



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
October 31, 2003

Contact: Heather Shorack (619) 685-2288

SAN DIEGO COUNTY TO ISSUE EMERGENCY FOOD STAMPS *Families Affected by Wildfires are Eligible for a One-Time Assistance Program*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved the issuance of "Disaster Food Stamps" for fire victims in San Diego County.

County residents can begin applying for disaster food stamps on Saturday, Nov. 1, at County *Local Assistance Centers* (see page 2 for locations). Starting Monday, November 3, applications may also be submitted at any *Family Resource Center** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Residents who are not usually eligible for food stamps may qualify temporarily if their home or belongings were damaged or destroyed and they have disaster related expenses or if they have lost income, food, or money as a result of the fires. Eligibility is based on available income less disaster related expenses. For a family of four, a full monthly allotment is \$471.

Those applying for help should bring a driver's license or other picture ID. Also, they should bring social security numbers for everyone in the household. Applications may be submitted from November 1, 2003 through November 14, 2003.

County residents who are already receiving food stamps may also be eligible for emergency food stamps, if they live or work in the affected fire area.

Full instructions and eligibility guidelines are available from Public Assistance Information toll free at (866) 262-9881.

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Local Assistance Center (LAC) locations:

Alpine – opens Saturday, November 1
Alpine Creek Shopping Center
1347 Tavern Road, Suite 30

Ramona – Opens Sunday, November 2
325 Sixth Street (site of the former post office)

Valley Center – Opens between November 3 and November 7
(pending construction; call 858-495-5494 before going to be sure it's open)
Valley Center Road Maintenance Station
28565 Cole Grade Road

LAC hours for all locations:

Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

*A list of Family Resource Centers can be found in the "Facilities" section of the Health and Human Services Agency Web site at: www.sdcountry.ca.gov/hhsa.

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