

# TENANT RIGHTS AFTER A DISASTER

## Do I need to pay rent?

**If the unit is completely destroyed, no.**

Your lease will end. You no longer have the right to live there and do not have to continue paying rent. The landlord must refund unused portions of rent and return security deposits.

**If the unit is "redtagged", no.**

You do not have to pay rent while the unit is "redtagged" and you are unable to use the unit. Once a City Inspector declares the unit to be safe for habitation, you have the right to continue occupying the unit and will need to start paying rent to your landlord.

**If the unit is damaged but is still livable and is not destroyed, yes.**

If you want to move out, you need to give landlord a 30-day notice of your proposed move out. You will need to pay rent for those 30 days.

**Mobile home owners:**

If the park is destroyed and the park's Permit to Operate is officially suspended by Department of Housing and Community Development for more than 30 days, then the park cannot legally collect rent.

## Am I entitled to relocation assistance?

Maybe. If the local enforcement agency will be responsible for giving relocation benefits to tenants, you may be eligible for relocation assistance. Check with your local county to see if any relocation payments are available.

Your landlord is not obligated by state law to provide you with relocation benefits because of a "natural disaster". However, if you have renters insurance, you may be able to recover for some of your relocation costs.

## Am I entitled to reimbursement for my property that was destroyed?

Your landlord is only responsible for reimbursement for destroyed possessions IF the loss was caused by the landlord's negligence. However, if you have a renters' insurance policy, you may be able to recover some of those costs.

