



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Employment Commission

703 East Main Street

Dolores A. Esser  
Commissioner

Post Office Box 1358  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1358

Contact:

VEC -C. B. Pierce (804) 786-1883

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2004

FEMA 1525 DR-VA

## DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR BUCHANAN COUNTY

RICHMOND, VA - - People unable to work because of the severe storms and flooding in Southwest Virginia during the period **May 24, 2004** through **June 26, 2004** may be eligible for disaster unemployment assistance in another Virginia locality.

Buchanan County joins Lee, Tazewell, and Russell counties on the list of localities that may be eligible for federal disaster assistance.

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 June 15. Under this program, benefits of up to \$316.00 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;
- 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. Individuals affected in the counties of Russell, Tazewell and Lee counties have until **July 19, 2004** to apply, and those affected in Buchanan County have a filing deadline of **August 2, 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.