



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Commissioner

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For Release: October 21, 2004

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FEMA 1544 DR

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available As a Result Of Hurricane Jeanne

RICHMOND— People unable to work because of the severe storms and flooding in Southwest Virginia during the period September 27 and thereafter as a result of the remnants of Hurricane Jeanne may be eligible for disaster unemployment assistance.

The independent cities of Salem and Roanoke and the counties of Alleghany, Craig, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Patrick, and Roanoke have been declared disaster areas.

Self-employed and unemployed workers that live or work in the designated disaster areas who are not covered by regular state unemployment insurance programs may be eligible for this assistance under the major disaster declaration by President Bush on October 18, 2004. Under this program, benefits of up to \$326.00 per week may be paid to eligible individuals until they are able to return to work.

Disaster unemployment assistance covers those who:

- Are unable to work because their place of employment was put out of operation or they were unable to travel to their workplace due to the effects of the flood damage;
- Are self employed but are prevented from working due to the effects of the flood damage;

(more)

- Have become the breadwinner or major support of a household because the head of the household died as a result of the disaster; or
- Cannot work because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster.

Anyone interested in filing for disaster unemployment assistance should visit the nearest Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) field office on or before the filing deadline of Monday, November 22, 2004. Applicants should have their Social Security number and, if possible, documentation showing earnings for the year 2003.

For further information, contact C.B. Pierce at the VEC at (804) 786-1883 or Bob Spieldenner at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management at (804) 897-6510.

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