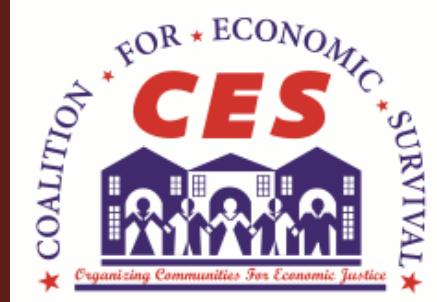


Eviction & Rent Hike
MORATORIUM
NOW!



**In Response to the Fires, Tell
State, County & City Officials
We Need a Temporary
Eviction Moratorium &
Rent Freeze NOW!**

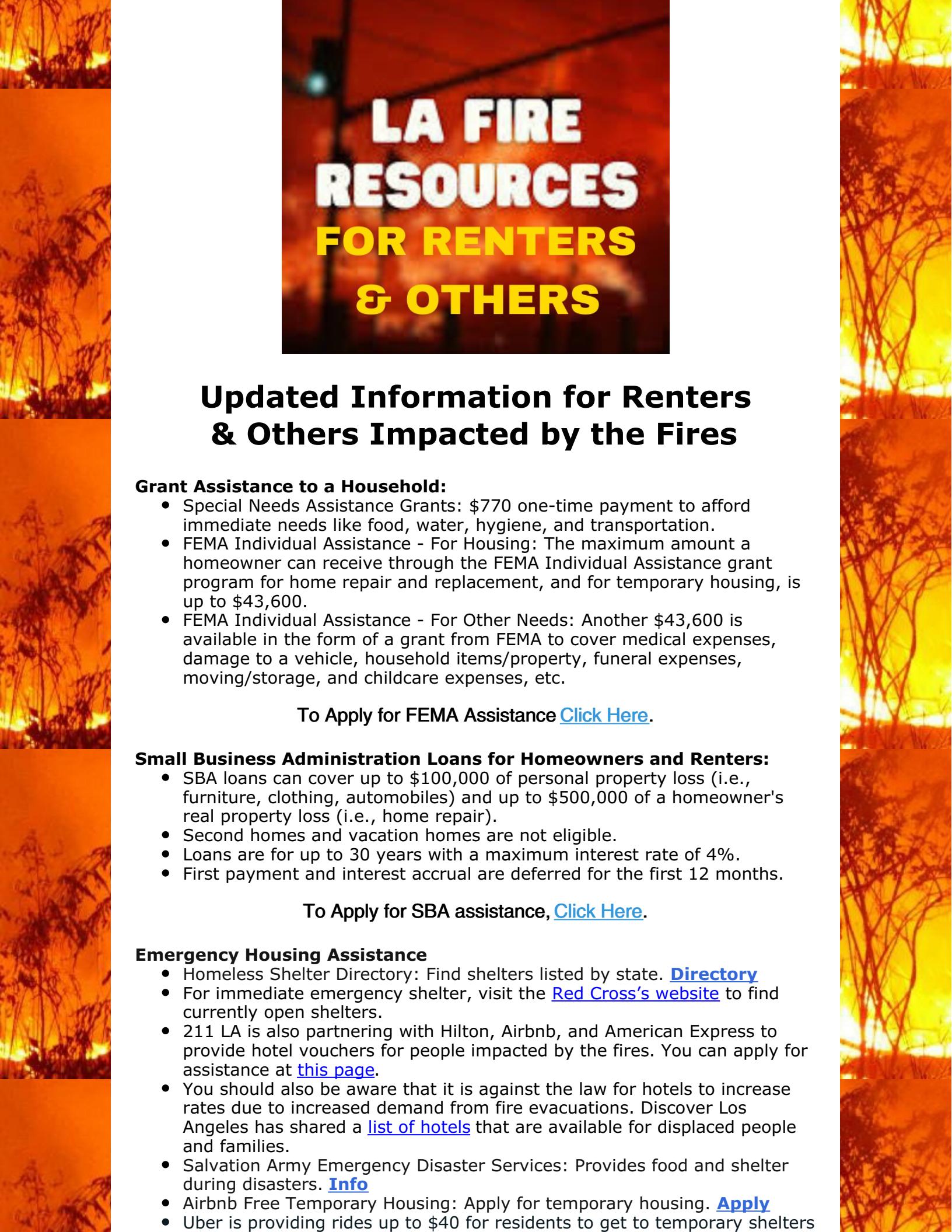
ACTION NEEDED NOW! **LA City Council Delays Action on Eviction Moratorium & Rent Freeze**

The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday, January 14, delayed a proposal to enact a citywide eviction moratorium and rent freeze in response to the fires, opting instead to send the motion to the committee for further consideration.

