



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Employment Commission

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### **DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR THREE COUNTIES AS A RESULT OF RECENT STORMS AND FLOODING IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA**

**Richmond, VA.** People unable to work because of the severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes that occurred in Virginia beginning May 24 and thereafter may be eligible for disaster unemployment assistance.

Self-employed and unemployed workers who live or work in the designated disaster areas and not covered by regular state unemployment insurance programs may be eligible for this federally funded assistance made available by the major disaster declaration by President Bush on June 15, 2004. Under this program, benefits of up to \$316 per week may be paid to eligible individuals until they are able to return to work.

The jurisdictions designated disaster assistance areas are **Russell, Tazewell, and Lee counties.**

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. Applicants should bring their Social Security number and, if possible, documentation showing earnings for the calendar year 2003. **The deadline for applying is Monday, July 19, 2004.**

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.