

## SCORE Supports Your Recovery

**There is a limit to what we can endure before asking for a little bit of help.** SCORE stands ready to aid local businesses in getting back to their feet by directing them to departments and agencies offering specific services to business, sharing expertise in many areas, or simply strategizing as to the best path forward. You can contact us at [sbsscore.org](http://sbsscore.org).

The following is designed to help you get through the first stages of recovery.

1. Your business insurance should be the first call. They should recover loss of income, inventory damage, cleaning, etc. You may have to fight for it, but get it if you can.
2. Quickly upcoming on the horizon is the filing and payment deadline for fourth quarter 2017 sales tax. If you need an extension of time to file or pay, the BOE has forms that can be filed online to request relief of penalties from late filing and/or payment. If you need a copy of a tax return from the FTB, there is a form that you can file, with fee waived, to obtain it, in the attachment.
3. If you had to close business during evacuations, or generally had slow downs during the fire and/or mudslides and your employees (and possibly you) could not work during that time, they should qualify for unemployment insurance. First, file for unemployment (even if currently employed) and then call the EDD to get the one week waiting period waived due to the disaster.
4. The SBA has a Disaster Loan program. It is specifically designed to get people and businesses back on their feet quickly. It can cover small amounts (i.e. \$1000) and up to \$2 million for economic injury and recovery.
5. If you haven't already done so, contact Cox and ask that they credit your business and home accounts for the days that you did not have service. This will include the outages that occurred on and off in December, as well as the 4 days in January (at minimum) affected almost everyone in Montecito to Carpinteria. The same goes for your phone and cell providers, SCE and the Gas Co.
6. If you pay rent, there may be some leniency provided by the landlord. Please discuss with them directly. Additionally, there are attorneys at the LAC in Santa Barbara that are available to answer questions regarding the tenant rights, etc.
7. If you suffered physical damages, you should be aware of the casualty loss deduction on both your Federal and State tax returns for 2017. Because it has been declared a Federal Disaster Area, the rules for the Federal piece apply, using the 2017 rules and not the revised rules for 2018. The State does not conform to the Federal changes make effective for 2018, so you can certainly use the casualty loss deduction at the State level. Additionally, it may make sense to file an amended return for 2016, under those rules. This will be on a case by case basis, so if you have any questions, speak with your accountant.

**Thank you first responders, firefighters and rescue personnel. We will never be able to show our appreciation for all you've done for our community.**

*Talk with a **SCORE** mentor if you were affected by the fire or flood, or simply want to drive your business, our experts can help you.*

*Contact us at [sbsscore.org](http://sbsscore.org).*

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