

Job losses from quake qualify for state aid

WATSONVILLE — Workers who've lost their jobs as a result of the earthquake are eligible for unemployment disaster assistance, officials from the Employment Development Department said Monday.

Even if workers aren't eligible for regular unemployment insurance, a special disaster unemployment assistance program is available in counties where a disaster has been declared, said La Vera Wilkins, assistant manager of Watsonville's EDD office.

"All they have to do is go to a

regular EDD office and file a claim," Wilkins said.

The special assistance covers some self-employed people, employers and anyone who lost a job because their place of employment has been demolished or the roads are impassable, said Wilkins.

"The people at EDD stand ready to pursue all the options, so we're encouraging people to come in and file a claim," Wilkins said.

The Santa Cruz EDD office at 2200 Soquel Drive is open, and the Watsonville office at 567 Arthur Road will be open Thursday, officials hope.

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