



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: State Emergency Operations Center News Desk 907-428-7140

State Activates Individual Assistance Program in Mat-Su Borough

Hotline and Online Registration to Begin June 22

JBER, Alaska – Governor Walker’s June 15th disaster declaration activated the State’s Individual Assistance (IA) program for Alaskans impacted by the Sockeye Fire. The deadline to apply for this assistance is August 14, 2015.

To apply for State of Alaska Individual Assistance (IA), call 1-855-445-7131.

The hotline will open Monday, June 22, 2015.

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Or register online at ready.alaska.gov

The State IA program can provide recovery assistance through the Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program and Temporary Housing (TH) program.

The IFG program provides grants to individuals or families for damages to primary residence, primary mode of transportation, damages to essential personal property items and for certain medical needs that are a direct result of the Sockeye Fire, and for which other assistance is either unavailable or inadequate. The State IFG program may provide up to \$16,450 in disaster assistance.

The Temporary Housing program may provide housing assistance to affected homeowners for up to 18 months and affected renters for up to 3 months. The Temporary Housing Program is intended to provide temporary housing assistance to individuals or families whose housing has been so damaged or destroyed by the Sockeye Fire that the home is not habitable or accessible, and for which other assistance is either unavailable or inadequate.

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Residents impacted by the Sockeye Fire who wish to apply for Disaster Assistance must:

1. **Complete an IA application.** Residents in the disaster area can apply by calling the IA Hotline (1-855-445-7131) or Online Registration (ready.alaska.gov). In person registration will be available at Disaster Assistance Centers (DAC's) located in the Mat Su soon. Information on DAC locations, dates and hours will be publicized when determined.
2. **Be available for a verification visit.** Damage verifiers from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management will contact you to make an appointment.
3. **Provide all necessary documentation.** There may be additional documentation or information required to complete your application. Incomplete applications will not be processed.
4. **Deposit any funds provided to you within 60 days.** Uncashed state disaster assistance checks will be cancelled after 60 days for financial control reasons.
5. **Maintain contact with your IA case officer.** Keep your case officer informed of all changes to your disaster application and ensure your application is complete. If you have any questions about your application, please contact your case officer first.

Payments for the Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program will only be processed after the application is complete, and damage and eligibility have been verified. The time required for this will depend on the number of applications received. Applications are processed based both by date received and severity of damage reported. Payments may be processed as early as 45-60 days from application completion.

Individual Assistance Application Checklist

If you have the following items, it is best to have them on hand when you complete your application or bring them with you to the Disaster Assistance Center. Do not hesitate to complete an application or visit a Disaster Assistance Center because you are missing one or more of these items. This is an important step to begin the recovery process.

- Names and ages of all residents of household
- Photo identification
- Social Security Number
- Telephone numbers where you can be contacted
- Your address during the disaster and an address where you can be reached now
- Proof of ownership for your primary residence if you have damages to your home
- Photos of damages
- Proof of ownership for transportation items
- Serial numbers from transportation items
- Residency verification (ie rental agreement, utility bill, or voter registration card)