

Mississippi Employment Security Commission

NEWS RELEASE

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November 15, 2002**Contact: Jan D. Garrick**
Director of Communications
(601) 961-7483**DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
AVAILABLE IN LOWNDES AND FOUR OTHER COUNTIES**

JACKSON---Workers in hard-hit Lowndes County and four surrounding counties who were unable to work because of last week's deadly tornadoes may apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), the Mississippi Employment Security Commission (MESC) announced Friday.

Workers in Lowndes, Monroe, Clay, Oktibbeha and Noxubee Counties whose employment was lost or interrupted as a direct result of the storms may be eligible for unemployment benefits of up to \$210 per week.

DUA provides financial assistance to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster.

Self-employed workers and those who work for employers not covered by unemployment insurance may apply for DUA. People who are unemployed because of physical damage or destruction to their place of employment as a result of the disaster may apply. Workers who were unable to reach their job because the disaster prevented their travel, or who were about to begin employment but the disaster prevented them from doing so may apply.

Also eligible to apply for DUA are workers who became the major support for a household because of the death of the head of the household due to the disaster and workers who cannot work because of an injury caused by the disaster.

Those applying for DUA should bring a Social Security card, a copy of their 2001 income tax return and documentation showing earnings and employment prior to the disaster.

Claims for DUA can be filed at any MESC unemployment insurance office located in WIN Job Centers statewide. The Columbus WIN Job Center is located at 400A Wilkins Wise Road and can be reached at 662-327-8144. The deadline to apply is December 16.

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