



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: June 2, 2009

Employment Assistance Offered to BF Goodrich Workers

OPELIKA – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that workers affected by the forthcoming shutdown of the BF Goodrich plant in Opelika can receive assistance in finding a new job.

For three days, beginning today, and ending on Thursday, June 4, workers can come to the Opelika campus of Southern Union Community College, located at 1701 LaFayette Parkway, to learn about options available to them and get help in registering for Alabama's FREE jobsearch database, JobLink Alabama (www.joblink.alabama.gov). Currently, there are more than 5,300 jobs listed on this database.

"This closing is going to impact a lot of people in the Auburn – Opelika area," said Surtees. "I would like to encourage any BF Goodrich employee who is going to be affected to come out and see us and let us help you get back on your feet."

Employees from the Department of Industrial Relations, the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, also known as the "Rapid Reponse Team," will be on location to help workers in all aspects of re-employment services, such as unemployment insurance filing, training options, and assistance in registration for job search assistance.

There will be morning and afternoon sessions each day. The morning sessions from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. begin with an orientation and are followed by access to Southern Union Community College computer labs staffed with Alabama Career Center employees and career counseling staff from Southern Union and Adult Education. The afternoon sessions will be held from 3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Public Information Officer Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.