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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### **Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available to Workers Affected by Yukon Kuskokwim Flood; Must Apply by July 23**

JUNEAU, Alaska—Workers whose source of income has been affected by the Yukon Kuskokwim Flood may qualify 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 Palin, areas along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers affected by ice jams and flooding that began April 28 have officially been declared a disaster area," Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. "Alaskans living or working within the Alaska Gateway, Kuspuk, Yukon-Koyukuk and the Yukon Flats Regional Educational Assistance Areas, who have been unable to work as a direct result of the disaster, may be eligible to receive these DUA benefits."

This includes individuals living and working in the communities of Eagle, Eagle Village, Circle, Stevens Village, Fort Yukon, Tanana, Aniak, Crooked Creek, Red Devil, Sleetmute, and Upper and Lower Kalskag, as well as other communities within the areas affected by flooding.

"Eligible Alaskans may receive weekly payments of up to \$370, plus dependents' allowance, for up to 26 weeks," said Bill Kramer, chief of Unemployment Insurance. "Anyone wishing to apply should call 1-888-252-2557 and ask for Disaster Unemployment Assistance."

Applicants will need to provide their social security number, name, address and phone number of their most recent employer, and dates worked. Self-employed applicants should be prepared to provide information about their self employment earnings from financial documents that may include 2008 Federal tax forms.

The last day to apply for DUA is July 23.

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