



PRESS RELEASE

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FEMA, SBA ASSISTANCE DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline to apply for federal disaster assistance due to impacts from the December-January storms is March 16. Residents and businesses eligible for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are encouraged to apply today.

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Santa Cruz County remain open to assist residents impacted by the storms with in-person applications. Residents and business can also apply for assistance at <https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov>, by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362), or by using the FEMA app.

On Jan. 14, 2023, President Biden approved a major disaster declaration for winter storms that devastated Santa Cruz County between Dec. 27, 2022, and Jan. 31, 2023. Those with property damages, economic losses or other impacts attributable to the storms are eligible to apply. Businesses seeking assistance from the SBA for economic losses have until October 16, 2023 to apply.

DRCs are located in Santa Cruz at the County Governmental Building, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, and in Watsonville at the City Government Center, 250 Main St., Watsonville. The Santa Cruz DRC is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Watsonville DRC will be open 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Additional resources are available at the Virtual Recovery Center at <https://santacruzcounty.us/OR3/Emergency.aspx>.