

# **Texas Department of Banking**

## **Press Release**

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### **Banking Commissioner Encourages State-Chartered Banks to Work with Customers Affected By Wildfires**

Date: January 5, 2006

Texas Banking Commissioner Randall S. James has encouraged state-chartered banks to be prepared to assist their customers affected by wildfires that have plagued the state in recent days. The Texas Department of Banking realizes that catastrophes such as these wildfires will temporarily tax resources throughout the impacted areas. We fully anticipate state-chartered banks will be extremely busy doing their part to respond to community and customer needs during the days following these fires. We also understand that the needs of individuals and businesses alike can change dramatically in the aftermath of such a disaster. As a result, we are encouraging state-chartered banks to be prudently responsive to community and customer needs. We fully anticipate that lenders may need to adjust terms or temporarily extend maturities where circumstances warrant and safety and soundness is not compromised.

The Banking Commissioner is supportive of measures that will help borrowers recover and provide an opportunity to ultimately repay their loans. "Additionally, we will confer with bankers in the affected areas to determine if deferring an examination will allow institutions time to appropriately focus efforts on their customers and not be distracted by the demands of a regulatory examination," Commissioner James stated.

State-chartered banks that have any questions related to lending activity with customers affected by the fires or examination deferral questions should contact the Texas Department of Banking at 512-475-1300.