Unemployment trust fund rebuilds

CARSON CITY--Nevada's hard pressed unemployment insurance trust fund has been assured a return to solvency, the state Job Service chief said recently.

Larry McCracken, director of the Nevada Employment Security Department, said the new average payroll tax rate of 2.67 percent to hecame effective Monday will gradually rebuild the trust fund, which has been depleted by high unemployment and inadequate employer contributions.

tax rate, a result of 1975 "The new legislative action, was set in Las Vegas June 17 by the Employment Security Advisory Council and confirmed Monday at a public hearing in Carson City. The rate will generate about \$12.7 million for the trust fund during the last two

quarters of 1075," McCracken said.
With the 2.67 percent average tax rate, 4,296 eligible Nevada employers-51.2 percent-will be taxed a rate lower than 2.7 percent; 2,627 em-ployers will pay more than 2.7 percent, up to the maximum of 3 percent; and 1,473 will be at 2.7 percent.

Employers with low personnel turnover will again benefit from experience ratings, a system that gives them a more favorable tax rate, McCracken said. The system was suspended two and a half years ago because of dwindling funds and all Nevada employers who have been in business over 3 years have been paying a flat 2.7 percent regardless of employee turnover;

McCracken said an additional .5 (point five) percent would be applied to the maximum tax rate Jan. 1, 1975, making the maximum rate 3.5 percent.

He said the rates were designed to return the trust fund to solvency in five years or less.

Also increased by the legislature is the taxable wage base, from a flat \$4,200 per year to a flexible base which will reach \$5,800 for the remainder of the year and increase each year as the state's annual average income grows.

'During the first half of 1975, employers paid a maximum of \$113.40 annual per employee. For the rest of 1975, the maximum individual tax will be \$174-3 percent of \$5,8000," McCracken said.

Another beneficial aspect to most Nevada

employers is the elimination of "Non-charging" in the new law, the job chief said.

"In the past there was no charge to an employer's account for workers who quitwithout good cause or were fired for misconduct," McCracken said.

Instead such charges were, in effect, divided among all Nevada employers even though a few large employers accounted for more than half of all non-charges. Under the new law, benefits paid will be charged proportionately to the claimants base-period employer," he said. Disqualification and other aspects of the new

law could result in as much as 15 percent reduction in unemployment insurance payouts. As of July 1, claimants who voluntarily quit their Jobs or are fired for misconduct will lose all benefits for their period of disqualification up to half their





Fireworks prohibited

A reminder that the use of any kind of fireworks is prohibited on National Forest lands came from Toiyabe and Humboldt National Forest Supervisors Jack Irvin and Vern Thompson. According to the Forest Supervisors, violation of this regulation may result in a fine up to \$500 or six months imprisonment

or both.
"Our concern is protection of the natural resources from fire hazard," said Thomp-son. He explained that increased vegetative growth due to the heavy winter moisture has increased the danger of wildfires.

Lavin also commented that the back country roads in Central Nevada are washed out and muddy in many places and persons at-tempting to travel on them should use extreme caution. Lavin added that U.S. Forest Service offices in Carson City, Markleeville (California), Bridgeport (California), Austin and Tonopah are open on weekends 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during the summer. He advised people to check at the nearest U.S. Forest Service office concerning current road condi-

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