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Press Release

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Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available to Workers Affected by Spring Floods; Must Apply by July 29

JUNEAU, Alaska—Workers whose source of income has been affected by the spring 2013 Alaska floods may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits if they are self-employed or are not eligible for the state's unemployment insurance program.

"In response to a request for federal assistance by Governor Parnell, areas affected by ice jams and flooding that began May 17 have officially been declared a disaster area," Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Dianne Blumer said. "Alaskans living or working within the Alaska Gateway, Yukon-Koyukuk, Yukon Flats and Lower Yukon Regional Educational Assistance Areas, who are unable to work as a direct result of the disaster, may be eligible to receive these DUA benefits."

This includes individuals living or working in the communities of Eagle, Tok, Circle, Fort Yukon, Galena, Hughes, Koyukuk, Manley, Stevens Village, Tanana, Alakanuk, and Emmonak, as well as other communities within the areas affected by flooding from May 17 through June 11, 2013.

Individuals may qualify for DUA if they:

- Have exhausted entitlement to regular unemployment insurance benefits.
- Have been working or living in an area covered by the disaster declaration.
- Became unemployed or unable to work as a direct result of the flood.
- Are unable to reach their place of business as a direct result of the flood.
- Were scheduled to begin work and do not have a job or are unable to reach the job as a direct result of the flood.
- Cannot work due to an injury caused by the flood.
- Have become the major support of the household due to a death directly related to the flood.

Eligible Alaskans may receive weekly payments of up to \$370 for up to 26 weeks from the date the disaster assistance period began, plus dependents' allowance. The disaster assistance period began on May 19, 2013 and will end December 28, 2013. The last day to apply for DUA is July 29, 2013.

Alaskans who wish to apply should call 888-252-2557 and ask for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. Applicants will need to provide social security number, contact information for their most recent employer and dates worked. Self-employed applicants should be prepared to provide information about their self-employment and earnings, including financial documents such as 2012 Federal tax forms.

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