong Woods Road
West County Community Services (707) 869-2654	Emergency food, blankets, diapers. Referrals for counseling, various other goods and services. Russian River Senior Center provides resources for seniors, case management, support.

Donations of Food and Other Items: Those wishing to donate items for flood victims should deliver items to the Salvation Army at the Community Church at 14540 Armstrong Woods Road on **Saturdays only**, or work through local churches that may have the ability to accept and distribute items. The Red Cross accepts only financial contributions. The Disaster Recovery Centers are unable to accept donations of food or other items.

Blood Donations: The Blood Bank of the Redwoods would like to thank the community for its response to the low blood supply during the recent floods, and continues to encourage community members to donate blood at the Blood Bank of the Redwoods located at 2324 Bethards Drive in Santa Rosa. The center is open Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Monday through Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call (707) 545-1222 for more information.

Debris Boxes and Hazardous Materials: The debris boxes placed in the Guerneville area have been removed. Those with a demonstrated need for a debris box should contact the Sonoma County Public Works Department at 565-2231. Household toxics such as paint, oil, fuel, etc. may be taken to the Central Disposal Site, 500 Mecham Rd. in Petaluma, Thursday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. for no charge to county residents. For more information regarding hazardous materials call (707) 565-1152, weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 5 :00 p.m. For emergencies call 9-1-1.

Shelters: There are no shelters operating at this time.

PG&E: All flood-related outages have been restored. Any residents without power should call (707) 577-7002.

Tax Relief for Flood Victims: The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) has announced that emergency tax relief will be made available to tax- and fee-payers directly affected by the storms in the form of Extensions for Return Filings and Relief of Interest and Penalties on late filings. More details can be obtained from the BOE at: 1-800-400-7115 or www.boe.ca.gov.

Sampling And Testing Well Water: Contact the Sonoma County Health Services Department Public Health Laboratory at (707) 565-4711 for information if you wish to have your well water tested for contamination.

For more information please contact the Sonoma County Health Services Environmental Health Division at (707) 565-6565 or EPA website @ www.epa.gov/safewater/privatewells/whatdo.html

The next scheduled release: As needed

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