

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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FIRE FORCES RELOCATION OF CULLMAN CAREER CENTER

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, July 1, 2008 The Cullman Career Center will offer regular services in two temporary locations starting Wednesday, in the wake of a Monday night fire that caused extensive damage to the facility. The State Fire Marshall's Office is investigating the cause of the blaze.

"The Cullman Career Center will temporarily relocate to Wallace State Community College in Hanceville on the seventh floor of the Tom Bevill Center and be open for business beginning at 8 a.m. tomorrow morning," says Tom Surtees, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

According to Surtees, the State of Alabama's new Mobile Career Center will also open Wednesday morning in the parking lot near the site of the fire-damaged Cullman Career Center at 1201 Katherine St., NW. It will remain there until early next week to help facilitate the transition of the Cullman Career Center to Wallace State Community College.

"The fire was reported after 8:30 p.m. Monday night when the Career Center was unoccupied," says Surtees. "The building sustained widespread heat damage and destroyed many computers and other office equipment. Since security is major concern, all salvageable contents will be removed from the facility as soon as possible."

A total of 11 persons, representing four state agencies, work at the Cullman Career Center, offering workforce development services.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the Employment Services, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on Industrial Relations, visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov>.