

LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 8, 2008

**Louisiana Workforce Commission News Update**

**La. Workforce Commission To Activate Additional Phone Number For New Claims**

BATON ROUGE -The Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) is adding an additional toll-free phone number for people who wish to file new claims for unemployment benefits. This number will be active beginning at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008.

Those filing new claims should call 1-800-957-1605. Operators at this number are not equipped to take continuing claims.

The best and easiest way for people wishing to continue their weekly benefits for previous claims is to call any of the Easy Call numbers or submit their requests via the Web at [www.laworks.net](http://www.laworks.net). These are the best means for people to file for weekly benefits for their unemployment last week.

People who submitted continuing claims before the storm will be paid by Thursday or Friday. They do not need to call the LWC to check on the status of those claims. They will be processed automatically.

People who have issues with their claims should call the LWC's usual toll-free line, 1-866-783-5567, to have them resolved.

All people filing claims are urged to be patient. The current volume of calls is unprecedented. The LWC is taking steps to increase its call capacity 10-fold by the end of the day on Tuesday.

For the latest information on the recovery from Hurricane Gustav, visit [emergency.louisiana.gov](http://emergency.louisiana.gov) or call the state's emergency hotline at 1-866-288-2484 to listen to a recorded message with the most up-to-date information.

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