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Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation is announcing the availability of Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) for tribal members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation who became unemployed as a direct result of the severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding that occurred May 8-29, 2015.

The DUA program provides financial assistance to individuals whose employment, self-employment or prospective employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster.

DUA is available to tribal members who:

- Do not qualify for unemployment benefits
- Worked or were self-employed or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in the disaster area
- 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
- Establish the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury as a direct result of the disaster
- Became the major support of a household because of the death of the head of household

Tribal members whose employment has been affected 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. CDT. Please specify your claim is related to DUA and the May storms.

Tribal members will need their Social Security number, copies of their most recent federal income tax forms or check stubs, and documentation to support they were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred. Tribe membership is required to receive benefits.

To receive DUA benefits, all required documentation must be submitted within 21 days from the day the DUA application is filed.

Claims must be filed by Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, to be considered timely. Any claims filed after this date will be considered untimely, unless the individual provides good cause for filing after this date. The first possible week of compensation for DUA purposes is week ending May 16, 2015, and the last possible week of compensation is week ending Feb. 6, 2016.

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.