



## North Carolina Law Life

# North Carolina Tornado Victims Have Extra Time to File State Tax Returns

By: Donna Ray Chmura. *This was posted Wednesday, April 20th, 2011*

The North Carolina [Department of Revenue](#) is permitting victims of the weekend's deadly tornadoes to file their state taxes late. Here is the press release with the pertinent information:



Image via Wikipedia

To help businesses and individuals rebound from the destruction caused by severe weather and tornados on April 16, 2011, the Department of Revenue will waive late filing and late payment penalties for taxpayers who are unable to file their return or pay their tax because of the storm.

The penalties will be waived on state taxes and returns that are due between April 18th and May 1, 2011. State law prevents the Department from waiving any interest.

To make sure they aren't assessed a penalty, taxpayers should include Form NC-5500 with the late payment or return. The form is available at all Department of Revenue offices and at [www.dornrc.com/downloads/penalty.html](http://www.dornrc.com/downloads/penalty.html). On the form, taxpayers should check the block for 'natural disaster' and fill in all the required information. If a form is not sent with the payment or return, it can be completed later if the taxpayer is assessed a penalty. A taxpayer that does not have this form can attach a letter explaining why the payment or return is late.

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The extension for filing late taxes as a result of this storm may be extended as circumstances of the disaster are better known or if a federal disaster is declared.

If taxpayers have any questions they should call the Department's Taxpayer Assistance Division at 1-877-252-3052, or visit our [website](#).

Twenty-two people were killed and more than 130 injured by tornadoes and severe storms that struck at least 20 counties in North Carolina Saturday, state officials said Sunday. The fatalities occurred in Wake, Johnston, Cumberland, Harnett, Lee, Bertie and Bladen counties, said Julia Jarema, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

The North Carolina [Department of Justice](#) has some [guidelines](#) to help victims avoid being taken by home-repair and disaster assistance scammers. [WRAL](#) has a great [compilation](#) of how you can help, and the [Durham Bulls](#) are a [collection](#) center for storm donations.

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