The measure, introduced by Councilmembers Hugo Soto-Martinez and Eunisses Hernandez and seconded by Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, came in response to widespread displacement and housing challenges caused by the recent Palisades and Eaton fires. You can see the language [HERE!](#)

Immediate action is needed to pass this motion. Contact your City Councilmember to urge their support for this important motion.

[Click for Councilmember contact information.](#)



LA FIRE RESOURCES FOR RENTERS & OTHERS

Updated Information for Renters & Others Impacted by the Fires

Grant Assistance to a Household:

- Special Needs Assistance Grants: \$770 one-time payment to afford immediate needs like food, water, hygiene, and transportation.
- FEMA Individual Assistance - For Housing: The maximum amount a homeowner can receive through the FEMA Individual Assistance grant program for home repair and replacement, and for temporary housing, is up to \$43,600.
- FEMA Individual Assistance - For Other Needs: Another \$43,600 is available in the form of a grant from FEMA to cover medical expenses, damage to a vehicle, household items/property, funeral expenses, moving/storage, and childcare expenses, etc.

To Apply for FEMA Assistance [Click Here](#).

Small Business Administration Loans for Homeowners and Renters:

- SBA loans can cover up to \$100,000 of personal property loss (i.e., furniture, clothing, automobiles) and up to \$500,000 of a homeowner's real property loss (i.e., home repair).
- Second homes and vacation homes are not eligible.
- Loans are for up to 30 years with a maximum interest rate of 4%.
- First payment and interest accrual are deferred for the first 12 months.

To Apply for SBA assistance, [Click Here](#).

Emergency Housing Assistance

- Homeless Shelter Directory: Find shelters listed by state. [Directory](#)
- For immediate emergency shelter, visit the [Red Cross's website](#) to find currently open shelters.
- 211 LA is also partnering with Hilton, Airbnb, and American Express to provide hotel vouchers for people impacted by the fires. You can apply for assistance at [this page](#).
- You should also be aware that it is against the law for hotels to increase rates due to increased demand from fire evacuations. Discover Los Angeles has shared a [list of hotels](#) that are available for displaced people and families.
- Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services: Provides food and shelter during disasters. [Info](#)
- Airbnb Free Temporary Housing: Apply for temporary housing. [Apply](#)
- Uber is providing rides up to \$40 for residents to get to temporary shelters

Assistance from the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor

Below are the available resources from the Labor Federation:

Housing Assistance:

They can assist with first and last-month rental assistance and help find permanent, long-term housing. Please note: We cannot assist with deposits. For those needing temporary housing, please visit the American Red Cross website to find a shelter near your area. Staff on-site can assist you if you need permanent, long-term housing.

To qualify for rental, mortgage, or utility assistance, please submit copies of the following:

- 3-Day Notice or Foreclosure Documentation
- Copy of a Utility Bill
- Disconnection Notice
- Proof of Income demonstrating the union member's ability to make payments moving forward.

If you need assistance, please complete the LCS Assistance Intake Form available at <https://lcs-la.org>. Submit the completed form along with the required supporting documentation to our Programs Manager, Marcos Juan, at marcos@lcs-la.org. Marcos will review the submissions and follow up once all information and documents have been processed.

Utilities:

If you have outstanding utility bills (e.g., electricity, gas, or water), they can assist with those bills.

Food:

They can provide you with boxes of food. These boxes, prepared by fellow union members and can feed a family of four.

