

January 2025



Healthcare (CMS)

Special Enrollment Opportunities for Fire

Victims: CMS (US Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) will make available special enrollment periods for eligible individuals to enroll in coverage through the Federal Health Insurance Exchange (e.g. ACA market). This gives people impacted by the LA fires the opportunity to enroll in coverage if they miss their original special enrollment period.

Prescription Access: RX Open is a mapping tool that helps patients and providers locate open pharmacies in areas impacted by natural disasters and public health emergencies. It has been activated in LA.

Dialysis Care: CMS is helping people obtain and maintain access to critical life-saving services by activating the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) program in Los Angeles.

Medical Equipment and Supplies

Replacements: CMS will permit people with Medicare who have lost or realized damage to their durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies as a result of the fires to receive replacements and services. This will help to ensure people can continue to access the needed medical equipment and supplies.

Medicare beneficiaries can **contact 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for assistance.**



Taxes (IRS)

Filing and Payment Relief: The IRS tax relief announcement postpones various tax filing and payment deadlines. As a result, affected individuals and businesses have an extension to file returns until Oct 15th, 2025. The full list of delayed tax deadlines is linked.

Covered Areas & Eligibility: Individuals and households affected by the fires that reside or have a business in Los Angeles County qualify for tax relief. Access eligibility details '[Affected Taxpayers.](#)'

Emergency Access to Retirement Accounts:

The IRS also announced that relief may be available to affected taxpayers who participate in a retirement plan or IRAs. For example, a taxpayer may be eligible to take a special disaster distribution that would not be subject to the additional 10% early distribution tax and allows the taxpayer to spread the income over three years. Taxpayers may also be eligible to make a hardship withdrawal. Each plan or IRA has specific rules and guidance for their participants.

Disaster hotline:

The IRS guides disaster related tax questions to the 866-562-5227 hotline.