



# MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **State agencies respond to tornado disaster**

**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 were damaged statewide and 10 people have been killed.

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

**MEMA:** The State Emergency Operations Center in Pearl is activated with key partner state agencies assisting affected counties. Seven joint assessment teams made up of state, federal and local members are conducting Preliminary Damage Assessments in Attala, Choctaw, Holmes, Monroe Union, Warren and Yazoo counties.

**MS Commission for Volunteer Service:** The Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service has established "Volunteer City" in the parking lot of the former Yazoo Motors Building located at the intersection of Hwy 49 and Old Hwy 16. MCVS is working with nonprofit and faith-based organizations to provide a single resource center for residents and communities surrounding Yazoo City. Additionally, MCVS is coordinating the deployment of volunteers who are able to assist with debris clean up and tree removal. A second Volunteer Coordination Center will open Wednesday, April 28, at the Ebenezer Volunteer Fire Department on Hwy 14.

**Mississippi 211:** This 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. 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 United Way board of trustees voted to donate \$5,000 to the American Red Cross to go toward relief for those impacted by the tornado.

**MS Division of Medicaid:** The Mississippi Division of Medicaid announced that the Yazoo City Regional Office located at 110 North Jerry Clower Blvd., Suite A, in Yazoo City, is no longer in service due to the recent severe weather. Beneficiaries who are served through that office can still call 662-746-2309 to learn how they will be served through one of our out-stationed Yazoo City Medicaid offices.

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*“Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property”*  
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**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.

The Yazoo City WIN job center will operate on a regular schedule.

**MS Department of Environmental Quality:** MDEQ has developed three debris management guidance documents in response to this weekend's storm events. The documents include the following:

- Guidance to local governments on selecting and requesting approval for emergency debris management sites for burning, storage, or chipping of vegetative debris and storage/staging of structural debris.
- Guidance on the existing permitted solid waste facilities available in Attala, Choctaw, Holmes and Yazoo counties and the permitted solid waste facilities in the adjacent counties to those high impact counties.
- Preliminary guidance on dealing with asbestos containing materials advising people to be cautious in managing and cleaning asbestos materials at single family homes and advising owners of commercial, non-residential, and multi-family dwelling unit owners to contact MDEQ for further guidance.

The complete documents can be found on the MDEQ website at [www.deq.state.ms.us](http://www.deq.state.ms.us).

**MS Bureau of Narcotics:** MBN agents were dispatched to affected areas to assist with overnight security patrol operations.

**MS Forestry Commission:** The Mississippi Forestry Commission is conducting an assessment of the amount and value of timber damaged by the tornado and related storm activity. In addition to timber damage, the assessment will include the number of impacted acres. Information concerning tree and forest damage assessment and timber salvage assistance is available on the forestry commission's web site: [www.mfc.ms.gov](http://www.mfc.ms.gov).

**MS State Department of Health:** Boil water notices are still in effect in Choctaw County for the Union Water Association, Perry County for the Arlington Water Association-Hintonville, Wayne County for the Hiwanee Water Association and the Central Yazoo Water Association's number two, three and five stations.

**MS Insurance Department:** The Mississippi Insurance Department has set up a Consumer Assistance Center in the Sunflower Parking lot in Downtown Yazoo City located at 734 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

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