



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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**For Immediate Release:**

**Montana Workers Impacted by Spring Floods May Be Eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

**(Helena, MT)** The Montana Department of Labor and Industry announced today that workers in 16 counties and three Reservations impacted by this year's flooding could be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). The assistance is made possible by the amendment to the major disaster declaration by the President on July 26, 2011, that includes Individual Assistance.

"This amendment means that those self-employed and agricultural workers who reside in the designated counties and are not covered by regular unemployment insurance will be able to file Disaster Unemployment Assistance claims by telephone through the Montana Unemployment Insurance System," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly.

Montana counties included in the designation are: Big Horn, Carbon, Cascade, Custer, Fergus, Garfield, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Musselshell, Petroleum, Sweet Grass, Valley and Yellowstone Counties, as well as the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Crow Indian Reservation and the Fort Belknap Reservations.

DUA is available to individuals who following the floods of April 2011:

- Worked or were self-employed or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment,
- Could/can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of the disaster,
- Were/Are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster,
- Establish that the work or self-employment they could/can no longer perform was their primary source of income,
- Do not qualify for regular unemployment benefits from any state,
- Could not/Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury as a direct result of the disaster, **or**
- Who became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household due to the disaster.

Individuals will need their social security number, a copy of their most recent federal income tax forms or check stubs, and documentation to support they were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred. To receive DUA benefits, all required documentation must be submitted within 21 days from the day the DUA application is filed. The first possible week of compensation for those individuals who qualify for DUA, is the week ending April 16, 2011.

Montana residents not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits -- who may qualify for DUA due to a direct impact to their work by the floods that occurred in the impacted counties in April, 2011 -- are encouraged to review eligibility information available at [www.dli.mt.gov](http://www.dli.mt.gov) and then call 406-444-3454 to file a claim if they wish to do so. This line will be staffed by Disaster Unemployment agents and will not be able to respond to other unemployment claims.

Applications filed after Friday September 2, 2011, will be considered untimely, unless the individual provides good cause for filing after the deadline.

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