

Vermont Department of Labor

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Important Notice Regarding State Unemployment Tax Act (SUTA) Disaster Relief

The Vermont Department of Labor is pleased to announce that the Vermont Legislature has recently passed legislation to provide State Unemployment Tax Act (SUTA) relief to Vermont employers impacted by the federally declared disasters that occurred in 2011. During 2011 storms and flooding impacted employer operations statewide (Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor Counties) that resulted in layoffs directly related to the disasters. The SUTA relief provides for up to 8 weeks of relief (immediately following) each disaster for layoffs that were a direct result of the disaster. This legislative provision for relief of UI Tax increases relating to the 2011 federally declared disasters does NOT apply to reimbursable employers.

The three covered disaster incidents were as follows:

1. Storms & Flooding

a. Disaster Incident Begin Date: April 23 to May 9, 2011

b. First Unemployment Payable week: 4/24/11

c. Counties: Addison, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, and Orleans

2. Storms & Flooding

a. Disaster Incident Begin Date: May 26 & 27, 2011

b. First Unemployment Payable week: 6/4/11

c. Counties: Caledonia and Washington

3. Hurricane Irene

a. Disaster Incident Begin Date: August 27, 2011

b. First Unemployment Payable week: 9/3/11

c. Counties: Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Windham, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, and Windsor

Employers seeking relief covered by Vermont's disaster relief declaration provision must log onto the Vermont Department of Labor's Website and select the disaster relief application **no later than June 10, 2013** to provide details about the eligible layoffs and to provide a certified statement that the employees were separated from employment as a direct result of the disaster and would not have been otherwise laid off. False statements made in connection with the certification shall subject the employer to the provisions of 21 V.S.A. §1369.

The employer disaster relief declaration application/certification can be found at:

<http://www.labor.vermont.gov/VTSUTADisasterRelief>. The application must be completed by **June 10, 2013** to be eligible for disaster relief consideration. To assist with the processing of applications we urge interested employers to apply **as soon as possible**. Please be advised that this process may also result in a delay in the release of the July 2013 Rate Notice. If you have questions about the application, please contact the Vermont Department of Labor at 1-802-828-4344.

If you have no access to a computer, you must call VDOL at (802) 828-4344 no later than June 3, 2013 to discuss how to submit your application. The fastest way to apply is to submit your application on line.

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