



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Commissioner

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Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available for Botetourt County

RICHMOND—Individuals unable to work because of the severe storms and flooding in Southwest Virginia during the period **September 27** through **September 30, 2004**, as a result of the remnants of Hurricane Jeanne may be eligible for disaster unemployment assistance in another Virginia locality.

Botetourt County joins the cities of Salem and Roanoke and the counties of Alleghany, Craig, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Patrick, and Roanoke 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 October 18, 2004. Under this program, benefits of up to \$326 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

(more)

- 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 previously declared jurisdictions have until November 22, 2004, to apply; and those affected in Botetourt County have a filing deadline of December 6, 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.

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