



NEWS RELEASE

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DELAWARE COUNTY RESIDENTS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

OKLAHOMA CITY – Due to damage caused by severe storms and tornadoes that occurred on March 12, 2006, a major disaster has been declared for Delaware County in Oklahoma. This means that Delaware County residents are eligible to apply for disaster unemployment assistance (DUA), the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission announced today.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance provides financial support to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster. Those who qualify for normal unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA. Individuals, including the self-employed, who were living or working in Delaware County at the time of the disaster and who are unemployed as a direct result may be eligible for DUA.

The first payable week of disaster unemployment assistance for this disaster is the week beginning March 19, 2006. DUA applications will be taken for a 30-day period ending at the close of business on May 18, 2006. To file for disaster unemployment assistance, one must first establish a regular state unemployment claim. Within the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, individuals can call 525-1500 to establish a claim and start the DUA process. Outside of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, the number to call is (800) 555-1554.

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The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission strengthens Oklahoma by nurturing economic stability and employment security. The agency achieves this by providing unemployment compensation, matching jobs and workers, connecting workers with training opportunities, and distributing accurate labor force information to improve local economic decisions.