

# Assistance offered to victims of floods

The Alaska Department of Labor announced that Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to flood affected individuals who live or work in presidentially declared areas.

These areas are: the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and the City of Cordova.

People who live or work in these areas and are unemployed as a direct result of the recent storms or flooding are eligible to apply for disaster unemployment benefits.

Also, persons who were already on unemployment at the time of the storm are eligible to apply for disaster unemployment benefits. The benefits are payable beginning with the week of Oct. 12. Applications must be made before Nov. 28.

Special eligibility criteria are provided in this disaster program for people who are unemployed as a direct result of the disaster. One of the key differences from regular unemployment insurance requirements is the eligibility of self-employed persons.

Another difference is the method of calculating the type of wages used in determining benefits. These two key changes may allow people who might not be otherwise eligible for unemployment benefits, the opportunity to receive some disaster assistance.

People who wish to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance should visit the nearest Disaster Application Center or contact the nearest Department of Labor office.