



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
VDEM-Bob Spieldenner (804) 897-6510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2004

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR THREE ADDITIONAL VIRGINIA LOCALITIES

RICHMOND, VA - Individuals unable to work due to the flooding from tropical depression Gaston that occurred on August 30, 2004, may be eligible for disaster unemployment assistance in three additional Virginia localities.

The counties of Charles City, King William and New Kent, join the cities of Richmond, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, and Petersburg, and the counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Hanover, Henrico, and Prince George 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 September 3, 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;
- 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 Charles City, King William, and New Kent have until **October 21, 2004**, to apply, and those affected in the previously declared cities and counties have a filing deadline of **October 6, 2004**. Applicants should bring their social security number and, if possible, documentation showing earnings for the calendar year 2003.