



News Release

For Immediate Release

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NMDWS prepared to process Unemployment Insurance claims quickly for workers affected by wildfire

ALBUQUERQUE – The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) is currently waiting for federal approval and guidance for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) to be offered to workers whose employment has been affected by the Southfork or Salt fires. Individuals may apply for Standard Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits now, a first step in the DUA process.

DUA updates and UI information are available on the NMDWS website <https://www.dws.state.nm.us/DUA>.

“Our Department is prepared to take Unemployment Insurance claims and help individuals affected by this tragic fire quickly,” said **NMDWS Secretary Sarita Nair**. “The process to receive DUA benefits is for individuals to first apply for standard Unemployment Insurance benefits, and they can do that now through our website and during business hours through our call center. If the claim is determined ineligible, once a Federal Disaster Declaration is made, those individuals may be able to qualify under DUA.”

To apply for UI benefits, individuals may do so online anytime 24/7 at <https://www.jobs.state.nm.us/> or by phone at 1-877-664-6984, Monday through Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm.

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The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) oversees the New Mexico public workforce system. The department is committed to supporting the business community and assisting New Mexicans seeking employment opportunities by bridging the link between employer needs and the skilled workforce. The department administers programs to include business services; workforce training; Unemployment Insurance; labor law enforcement; veterans' services; and labor market information.