

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Disaster Aid Available to Four Additional Counties Due to Wildfires

Anderson, Bastrop, Deaf Smith and Parker Counties Added to Disaster Declaration

AUSTIN – According to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), those who worked in four additional Texas counties affected by extreme wildfire threat beginning December 1, 2005, and continuing, may apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1624-DR. The claims filing deadline for those who worked in Anderson, Bastrop, Deaf Smith and Parker counties is April 17, 2006. The additional counties have been added to the original declaration dated January 11, 2006, which included Callahan, Cooke, Eastland, Erath, Hood, Montague, Palo Pinto, Tarrant and Wise counties.

To be eligible for help under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1624-DR, you must:

- Have worked or been scheduled to work in the disaster area, but because of the disaster no longer have a job, a place to work in the area or you could not get to your place of work because of disaster damage;
- Have been prevented from working by an injury or illness as a direct result of the disaster; or
- Have become the head of the household and need employment because the head of the household died as a result of the disaster.

Often, business owners who are self-employed are not aware of potential benefits to which they may be entitled. If you are self-employed, but have lost all or part of your livelihood as a result of this disaster, you may well be eligible for benefits.

To receive DUA benefits, individuals must provide documentation indicating an employment record at the time of the disaster or verification of the weeks the applicant was scheduled to work. TWC officials understand that because of property losses, some individuals may not have necessary information readily available. Each claim is considered individually. If you believe you may be eligible for assistance, you may file online at www.texasworkforce.org or call the TWC Tele-Center network at one of the numbers listed below Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., to talk with a representative or file a claim.

Austin local:	(512) 340-4300
Dallas local:	(214) 252-1200
El Paso local:	(915) 832-6400
Fort Worth local:	(817) 420-1600
Houston local:	(281) 983-1100
McAllen local:	(956) 984-4700
San Antonio local:	(210) 258-6600
Others call toll free:	(800) 939-6631

– more –

When applying for benefits, you should have available, when possible, your:

- Social Security number and
- name and address of your last employer or prospective employer.

Job seekers may visit Texas Workforce centers for access to job-search resources, job postings and training programs, as well as assistance with exploring career options, résumé and application preparation, career development and more. Customers also may connect with potential employers through TWC's online job-search engine, www.WorkInTexas.com.

Workforce center services for employers include job posting and placement services, up-to-date information on the labor market and emerging occupations, and assistance with recruiting, retention, training, tax and hiring incentives. Employers can recruit new staff through www.WorkInTexas.com. Workforce centers also can offer employers the use of center office equipment and space when they are opening a new building in their respective areas.

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Texas Workforce Commission • 512-463-8942 • <http://www.texasworkforce.org> • Equal Opportunity Employer
Relay Texas • 1-800-735-2989 (TDD) • 1-800-735-2988 (Voice)

The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.