Report Housing Violations to the Los Angeles Housing Department

LAHD is responsible for investigating complaints about unsafe living conditions and code violations at multifamily rental properties within the City of Los Angeles. File a Code complaint and let an inspector assess the situation or call (866) 557-7368

<https://housingapp.lacity.org/Rent/InvestigationEnforcement/IEComplaintForm/FillComplaintForm>

City of LA Landlord Harassment Complaints

You can file a harassment complaint with the LA City Housing Department online or by calling (866) 557-7368. You can also file a complaint with the LAPD if your landlord locks you out or cuts off your utilities.

Report Housing Violation for the County of Los Angeles

Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at (800) 593-8222 or via email at rent@dcba.lacounty.gov.

For the most efficient service, [schedule an appointment](#) to speak with a counselor at your preferred time.

Report Rent or Price Gouging

Businesses – including landlords and hotels – are generally not allowed to raise prices more than 10% in response to the emergency. However, officials can't take action if they don't know price gouging is happening. In the city, call 311 to report sudden price spikes by specific stores or landlords. The county also has [an online reporting form](#).

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a [state of emergency](#) in Los Angeles County, which establishes protections against price-gouging. The price of rent or other items cannot be increased by more than 10%. Contact the California Attorney General complaint line to report any rent or price gouging that is taking place.

Utility Issues

- For emergency services or to report an outage, call **SCE** at (800) 611-1911.
- Report outages or any downed power lines immediately by calling the **LADWP** at 1-800-DIAL DWP (1-800-342-5397).
- If you suspect a natural gas leak or to report one, evacuate the area immediately and contact **SoCal Gas** from a safe location: 1-800-427-2200. Available 24/7.

Insurance Claims

The California Department of Insurance is available to assist affected Angelenos as they begin working with insurance agents or brokers. They are encouraged to call 1-800-927-4357 or visit the Insurance Wildfire Resources to ask questions about insurance coverage and/or disputes with insurance agencies.

Jobs and Businesses

Anyone who has been laid off due to the fires should [file for unemployment](#) immediately. The State has waived the normal 1-week waiting period before you can collect benefits.

The State is also offering assistance to affected businesses, including an extension on filing payroll reports and paying payroll taxes. Learn more [here](#). [Free legal aid](#) in a number of areas is also available to businesses through a partnership between the City, County, and several local nonprofits.

[The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation](#) also offers a number of services, including lay-off diversion support.

[Los Angeles Regional Small Business Legal Aid Program](#) provides free legal services to qualified small businesses on a number of legal issues. For more information, visit lalegalhelp.org or call 1-866-375-9511.

Other Resources

- Groceries: [Instacart](#) is offering \$0 delivery fees to everyone in Los Angeles for grocery and essential supply orders over \$10.
- Loans: [The Small Business Administration](#) is offering low-interest loans to both businesses and homeowners impacted by the fires.
- Tree emergencies and street blockages: contact 311 for 24/7 support.
- Mail: People affected by the fire can have the post office hold their mail by [filling out this form](#).
- Taxes: Both the [state](#) and [federal](#) governments have pushed the tax filing deadline back to Oct. 15, 2025 for people and businesses affected by the fires.

Air Quality and Health Tips

The smoke from the fires is impacting many people who are in no immediate danger from the fires. You can check the current air quality and forecast [here](#). The most important piece of advice is to stay inside with windows and doors closed as much as you can in order to avoid exposure to irritants and toxic chemicals in the air. Check this [more detailed guide](#) from the LA Times for more information.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has prohibited the use of air blowers like leaf blowers and snow blowers until further notice to prevent stirring up toxic ashes.

N95 Masks Available – The South Coast AQMD has extended a windblown dust advisory throughout the Los Angeles area. The City of Los Angeles has distributed N95 masks throughout Los Angeles Public Libraries, Los Angeles Recreation Centers, Los Angeles Senior Centers and local nonprofits. Visit lapl.org/branches to find your nearest library or laparks.org/reccenter to find your nearest Recreation Center/Senior Center.



IN THE NEWS!!!



Price-Gouging Laws Designed to Protect Tenants in Crisis Aren't Stopping Some LA Landlords

By Allison Morrow

Jan. 16, 2025

California's law makes it illegal for landlords and businesses to raise prices more than 10% in a state of emergency — punishable by up to \$10,000 in fines or a year in jail. The LA county sheriff said this week that law enforcement officials "are very eager to prosecute anyone who thinks they're going to take advantage of the people who have been through this tragedy."



