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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 4, 2013

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Secretary Newson Announces Steps to Assist Workers Affected by Burlington Fire that Closed Echo Lake Foods

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson announced today steps that DWD and its local workforce partner are taking to assist workers affected by the fire last week that closed Echo Lake Foods, Inc., in Burlington.

“We are working closely with Racine County to do all that we can to help the workers and the Burlington community in the wake of this devastating fire,” Secretary Newson said.

Secretary Newson said DWD and the Racine County Workforce Development Center have scheduled Rapid Response orientation sessions for affected workers for **Wednesday, February 6, at Veterans Terrace, 589 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington**. Workers are encouraged to attend one of three sessions scheduled at the following times: 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Bilingual staff will be present to assist Spanish speaking workers.

The Rapid Response services are part of the DWD-administered Dislocated Worker Program, which serves workers who become dislocated when a business ceases operations or begins mass layoffs. The orientation sessions include instruction on how to file for Unemployment Insurance benefits as well as a description of job services available, from help searching for work to training assistance to improve existing skills or provide new job skills for a different occupation. Wisconsin invests nearly \$55 million annually serving approximately 35,000 dislocated workers in various programs.

Affected workers can also contact their local Job Center to inquire about services by visiting <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory> or toll-free at 1-888-258-9966.

For more information about the dislocated worker program and services:
http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dislocatedworker/pdf/fact_sheet.pdf

To find local Job Centers: <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory/> or call toll-free 1-888-258-9966

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