

# HHS Office for Civil Rights in Action



**October 16, 2017**

## **Waiver or Modification of Requirements Under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act as the Result of the October 2017 California Wildfires**

HHS declared a Public Health Emergency in California due to wildfires on Sunday, October 15, 2017.

You may view the Waiver or Modification of Requirements Under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act in California as the Result of the October 2017 Wildfires

at: <http://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/section1135/Pages/cawildfires-15Oct17.aspx>.

OCR's latest guidance on the October 2017 California Wildfires and the limited waiver of HIPAA sanctions and penalties during a declared emergency may be found

at: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/california-wildfires-hipaa-bulletin.pdf>

Covered entities and business associates can find more information on HIPAA and Emergency Situations

at: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/index.html>

Please also view OCR's [Civil Rights Emergency Preparedness](#) page to learn how nondiscrimination laws apply during an emergency.

This is an announce-only list, a resource to distribute information about the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules. For additional information on a wide range of topics about the Privacy and Security Rules, please visit the OCR Privacy website at

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/index.html>. You can also call the OCR Privacy toll-free phone line at (866) 627-7748. Information about OCR's civil rights authorities and responsibilities can be found on the OCR home page at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/index.html>.

If you believe that a person or organization covered by the Privacy and Security Rules (a "covered entity") violated your health information privacy rights or otherwise violated the Privacy or Security Rules, you may file a complaint with OCR. For additional information about how to file a complaint, visit OCR's web page on filing complaints at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/index.html>.