In practice, though, these laws are difficult to enforce.

For starters, the onus falls on renters themselves to report abuses by landlords, said Larry Gross, executive director of the [Coalition for Economic Survival](#), an LA-based nonprofit that advocates for tenants.

In other words, if your home just burned down and you find a rental unit where the landlord appears to be price-gouging, you can file a complaint with the attorney general or district attorney and wait for a response.

Meanwhile, you still don't have a place to live.

"When you're out on the streets and you're looking, you have no leverage whatsoever," Gross told me. "So the price-gouging law in itself is not going to protect tenants who need housing immediately. The landlord is going to go on to the other tenant who can pay a higher price."

Gross also noted a "huge loophole" in which landlords can advertise the price at no more than 10% higher, but they're still free to take a higher price if someone offers it.

"There are ways for them to wink their eye and say, 'hey, I got these higher offers if you want to try and match that,'" Gross said.



He described the price-gouging law as a necessary but not sufficient tool in the fight to protect tenants. Ultimately, he said, city and state prosecutors and lawmakers need to move quickly.

"There haven't been any prosecutions ... We saw a news conference where they threatened to do it, but threats aren't going to do tenants any good. We need action, and that's what we're still waiting for."

[Click Here to View the Entire Article](#)

Los Angeles Times

Signs of Rent Gouging Rise Across Region in Fires' Wake, Bringing Calls for Enforcement

By Liam Dillon, Jack Flemming, Andrew Khouri and Seema Mehta
Jan. 15, 2025

Temporary price-gouging protections in place because of the fires are supposed to stop such dramatic rent hikes, but a Times review of online listings this week indicate illegal increases are relatively common. Such listings, which have been denounced on social media, are starting an uproar, causing some landlords to shift course and leading to calls for authorities to prosecute those profiteering off pain.

"They need to move quickly and make an example out of these people," said Larry Gross, executive director of the [Coalition for Economic Survival](#), a local tenant rights group.

[Click Here to View the Entire Article](#)

Los Angeles Times

What to Know About Temporary Housing, Rents, Price Gouging During Firestorm

By Andrew Khouri
Jan. 9, 2025

Price gouging protections generally are in place for 30 days following the declaration of a state of emergency, but can be extended.

The tenant advocacy group [Coalition for Economic Survival](#) is also holding [Saturday workshops](#) for existing renters and those now in need of a rental to learn more about their rights.

[Click Here to View the Entire Article](#)

Displaced Angelenos and Rent Gouging in LA Puts More Pressure on Strained Housing Market

by Gabriel Arizon
January 15, 2025

Larry Gross – executive director for the [Coalition for Economic Survival \(CES\)](#), a nonprofit that advocates for tenants' rights, rent control and preserving affordable housing – said he identified a 500-square-foot, one-bedroom apartment in North Hollywood that was asking for \$5,500 a month. A January rent report by Apartment List found that the median rent for a one-bedroom apartment in LA is \$1,843.



Under state law, it is illegal for businesses and landlords to increase prices by more than 10% during a declared state of emergency. Violators can receive up to a year in county jail and/or a fine of up to \$10,000. Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation of a state of emergency on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

Gross is fearful that LA will see even more rent gouging. He pointed to what happened in Hawaii a year after the 2023 Maui fires, where families were paying an average of 43% more on rent. In response, the local government enacted an eviction moratorium that ends on Feb. 4.

"That's an example we need to look at, and our elected officials need to see that it's going to happen here, and it's already happening, and they need to take immediate action to prevent this," Gross said.

"We need the prosecution of these profiteers to send the message that it's going to be enforced and they're taking a great risk if they think they can get away with trying to rent [gouge] because that's just going to make the situation even much worse, especially for those who are low income, people of color and seniors on fixed incomes who have been displaced due to the fires and need new homes. They're not going to be able to afford those rent gouges."

The problem with prosecuting rent gougers, Gross explained, is that most people looking for housing won't know what the rents were before the fires, making it difficult to know if they are being charged more.

