



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State and Federal Agencies Teaming Up To Help Damaged Areas

PEARL – The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is coordinating recovery efforts around the state following severe storms and tornadoes that left extensive damage in their wake Saturday. More than 700 homes are reported to be damaged statewide and ten people have been killed.

The following is a list of actions ongoing by state agencies:

The Governor’s Office: Governor Haley Barbour has proclaimed April 27 as a Day of Prayer to remember Mississippians who suffered losses in Saturday’s severe weather and for those families who lost loved ones in last week’s oil rig accident.

MEMA: The State Emergency Operations Center in Pearl is activated with key partner state agencies assisting affected counties. The MEMA Mobile Operations Command Center is set up in Yazoo City coordinating recovery operations. MEMA specialists are in the field working with five Federal Emergency Management teams on preliminary damage assessments in Yazoo and Choctaw counties.

MS Commission for Volunteer Service: MCVS has established an emergency Volunteer Reception Center VRC at the former Yazoo Motors building located at the intersection of Highway 49 and Old Highway 16 in Yazoo City. MCVS has an immediate need for volunteers with tree removal equipment. MCVS is coordinating the activities of volunteers and national service members coming into the community to assist in the removal of fallen trees and the clearing of other debris. Over 200 volunteers have been deployed. **Sign up to volunteer at www.volunteermisissippi.org or by calling 888-353-1793.** Registered volunteers will be contacted as additional assistance is needed.

Mississippi 211: Hotline is activated and can be accessed from any phone around the state by simply dialing 211 just as you would 911 for an emergency. Our call specialists can connect callers to the help they need-from shelter information to financial assistance. The call center is currently open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The MS Department of Employment Security: MDES will focus additional staff and resources in the Yazoo City area to assist customers who need unemployment and job placement assistance. In addition to bringing in staff to the WIN Job Center located at 306 E. Jefferson St. MDES will also bring in two mobile WIN Job Centers with capability of providing full services to customers needing agency assistance. The mobile operation will be located at the Department of Human Services office at 1315 Grady Avenue.

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The Yazoo City WIN job center will open at 8 a.m. Monday and operate on a regular schedule. The mobile operations will open at 9 a.m. Monday and will be open until 6 p.m. Tuesday mobile operations will operate from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

MS State Department of Health: Boil Water notices have been issued in Choctaw County for the Union Water Association, in Perry County for the Arlington Water Association-Hintonville, and in Wayne County for the Hiwanee Water Association.

MS Department of Transportation: All MDOT routes were made passable by Sunday night. At this point, MDOT personnel are off the roads temporarily to allow emergency crews to do their jobs. Later today MDOT crews priorities will be to clear debris and begin needed repairs. MDOT lost its Project and Maintenance Offices due to the storm that struck Yazoo City.

MS Department of Insurance: The Mississippi Insurance Department has set up a Consumer Assistance Center in the Sunflower Parking lot in Downtown Yazoo City.

For more information, contact the State Emergency Joint Information Center at 866-920-MEMA (6362), or visit us online at www.msema.org. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook using the keyword MSEMA.

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