

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

Overview

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has been authorized through FEMA-4562-DR for victims of wildfires and straight-line winds that affected a number of communities throughout Oregon since September 7, 2020.

The assistance is available for people who resided or worked in:

Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, and Marion counties

The disaster assistance period is:

September 13, 2020 – March 20, 2021

You can claim weeks of unemployment as long as the unemployment was a direct result of this disaster. They also must be within the assistance period.

Important:

DUA is only available for weeks of unemployment that are a direct result of the major disaster.

DUA is **NOT** the same as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). Any unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic can't be claimed under DUA. If you qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits for a week, you will not be able to get DUA benefits for the same week of unemployment.

Who is Eligible

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available for people who lost their employment or were not able to perform self-employment as a direct result of a major disaster. This DUA assistance period is specifically intended for those people whose employment was impacted by the wildfires and straight-line winds that have taken place since September 7, 2020, in **Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, and Marion** counties.

DUA may include individuals who:

- Were self-employed and prevented from performing such services due to the disaster,
- Were unable to reach their job due to the disaster,
- Were scheduled to and prevented from beginning work or self-employment in the disaster area,

- Were unable to work due to injury as a direct result of the disaster, or
- Became head of household due to a death caused by the disaster.

Unemployment is a direct result of the major disaster if the unemployment resulted from:

- The physical damage or destruction of your workplace,
- The inability to get to your place of employment due to its closure by the federal, state, or local government in immediate response to the disaster, or
- Lack of work, or loss of revenues, if, prior to the disaster, the employer or self-employed business received at least a majority of its revenue or income from an entity in the major disaster area that was damaged or destroyed in the disaster or an entity in the major disaster area closed by the federal, state, or local government.

How to apply

You must file your initial application for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) as soon as possible. You have until **October 23, 2020** to submit your initial application.

You must follow the following steps:

1. Fill out and turn in your “Initial Application for Disaster Unemployment Assistance” by October 21, 2020. If you were self-employed, fill out and turn in the “Supplement to Application” along with your initial application.
2. Turn in proof of employment and proof of earnings for tax year 2019 along with your initial application. If you can’t do that, you have 21 days after you have turned in your initial application to turn in proof of employment and proof of earnings. If you fail to turn in the supporting documents, your benefits may be denied or reduced.
3. Turn in a claim for benefits each week. You can turn them in online at www.unemployment.oregon.gov, by mail or you can call us. If you’re claiming weeks retroactively, please turn in weekly claims along with your initial application.
4. Check your mail, email and phone often. Make sure your voice mail is set up. We will contact you if we need more information.

Work Authorization:

If you are not a US citizen, please give proof of work authorization with your initial application. Work authorization documents include, but are not limited to, a clear copy of: Green Card, Employment Authorization Card, and I-94 document.

We are providing the following methods to file initial and weekly applications for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA):

Online:

Download the initial application, supplement to application (if self-employed), and weekly applications from our website www.oregon.gov/employ/disaster. You also may request the documents be sent to you by email or regular mail. You can upload the documents using our [Contact Us form](#) found on unemployment.oregon.gov/contact-us

In Person:

You can get a DUA handbook and all DUA forms at the following evacuation sites:

Evacuation Sites

Staff will be available to hand out applications at the following FEMA/Red Cross locations.

- State Fairgrounds
- Clackamas County Fairgrounds
- Jackson County Fairgrounds
- Deschutes County Fairgrounds
- Douglas County Fairgrounds

By Regular Mail:

You can pick up the initial application, supplement to application (if self-employed), and weekly applications at the Evacuation Sites, Work Source Oregon or you can download the documents from our website www.oregon.gov/employ/disaster. You also may request that the documents be sent to you by email or regular mail.

After you fill out the forms, send them to:

**Oregon Employment Department
Disaster Unemployment Assistance
875 Union Street NE
Salem, OR 97311-0800**

By Phone:

You may call the DUA Unit at 503-570-5000 to file your application, request documents and receive further instructions.

IMPORTANT: The personnel in the DUA Unit only process applications and respond to questions about Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). If you call to ask about something other than DUA, we will NOT be able to assist you.