However, Gross said that's not enough, and more people are needed to handle this crisis. With the hardships and challenges people are facing, he said, it will

take decades for LA to recover.

"To give some perspective to this, the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 was three square miles, and the San Francisco Fire in 1906 was four square miles. The Palisades Fire is [37] square miles at this point," Gross said. "It's going to take a lot of resources, funding and, unfortunately, time to rebuild that."

[Click Here to View the Entire Article](#)



Press Play with Madeleine Brand

LA wildfires: Rents Skyrocket as Fire Victims Search for New Homes

By Danielle Chiriguayo Jan. 14, 2025

Now, tenants' rights advocates are asking local government officials to enact stronger protections, including a rent freeze and an eviction moratorium, to protect all Angelenos.

"We need to ensure that the people who currently have roofs over their heads are not pushed out by landlords who are looking to get higher rents," says Larry Gross, the executive director of the [Coalition for Economic Survival](#).

He says these protections are not outside of the realm of possibility, pointing to pandemic-era restrictions on rent and evictions.

"Los Angeles has been facing one of the most severe housing, particularly affordable housing, crises in the nation and this is going to exacerbate that crisis to no end," Gross says.

[Click Here to View the Entire Report](#)



How Landlords Want to Profit from Fire Victims

Thousands of people lost their homes and apartments in the Los Angeles firestorm. Now they are looking for new accommodation in the tense real estate market. Unscrupulous landlords are trying to exploit their plight.

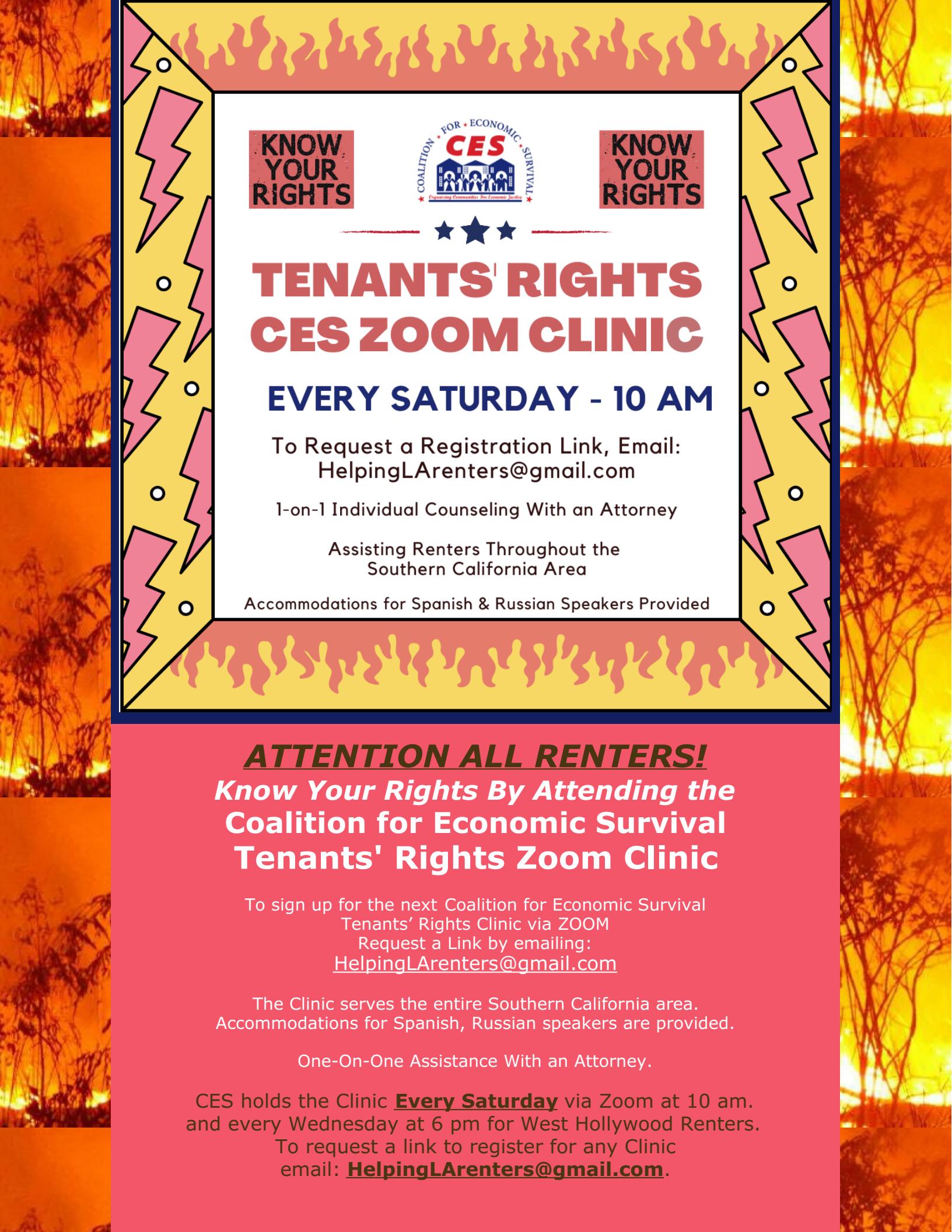
Where people are in need, others see a business opportunity: The reason for the spontaneous increase is the fire disaster in Los Angeles. "Los Angeles was already facing the worst affordable housing crisis in the entire country," Larry Gross of the tenant protection organization [Coalition for Economic Survival](#) told SPIEGEL. "The fires will exacerbate this crisis in an unimaginable way."

