



January 15, 2025

California Wildfires- Special Disaster Rules for Accepting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits For Hot Foods

Effective immediately through February 8, 2025, authorized SNAP retailers located in California may accept SNAP benefits in exchange for hot foods and foods intended to be consumed on retailer premises.

Approved Counties (7) (*Additional)

Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, ***Riverside**, San Bernardino, ***San Diego**, and Ventura.

Duration

These special rules are in effect through February 8, 2025. Hot foods purchased with SNAP benefits during this time are **not** subject to sales tax.

Recommendations

We encourage all SNAP retailers in the approved counties to post a special notice in the store letting SNAP customers know that they can use their SNAP benefits to purchase hot foods and, where practical, may remain on the premises to consume those foods.

FNS is aware that the State agency operates a Restaurant Meals Program (RMP). This waiver approval does not allow households who are not elderly, disabled, or homeless to use SNAP benefits at restaurants. SNAP recipients who are elderly, disabled, or homeless households are normally approved to purchase meals with SNAP at restaurants may continue to do so.

Thank you for your assistance in aiding those impacted by the wildfires and winds.

Sincerely,

Retailer Policy Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture