



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Virginia Employment Commission Assists Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

RICHMOND—The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), along with other state, private, and faith-based groups, will have staff at Fort Pickett in Blackstone to provide services for evacuees from the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricane Katrina.

VEC staff will be on-site to assist with filing initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits. Information on unemployment insurance benefits for Katrina evacuees and for local employers can be found on the Internet on the VEC's home page at <http://www.vec.virginia.gov/vecportal/>.

Assessments will be conducted to determine knowledge, job skills, abilities, and work experience of individuals in order to make placements into temporary work assignments. For those wishing to remain in Virginia, job information and assistance will be provided to assist in obtaining permanent work assignments.

Employers are encouraged to place job orders with the VEC. Individuals will be referred based upon how well their job skills and abilities meet the needs and requirements of employers. To place a job order, employers should contact their local VEC office. To find the office nearest you, go to www.VaEmploy.Com.

Hours of operation at Fort Pickett will be Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., beginning Friday, September 9. For more information, call the state's Public Inquiry Line at 866-880-4288.

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