



Alabama Department of Labor

News Release

For Immediate Release: May 12, 2014

Five More Alabama Counties Added for Disaster Unemployment Assistance to Workers in Blount, DeKalb, Mobile, Tuscaloosa and Etowah

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees announced today that workers who became unemployed as a direct result of recent severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding in Blount, DeKalb, Mobile, Tuscaloosa, and Etowah counties may qualify for unemployment assistance.

People who live or work in these counties and became unemployed due to the severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, and straight-line winds during the period of April 28 through May 5, 2014 may be eligible for assistance under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program, which was triggered when President Obama designated the area as a disaster area on May 2.

“Generally, those who are eligible for state unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA, but a claimant may qualify if state unemployment compensation benefits are exhausted,” said Surtees. “If you believe you are entitled to these benefits, I urge you to file a claim to see if you are eligible.”

Counties previously approved are Baldwin, Jefferson, Lee, and Limestone counties.

The Alabama Department of Labor administers the DUA program in conjunction with the United States Department of Labor. Funding for the program is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Applicants must file for disaster benefits no later than June 9, 2014. To be eligible for either regular state unemployment assistance or DUA, the applicant must be a legal resident. To be eligible for DUA benefits, an individual must not be entitled to regular state unemployment assistance and has been working or residing in a county for which the disaster has been officially declared. DUA benefits are available to unemployed individuals for up to 26 weeks from the date

of the disaster declaration. The disaster assistance period is May 4, 2014 through November 8, 2014.

People who may be eligible for DUA include the following: individuals who no longer have a job, are unable to reach the place of employment, or were scheduled to start work in the major disaster area and the job no longer exists; those who became the breadwinner or major support of the family because the head of the household died, or those who cannot work because of an injury incurred during the major disaster. All of the previously described circumstances must be as a direct result of the storms. Self-employed individuals must provide a copy of their 2013 income tax records.

DUA claims can be filed through ADOL's website at www.labor.alabama.gov or by calling 1-866-234-5382. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST, Monday through Friday.

The deadline to file a DUA claim is **June 9, 2014**.

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Media members seeking more information should contact Public Information Officer Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.