

DMEPOS CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE FACT SHEET

On January 10, 2025, President Biden declared a major disaster in California due to wildfires. Public Health Emergency (PHE) flexibilities are retroactive to January 7, 2025. During this PHE, CMS authorized a 1135 blanket waiver for evacuated, transferred, or dislocated individuals in California. The waivers and modifications listed in the presidential declaration are valid for 90 days from the PHE's effective date, unless otherwise notified. [2025 Southern California Wildfire Waivers](#)

<https://edit.cms.gov/files/document/2025-southern-ca-wildfires-waiver-list-01-12-25.pdf>

Please see [CMS Current Emergencies website](#) for information regarding:

- 1135 Blanket Waivers for DMEPOS
- Public Health Emergency Determination

<https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/what-we-do/emergency-response/current-emergencies>

Noridian has created a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) page](#):

- Medicare will cover replacements for equipment or items lost, destroyed, or damaged due to an emergency or disaster (e.g., various supplies, drugs, oxygen, capped rentals, customized items, and prosthetic and orthotic devices). However, Medicare does not cover the replacement of items that need frequent servicing or rented IRP items.
- If an item is affected by a formal waiver, suppliers must include the "CR" modifier on claims for those items and services, alongside the "RA" modifier and any other applicable modifiers.
- When filing a claim for replacement equipment, suppliers must use the "RA" modifier and provide a narrative explaining why the equipment must be replaced. They must also keep documentation proving the equipment was lost, destroyed, or made unusable due to a disaster.
- If capped rental or oxygen equipment is damaged by the California fires and needs replacement during the rental cycle, a new 36-month rental period will generally start with the replacement equipment. The rental period does not continue from where it left off.
- Beneficiaries can call 1-800-MEDICARE to find out which suppliers can service them. Alternatively, they can visit <http://www.medicare.gov/supplier> to find a list of suppliers by name, location, and proximity.

<https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jddme/topics/emergencies-disasters/ca-fire-25>

Please see [Noridian's Emergencies and Disasters page](#) for more information:

- PHE Resources for Suppliers and Beneficiaries
- Noridian's FAQ Link
- CMS Resources
- JD Supplier Contact Center: 877-320-0390

<https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jddme/topics/emergencies-disasters>