

Businesses Respond to Natural Disasters in California and the Gulf Coast

This week, mother nature has wreaked havoc on communities and businesses across the country. Hurricane Laura made landfall last night near the Texas-Louisiana border bringing 20-foot storm surge and 130 mile-per-hour winds. At the same time, there are wildfires raging in California, burning thousands of acres and destroying hundreds of buildings.

On Friday, August 28, the U.S. Chamber Foundation will hold a [Coordination Call on Hurricane Laura and the California Wildfires](#) to hear from partners who have been directly impacted and are actively responding to both disasters. Participants will also share the current needs on the ground and how companies can help support the relief efforts.

Why it matters: Small businesses in particular are highly vulnerable and can be without adequate resources to focus on preparedness actions. The COVID-19 pandemic further complicates relief and recovery efforts due to restrictions placed on sheltering needs.

Businesses have a vital role to play in helping communities navigate natural disasters and emergency events.

Big picture: Climate change is ramping up the frequency and strength of weather events and wildfires, and this year the coronavirus pandemic has proven the value of being prepared for the unexpected.

Resources you should know about: The Chamber Foundation's Corporate Citizenship Center (CCC) has several resources for businesses facing a natural disaster, recovering from one, or looking to help those impacted.

- The Resilience in a Box program, in partnership with The UPS Foundation, includes [Top 20 Tips for Business Preparedness](#) designed to educate businesses on recovery and resilience.
- The [Disaster Help Desk for Businesses](#) is ready to assist small businesses and chambers impacted by a disaster navigate financial assistance, get mental health resources, and get expert support during these challenging times. Businesses and chambers can call **1-888-My-Biz-Help (888-692-4943)** for direct support from disaster recovery experts.
- The Chamber Foundation partners with America's Charities to provide [employee relief funds](#) to companies so they can provide support to employees in times of distress and hardship.

Dig deeper:

- The Chamber Foundation's Disaster Corporate Aid Tracker, as part of the [Community Resilience and Disaster Response Issue Network](#), serves as the keeper of the records for businesses' response to disasters. [Submit your information.](#)
- [Learn more](#) or get involved in the Chamber Foundation's disaster preparedness initiatives.