



## Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

### News Release

For Immediate Release: May 5, 2009

### Unemployment Assistance Available to Workers in Covington, Geneva, and Houston Counties

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that workers who became unemployed as a direct result of recent storms in Covington, Geneva, and Houston counties may qualify for unemployment assistance.

People who live in or worked in these counties and become unemployed due to the severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, and straight-line winds during the period of March 25 to April 3 may be eligible for assistance under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program, which was triggered when President Obama designated the area as a disaster area on April 28.

“If you have lost your job due to the recent storms in the area, and believe you are entitled to these benefits, I urge you to contact the Department of Industrial Relations to see if you are eligible,” said Surtees.

Claims can be filed through DIR’s website at [www.dir.alabama.gov](http://www.dir.alabama.gov) or by calling 1-866-234-5382. The deadline to file a DUA claim is **June 3, 2009**.

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*Members of the media seeking more information should contact Public Information Officer Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.*