The state of emergency will initially last for 30 days, but can be extended. California Attorney General Rob Bonta warns: "Those who look at this natural disaster with dollar signs in their eyes should know that we will find them and will not tolerate their misdeeds." Tenant advocate Larry Gross is urging the authorities to follow their words with actions and immediately prosecute violations of the law - as a "message to other landlords."

The [Coalition for Economic Survival](#) is drawing attention to another phenomenon: The organization fears that landlords are trying to evict their current tenants from their apartments in order to then rent to others who pay more - or to move in themselves.

Larry Gross describes the case of a property owner from Pacific Palisades who lost his house and still owns an apartment in Los Angeles. Now he wants to give notice to his tenant so that he can move in himself. Personal use has rarely been more understandable, but it would put someone else on the street - a moral dilemma. Tenant advocates are calling for a legal eviction moratorium to prevent tenants from being driven out.

[Click Here to View the Entire Article](#)



KNOW
YOUR
RIGHTS



KNOW
YOUR
RIGHTS

TENANTS' RIGHTS CES ZOOM CLINIC

EVERY SATURDAY - 10 AM

To Request a Registration Link, Email:
HelpingLArenters@gmail.com

1-on-1 Individual Counseling With an Attorney

Assisting Renters Throughout the
Southern California Area

Accommodations for Spanish & Russian Speakers Provided

ATTENTION ALL RENTERS!
***Know Your Rights By Attending the
Coalition for Economic Survival
Tenants' Rights Zoom Clinic***

To sign up for the next Coalition for Economic Survival
Tenants' Rights Clinic via ZOOM
Request a Link by emailing:
HelpingLArenters@gmail.com

The Clinic serves the entire Southern California area.
Accommodations for Spanish, Russian speakers are provided.

One-On-One Assistance With an Attorney.

CES holds the Clinic **Every Saturday** via Zoom at 10 am.
and every Wednesday at 6 pm for West Hollywood Renters.

To request a link to register for any Clinic
email: HelpingLArenters@gmail.com.

Donate Now to the Coalition for Economic Survival



Donate to the Coalition for Economic Survival (CES)

Help Support the Coalition for Economic Survival. Donate Now!

One-Time

Monthly

\$10

\$25

\$50

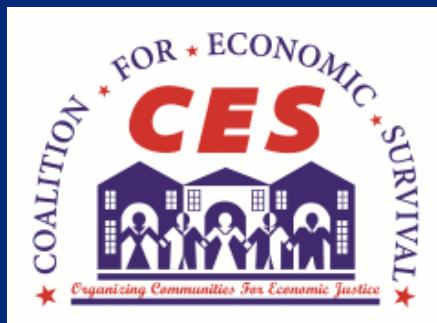
\$100

\$250

\$500

\$1,000

\$ Other



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