



# VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF

## MEDIA RELEASE

BOB BROOKS, SHERIFF

Event: Disaster Recovery Center Opens (Corrected Hours in Text)

Location: Oak View Community Park & Resource Center  
555 Mahoney Avenue, Oak View

Date & Time: Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 8:00 am to 6:00 pm  
(Seven days a week until further notice)

### Narrative:

Homeowners, renters and business owners who sustained losses directly attributable to the recent winter storms that occurred beginning December 27, 2004 through January 11, 2005 are now eligible for federal and state assistance.

Ventura County residents affected by the disaster may be eligible for grants to pay for temporary housing, emergency home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. The Small Business Administration can provide low-interest loans to cover losses not fully covered by insurance. Loans of up to \$200,000 are available for primary residents and \$40,000 for personal property, including renter's losses. Small-business owners could receive up to \$1.5 million in loans, while farmers, ranchers and aquaculture operators could borrow up to \$500,000 for disaster-related losses. Individuals, including self-employed workers, who lost their jobs because of the disaster, could receive unemployment payments for up to 26 weeks. Disaster aid varies on a case-by-case basis.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services is urging people to first register for assistance by calling the FEMA Teleregistration Hotline at 1-800-621-3362 (or 1-800-462-7585 for the deaf or hearing-impaired). An individual also may register by filling out an application on-line at FEMA's Web site: <http://www.fema.gov>

Registering with FEMA for disaster assistance takes one phone call," said FEMA's David Fukutomi, federal coordinating officer. "Even if they have insurance, people should register with FEMA because they may be underinsured for losses and expenses. We don't want anyone that was impacted by the disaster to miss getting the help for which they are eligible."

After people apply for federal assistance by phone or over the Internet, they also can seek one-on-one consultation at the Disaster Recovery Center, which is scheduled to open Thursday February 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Oak View Community Park and Resource Center at 555 Mahoney Ave., Oak View. The center will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week. Representatives from FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration, local County agencies, and the American Red Cross will be on hand to provide disaster relief information.

For more information about disaster response and preparedness, visit the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services website at [www.vcsd.org/oes](http://www.vcsd.org/oes) or contact the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services at (805) 654-2551.

Follow-up Contact:

Laura D. Hernandez, Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services at (805) 654-2551

####