



**For Immediate Release
December 7, 2018
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Press Release:

JBER - The State of Alaska is initiating additional efforts to get assistance for businesses and employees impacted by the November Cook Inlet earthquake.

“We understand that keeping business going is an essential part to the lives of Alaskans,” said DHS&EM Incident Commander Bryan Fisher. “The livelihoods of folks in the disaster area have been hit hard. We are ramping up efforts to get businesses relief and get employees lives back on track.”

The state Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/fstamps>) is relaxing verification requirements and providing additional benefits to replace food destroyed in the disaster. Division of Public Assistance (<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa>) field staff are prioritizing benefits applications for individuals in the affected area. The State Disaster Individual Assistance Program (<http://ready.alaska.gov/ia>) is taking applications online and over the phone.

The state is working with federal partners in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to jointly assess the extent of the damage to individuals and businesses, avoiding redundant inspections. Field visits to gather information are scheduled to begin Monday December 10th. This information will be used to request additional assistance for businesses and individuals affected by the disaster.

Based upon the outcome of these assessments, the SBA offers affordable financial help to businesses, private non-profit organizations, and homeowners in declared disaster areas. Help may be available in the form of low-interest, long-term loans for losses not fully covered by insurance or other means.

To help this process move faster DHS&EM is asking individuals and business to compile information to share with assessors. Please have any ownership documentation, before and after photos, repair estimates and receipts from repairs.

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