

N E W S R E L E A S E

**Contact:**

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**EDD announces unemployment benefits and employer tax assistance available to those impacted by Erskine Fire**

SACRAMENTO - The Employment Development Department (EDD) today announced that it is offering unemployment benefits assistance and employer tax assistance to individuals and businesses directly impacted by the Erskine Fire in Kern County.

“Our hearts go out to our fellow Californians who have lost so much in the Erskine Fire,” said EDD Director Patrick Henning Jr. “EDD is ready to help residents affected by the fire with assistance in accessing unemployment benefits and job services. Employers impacted by the fire may also request tax filing extensions to help ease their burdens.”

[Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.’s Proclamation](#) of a State of Emergency in Kern County allows people who have lost their jobs because of the fire to immediately begin receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits by waiving the non-payable one-week waiting period for UI recipients. This means individuals who meet all UI eligibility criteria can be paid unemployment benefits for the first week they are unemployed due to the disaster.

**Speeding up unemployment benefits**

Individuals can access UI services, including claim filing, by submitting an online application using EDD’s [eApply4UI](#) application or by calling EDD’s toll-free number at 1-800-300-5616. Additional phone numbers for assistance in Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese, and TTY are available at the [UI phone list](#). Individuals can also access UI and other services through EDD’s [Online Services](#).

**Local Assistance Center**

The EDD will have representatives at the Local Assistance Center, a one-stop shop where fire victims can receive assistance in applying for UI benefits and access other programs, including disaster relief and records replacement.

(more)

The Local Assistance Center is located at Woodrow W. Wallace Middle School, 3240 Erskine Creek Road in Lake Isabella. Hours are noon – 6 p.m. Friday, July 1; 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; and 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, closed Monday, July 4.

### **Local AJCC Offices**

EDD also offers unemployment assistance and job services at the following nearby America's Job Centers of California (AJCC):

- 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)

### **Tax extensions for businesses impacted by fire**

Employers in Kern County directly affected by the Erskine Fire may request an extension of up to 60 days to file their state payroll reports and deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest. Employers must send the EDD a written request for extension within 60 days of the original delinquent date of the payment or return to file/pay. For more information, call our Taxpayer Assistance Center at 1-888-745-3886 or visit the [Emergency and Disaster Assistance for Employers](#) page.