



Did You or An Employee Lose Your Work Because of ‘Irene’?

By Dennis Kauppila & Ginger Nickerson, UVM Extension, 9/13/11

Vermonters who are unemployed due to a Tropical Storm ‘Irene’ should apply for unemployment benefits. This includes self-employed people who can no longer work due to a disaster.

Call Vt. Department of Labor to set up a new claim for unemployment:
1-877-214-3330. Mid-week afternoons are best time to call; they do have 48 phone lines.

"Governor Peter Shumlin announced today (9/7/11) that Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits are available to help those Vermonters left without work as a result of tropical storm Irene.

President Obama and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have declared the following counties as official disaster areas eligible for individual assistance: Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Orange, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties. Under this declaration, individuals living, working, or scheduled to work in those counties may be eligible for disaster unemployment benefits."

“Eligibility: When a major disaster has been declared by the President, Disaster Unemployment Assistance is generally available to any unemployed worker or self-employed individual who lived, worked, or was scheduled to work in the disaster area at the time of the disaster; and due to the disaster:

- no longer has a job or a place to work; or
- cannot reach the place of work; or
- cannot work due to damage to the place of work; or
- cannot work because of an injury caused by the disaster.”

Vt. Department of Labor website concerning Disaster Unemployment Assistance –
<http://labor.vermont.gov/DUA/tabid/1641/Default.aspx>

Vt. Department of Labor website -- <http://www.labor.vermont.gov>

U.S. Department of Labor website about Disaster Unemployment Insurance; people register with State Department of Labor --
<http://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/disaster.asp>

The letter quoted from –

<http://www.labor.vermont.gov/Portals/0/Press%20Release;%20Disaster%20Unemployment%20Assistance%20for%20those%20Impacted%20by%20Irene.pdf>