



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
**Department of Finance  
and Administration**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Tax Relief for Disaster Victims**

LITTLE ROCK, AR— The Department of Finance and Administration announced today that special tax relief will be effective immediately for residents in Baxter, Pope, Sharp, Stone, Franklin, Marion, Newton, Van Buren, Conway, Independence, Izard, Randolph, and Union Counties. This special tax relief is available for those Arkansas taxpayers directly affected by the February 5 tornadoes. Also, the deadline to file income tax returns for qualifying taxpayers is extending until August 15, 2008.

“Losses on property for personal use, including homes, automobiles or household furnishings, plus business-producing or income-producing property, including buildings, machinery, rentals and other types of equipment, are considered deductible “casualty losses” for State income tax purposes with some limitations,” said Richard Weiss, Arkansas’ Chief Fiscal Officer and Director of the Department of Finance and Administration. “Disaster victims in the affected counties who have already filed a 2007 State tax return can file an amended return Form AR1000A. Remember, any insurance reimbursements affect the deduction allowed.”

When claiming losses or the special extension on a 2007 State income tax return, please write “Disaster Tornado” on the front of the mailing envelope and on the top left corner of the income tax form. This helps speed-up processing of your return. You can find more information on the DFA website at: [http://www.arkansas.gov/dfa/dfa\\_taxes.html](http://www.arkansas.gov/dfa/dfa_taxes.html).

“All Arkansas taxpayers should also keep in mind the Arkansas Disaster Relief Program when filing their State Income Tax Return,” says Director Weiss. “Donations to the program are used by the Department of Emergency Management to help fund relief efforts for disaster victims.”

A Contribution Coupon is included in the 2007 Arkansas Individual Income Tax packages. The amount you donate is deductible on your 2008 State Tax Return as a charitable contribution. Taxpayers can contribute to the fund by electing to donate a portion of their 2007 refund to the Arkansas Disaster Relief, or by completing the check-off contribution schedule and sending a check for the amount of the contribution for the check-off program. Please enter the amount you wish to donate on line 1 of the AR1000CO schedule of check-off contributions.

For more information about State Income Taxes and electronic filing visit <http://www.arkansas.gov/dfa>.