

MEDIA RELEASE



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Woolsey Fire Disaster Relief Claim Deadline Looms **\$4 Million Granted in Property Tax Relief**

LOS ANGELES & VENTURA, CA – The deadline to file a tax relief claim for property damaged by the Woolsey Fire is fast approaching, announced Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang and Ventura County Assessor Dan Goodwin. Property owners affected by the November 2018 fires have until November 8, 2019 – or 12 months from the date of damage – to submit claims to their respective county assessors.

“My staff and I have carefully surveyed the damage in affected communities, but safety issues have prevented us from identifying all those who are eligible for property tax relief,” said Assessor Prang. “Anyone whose home or business was damaged as a direct result of these fires may submit a [claim form](#). We’re here to help.”

Assessor Dan Goodwin said, “Property owners affected by the Woolsey or Hill Fires should file a [claim form](#) by the November deadline. Our staff will expeditiously work to get them tax relief they may qualify for. Taxpayers can access the ‘Property Damaged by Misfortune or Calamity’ [form](#) at our website or call our office for assistance.”



Experts from the offices of Assessors Prang and Goodwin worked in partnership with local and federal agencies to raise awareness of available resources, staff the assistance centers and expedite tax relief claim forms.



Click above to watch a brief introductory video on property tax relief following a misfortune or natural disaster event.

To date, more than \$4 million in tax relief has been granted for damage caused by the Woolsey Fire in Los Angeles County and by the Hill and Woolsey Fires in Ventura County.

The Los Angeles County Assessor’s Office has approved over \$3 million in tax relief by way of prorated refunds and adjustments to the 2018-2019 bills for 1,328 properties. Of these homes and businesses, 797 were entirely destroyed. Additional claims are pending review.

In Ventura County, Assessor Goodwin’s office has approved approximately \$1 million in tax relief for 266 properties damaged or destroyed by the fires, with additional claims pending submission.

(see next page)

Tax relief granted in both counties will also be reflected on the 2019-2020 property tax bills; it will remain in effect until rebuilding or repairs have been completed.

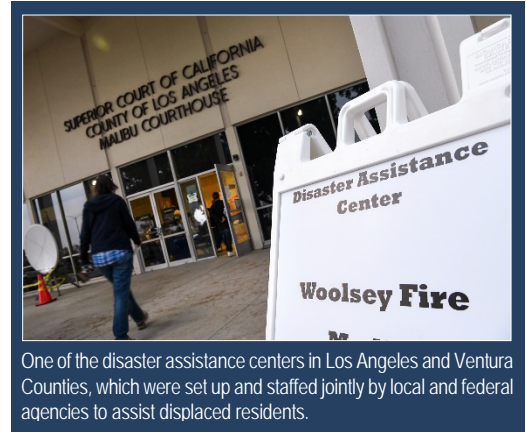
Assessors' offices in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties will continue to accept claims for damage caused by the November 2018 fires until the 12-month deadline in November 2019.

For Los Angeles County, claim forms may be obtained:

- Online: assessor.lacounty.gov/disaster-relief ([link](#))
- By phone: 213-974-8658
- By email: pio@assessor.lacounty.gov
- By fax: 213-617-1493
- On social media: @lacassessor
- In person: at any [public counter](#) location
- Click for FAQs in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

For Ventura County, claim forms may be obtained:

- Online: assessor.countyofventura.org ([link](#))
- By phone: 805-654-2181
- By email: assessor.disaster@ventura.org
- By fax: 805-645-1305
- In person: Hall of Administration, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009
- Click [here](#) for FAQs



One of the disaster assistance centers in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, which were set up and staffed jointly by local and federal agencies to assist displaced residents.

The Woolsey Fire was one of several fires that ignited on November 8, 2018. It killed three people and injured five firefighters and residents; destroyed 1,643 structures; damaged hundreds more structures; and scorched 96,949 acres. Firefighters extinguished the blaze on November 21, 2018.

The Hill Fire, which began on November 8, 2018, at Hill Canyon Road, burned over 4,531 acres in Ventura County, destroyed four homes, and damaged two others. Cal Fire officials declared the fire extinguished on November 16, 2018.

Home and business owners who sustain property damage of at least \$10,000 as a direct result of misfortune or a natural disaster such as fire, flood, or earthquake may be eligible for tax relief at any time. Claim forms must be filed with the County Assessor's Office within 12 months of the date the damage occurred.

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