



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEMA Deputy Administrator touring Mississippi

PEARL – Federal Emergency Management Agency Deputy Administrator Rich Serino is touring the damaged areas with Governor Haley Barbour and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Director Mike Womack today.

The group flew over parts of Hinds, Madison, Attala, Choctaw, Oktibbaha, Clay, Winston, Neshoba, Leake, Scott, Rankin and made a stop in Monroe County to tour the area which was hit by an EF-5 tornado on April 27.

Governor Barbour declared a State of Emergency on April 27, and has requested an expedited disaster declaration from President Obama for both the April 15 tornadoes and the secondary weather system that occurred on April 26 and 27.

The declaration request specifically asked for Individual Assistance in the following seven affected counties: Clarke, Greene, Hinds, Jasper, Kemper, Lafayette and Monroe. It also requested Public Assistance in the form of debris removal and emergency protective measures including direct federal assistance and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

Damage assessments are still continuing throughout the state. If a declaration is granted, additional affected counties may be added if they meet damage thresholds.

Public Assistance helps local governments rebuild public infrastructure following a disaster. Individual Assistance provides grants to qualified residents. Hazard Mitigation assists residents and local governments to prevent future loss of life and property.

MEMA will continue to provide additional reports as information becomes available.

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