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Tax relief available for Powerhouse fire damage

By *The AV Times Staff*

June 10, 2013

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor is urging property owners affected by the Powerhouse fire to contact local Assessor offices for information and assistance about tax relief for property damage of \$10,000 or more. Structures may qualify for tax relief.

The Office of the Assessor has deployed resources and personnel to help property owners obtain tax relief information for their property that experienced damage or loss from the fire storm.

Under State law, home and business owners may qualify for a temporary reduction in assessed value. Reassessment could mean a lower tax bill for the period between the time the damage occurred and the repair or replacement of damaged structures.

Section 170 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code requires the Misfortune and Calamity application forms be submitted within one year of the date of damage. Photographs and any other documentation, such as repair estimates, should accompany the form.

The Office of the Assessor has contacted local and state fire officials to secure a listing of damaged properties. Assessor personnel will provide "Misfortune and Calamity" forms and information at evacuation centers. Appraisers will conduct field visits to damaged areas once fire officials provide clearance.

The massive wildfire near Lancaster, known as the Powerhouse fire, is estimated to be about 90% contained after burning more than 30,000 acres since starting May 30, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Inquiries can be directed to the Assessor's Sylmar District Offices at (818) 833-6000.

Misfortune/calamity forms are available on the Assessor's Internet website at <http://assessor.lacounty.gov/extranet/lac/control/binaryGet.aspx?uploadid=53>

Fire Recovery Workshop

There will be a Fire Recovery Workshop from 3 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, at Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary, located at 16633 Elizabeth Lake Road in Lake Hughes.



The Painted Turtle in Lake Hughes sustained significant smoke damage from the Powerhouse fire.



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Area residents are encouraged to attend this workshop. Information will be provided regarding the scope of the fire damage. Services to aid homeowners and community members in recovery will also be provided.

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
						30
« May						

