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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

Governor Doyle Announces Disaster Unemployment Assistance for Workers Displaced by Severe Storms in Milwaukee, Grant Counties

MADISON – Governor Doyle announced today individuals unemployed due to tornadoes and severe storm damage and flooding July 20 - 24, 2010 in Grant and Milwaukee counties can apply for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) including Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

DUA benefits are available to unemployed workers if they:

- Worked or were self employed in or were scheduled to begin work or self employment in one of the affected counties or were unable to reach their employment because they must travel through the affected area.
- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage to the place of employment as a direct result of the disaster.
- Establish that the work or self employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income.
- Do not qualify for regular Unemployment Insurance benefits from any state.
- Cannot perform work or self employment because of an injury or because they were incapacitated as a direct result of the disaster.
- Became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household due to the disaster.
- Cannot work or perform self employment due to closure of a facility by the federal government.
- Lost a majority of income or revenue because the employer or self employed business was damaged, destroyed or closed by the federal government.

DUA benefits are not payable if an individual is eligible for regular Unemployment Insurance benefits. This program provides benefits for those who lost employment because of the disaster and do not qualify for regular benefits. Suffering a monetary loss due to damage to property or crops does not automatically entitle an individual to DUA benefits.

Benefits are based on a person's earnings for the most recent tax year. As a result, applicants will be asked to provide earnings data from their 2009 federal tax returns when filing a claim. Payments can range from \$144 to \$363 per week. The first potential week payable for DUA benefits is the week of July 25, 2010, through July 31, 2010.

Workers, including those who are self-employed in farming or other business must apply for benefits by October 21, 2010. Applications can be filed by calling the Department of Workforce Development's Unemployment Insurance Division in Madison at (608) 232-0678, in Milwaukee at (414) 438-7700 and toll free at 1-800 822-5246. A special (TTY) number for the hearing impaired is also available at 1-888-393-8914.