



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Employment Commission

703 East Main Street

John R. Broadway  
Commissioner

Post Office Box 1358  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1358

**For Release:** January 30, 2012  
Contact: C. B. Pierce  
(804) 786-1883

FEMA 4042 DR

### DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION DEADLINE NEARS

**RICHMOND**—Thursday, February 2, 2012 is the deadline for individuals located in the following counties: Culpeper, Fluvanna, Goochland, Orange, Spotsylvania, and the City of Fredericksburg to file for disaster unemployment assistance. Those who became unemployed as a direct result of the earthquake that occurred on August 23, 2011 may be eligible to receive disaster unemployment assistance.

Self-employed and unemployed workers who live or work in the designated disaster area and are not covered by regular state unemployment insurance programs may be eligible for this federally-funded assistance made available by the major disaster declaration of President Obama on November 4, 2011. Under this program, benefits of up to \$378 per week may be paid to eligible individuals until they are able to return to work.

Disaster unemployment assistance covers those whose place of business/employment was in the affected jurisdiction and:

- No longer have a job as a direct result of the disaster;
- Are unable to reach their place of employment as a direct result of the disaster;
- Were to commence employment and do not have a job or are unable to reach the job as a direct result of the disaster;
- Are self-employed, but are prevented from working due to the effects of the disaster;
- Have become the breadwinner or major support of a household because the head of the household died as a direct result of the disaster; or
- Cannot work because of 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 Thursday, February 2, 2012. Applicants should have their Social Security number and, if possible, documentation showing earnings for the year 2010.

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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