

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workers in Atascosa County Have until June 25 to Apply for Disaster Aid

AUSTIN – According to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), workers in Atascosa County who were affected by severe storms and tornadoes from April 21 through 24, 2007, have until June 25, 2007, to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1697-DR.

Atascosa County was added to the original declaration dated May 1, 2007. For workers in Maverick, Moore and Swisher counties, the deadline to apply for aid passed June 2, 2007. For workers in Denton County the deadline passed June 7, 2007.

To be eligible for help under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1697-DR, you must:

- Have worked or been scheduled to work in the disaster area, but because of the disaster no longer have a job or 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.

To claim DUA, affected individuals' unemployment must be a direct result of one of the following:

- The physical damage or destruction of the place of employment;
- The physical inaccessibility of the place of employment due to its closure by the federal, state or local government in immediate response to the disaster; or
- Lack of work, or loss of revenues, if, prior to the disaster, the employer or self-employed business received at least a majority of its revenue or income from an entity in the major disaster area that was damaged or destroyed in the disaster or an entity in the major disaster area closed by the federal, state, or local government.

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. You must provide federal income tax forms (Schedules SE and Schedule C or Schedule F) to receive disaster unemployment benefits.

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To receive DUA benefits, self-employed individuals and workers must provide documentation within 21 days after filing a claim 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, therefore if you believe you may be eligible for assistance, please call the TWC Tele-Center network at one of the numbers listed below Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time, to talk with a representative or file a claim.

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

When calling to apply for benefits, you should have available, when possible, your:

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

Individuals who worked in Atascosa County and file their claims after June 25, 2007, will be considered to have filed untimely and their benefits denied, unless the individual provides good cause for filing after this date.

The first possible week of compensation for DUA purposes is the week ending April 28, 2007, and last possible week of compensation is the week ending November 3, 2007.

For local workforce services, job seekers and employers should contact their local workforce centers in affected areas for revised office hours, temporary closures, or alternate service locations serving local or evacuated individuals. To locate the nearest workforce center, call:

- **Alamo Workforce Development Board** – Atascosa County: (210) 272-3250

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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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.