

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, September 7, 2011
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Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation announced today that workers who lost their jobs or self-employed individuals, including farmers and farmworkers, who have been unable to work as a direct effect of the spring flooding from March 11 – July 22, 2011, may qualify for unemployment benefits under a special federal program.

As a result of a Presidentially Declared Disaster (FEMA 1984-DR), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) claims are being accepted from workers in Yankton County.

Individuals whose employment has been affected by the floods should apply for benefits by calling the Unemployment Insurance Call Center at 605-626-3179 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. They should specify their claim is related to the DUA spring flooding.

Claims must be filed by Friday, Oct. 7, 2011, to be considered timely. Any claims filed after this date will be considered untimely, unless the individual provides good cause for filing after the deadline.

DUA is available to people who:

- Do not qualify for regular state unemployment benefits from any state;
- Worked or were self-employed or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment, but were unable to do so because of the disaster;
- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of the disaster;
- Cannot reach their place of employment as a direct result of the disaster;
- Have been prevented from work or self-employment because of an injury as a direct result of the disaster;
- Establish that work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income; or
- Have become the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household.

Individuals will need their Social Security number, copies of their most recent federal income tax forms or check stubs, or documentation to support they were working or

self-employed when the disaster occurred. The first possible week of compensation for DUA purposes is weekending March 19, 2011, and the last possible week of compensation is weekending November 12, 2011.

Re-employment assistance is available through the Department of Labor and Regulation local offices. All programs and services are provided at no charge. Detailed information is available at www.sdjobs.org