

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The Oregon Employment Department is working with FEMA and the U.S. Department of Labor to administer Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) for people affected by the Oregon wildfires.

Q: I AM UNEMPLOYED DUE TO THE WILDFIRES. HOW DO I GET DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (DUA)?

A: You need to do two things.

1. Turn in an **initial claim** for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Why? Federal law requires that we make sure you are not eligible for regular UI benefits before we can give you DUA benefits. The fastest way to file for UI is through our **Online Claim System**. You can also call 877-345-3484 (1-877-FILE-4-UI).
2. Turn in your DUA application. You can do that many ways: fastest is online through our **Contact Us** form.

Q: WHICH PARTS OF OREGON QUALIFY FOR DUA?

A: The counties that have been approved for DUA are:

Clackamas	Douglas	Jackson	Klamath
Lane	Lincoln	Linn	Marion

In the future, other counties may be added to the disaster declaration.

Q: WHO QUALIFIES FOR DUA?

A: You can qualify for DUA if you:

- were self-employed and prevented from performing such services due to this major disaster,
- were unable to reach your job due to this major 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 a death caused by the disaster.

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

- the physical damage or destruction of the place of employment;
- the physical inaccessibility of the 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.

Q: I AM AT LEVEL 1 EVACUATION AND THE AIR QUALITY IS IMPACTING MY HEALTH. I AM SUPPOSED TO STAY HOME. CAN I GET DUA BENEFITS?

A: DUA is available for people who lost their employment as a direct result of this major disaster. If you are not physically able to reach your place of employment because roads are closed or because your place of employment is inaccessible as a result of the wildfires, you may be able to receive DUA benefits.

Q: I AM ALREADY RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS. WILL I GET DUA, TOO?

A: No. If you are already receiving any kind of unemployment benefits, you will not get DUA.

Q: WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED FOR THE DUA APPLICATION? BECAUSE OF THE FIRE, I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO MY PAPERS OR COMPUTER.

A: You have up to 21 days to turn in information showing your work history. Required documentation includes:

- Your Social Security number
- Documentation showing you were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred, and
- Copy of your most recent federal income tax form or check stubs.

If you are self-employed, you can get documentation from banks or government entities, or affidavits from individuals who have knowledge of your business.

Examples of what FEMA is looking for include:

- Tax year 2019 income information,
- Proof of employment at the time of the disaster, or
- Proof of self-employment at the time of the disaster.

Q: HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I EXPECT TO GET?

A: In most cases, the minimum weekly DUA amount is 50 percent of the average weekly UI amount paid in Oregon, or \$210. The weekly benefit amount for people who worked full-time or part-time will range from \$210 - \$673.

Q: HOW WILL I RECEIVE MY DUA ASSISTANCE?

A: You most likely will receive your first benefits by **check**. That is why it is important that we have your most current address, even if it is temporary. After that, your funds will be placed on a ReliaCard VISA unless you request direct deposit through our **Online Claim System**.

Q: WHEN I CAN EXPECT TO GET THIS MONEY?

A: We have made getting DUA funds out quickly a top priority.

Q: DO I HAVE TO FILE A WEEKLY CLAIM TO GET DUA BENEFITS?

A: Yes. The fastest way to receive your DUA benefit is to turn in your DUA weekly claim form online through our **Contact Us** form.

Q: HOW LONG DOES DUA LAST?

A: DUA benefits are available from September 13, 2020 through March 20, 2021 as long as those weeks of unemployment are a direct result of this major disaster. DUA benefits do not have a waiting week.

Q: IF MY DUA BENEFITS RUN OUT, AM I ELIGIBLE FOR OTHER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS?

A: No. People receiving DUA do not qualify for Unemployment Insurance benefit extension programs.

Q: WILL I BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE \$300 LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE (LWA) BENEFITS?

A: No. The LWA program, which expired September 5, 2020, is only available if you are unemployed or partially unemployed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.