



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: (866) 920-MEMA

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866-920-MEMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2010

Organizations Continue To Provide Emergency Assistance For Tornado Victims

PEARL – The American Red Cross continues to help victims of the Mississippi tornadoes who still have disaster related emergency needs and who call the Disaster Relief Hotline number, **1-866-GET-INFO**, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When someone calls the hotline, caseworkers may visit the family to determine the extent of their immediate, emergency needs. The family's needs may be accommodated through vouchers, relief supplies or referrals.

People with emergency needs because their homes were totally destroyed or suffered major damage should call the hotline at **1-866-GET-INFO**. TDD 1-800-526-1417 for hearing impaired callers.

If you are interested in donating to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, call 1-800-REDCROSS or 1-800-257-7575 for Spanish speaking donors. Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may also be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting redcross.org. ARC is still conducting mobile feedings, but will demobilize May 2, 2010. The organization and the First Baptist Church are also still serving fixed feeding meals to storm victims. The church is located at 328 Grand Avenue in Yazoo City. The church is also a distribution center.

Catholic Charities, Inc. will provide assistance to those affected by the recent tornado Friday, April 30 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in Yazoo City at Yazoo Motors Parking Lot. Residents are asked to please bring proof of residency, if possible.

Donors can also contribute to the Mississippi Disaster Recovery Fund Inc., a nonprofit that will coordinate donations to aid residents recovering from the April 24 storms. Anyone who would like to contribute can donate either through the web site, <http://www.mississippiirelief.com>, or by sending a check to the Mississippi Disaster Recovery Fund, c/o BankPlus, 4450 Old Canton Road, Suite 101, Jackson, MS, 39211.

The Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service is also helping those affected by the tornadoes by through an effort dubbed "Volunteer City," located in the parking lot of the former Yazoo Motors Building 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.

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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 opened yesterday at the Ebenezer Volunteer Fire Department on Hwy 14.

The United Way's Mississippi 211 hotline is also 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. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information or to register to volunteer call 888-353-1793 or visit MEMA's website, www.msema.org and click on the donation and volunteer links listed under "NEWS" to find out more information and the most current storm updates. You may also 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.

Media with questions can contact MEMA External Affairs at 866-920-MEMA (6362).

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