

News Release



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U.S. Department of Labor Extends Annual Reports Deadline After California Wildfires

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) today announced an extension of the deadline for filing Form 5500 and Form 5500-EZ annual returns/reports due to property damage, destruction and power outages that resulted from the California wildfires.

"Many businesses were severely impacted by California's wildfires," said Assistant Secretary of Labor Ann L. Combs. "Recognizing the devastation suffered by many employers, plan administrators and other benefit professionals, the department, in coordination with the IRS and PBGC, is providing additional time to meet plan filing obligations."

The extension applies to plan administrators, employers and other entities located in areas directly affected as identified in the IRWeb at www.tris.irs.gov/fema/index.html. The extension also applies to filers located outside the affected areas who were unable to obtain the necessary information from service providers, banks or insurance companies whose operations were directly affected by the wildfires.

Under this relief, Form 5500 series filings required to be filed on or between October 21, 2003 and December 29, 2003 are granted an extension until December 29, 2003.

Filers entitled to this extension of relief should check Part 1, Box D, on the Form 5500 or Part 1 on Form 5500-EZ and attach a statement to the form in accordance with the instructions. Filers who have additional questions may contact the EFAST Help Line at 1-866-463-3278.

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