



# 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 the April 24 severe storms and tornadoes that left extensive damage in their wake. More than 700 homes were damaged and 10 people were killed.

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

**The Governor's Office:** Federal assistance was expanded for Mississippi counties, allowing residents and local governments to access federal emergency assistance programs to aid recovery from the April 24 storms. Affected residents in Monroe and Union counties are eligible for Individual Assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They join Attala, Choctaw, Holmes, Warren and Yazoo counties as qualifying for Individual Assistance. Local governments in Attala, Choctaw, Holmes and Yazoo counties will now receive all available Public Assistance from the federal government for recovery needs.

**MEMA:** The State Emergency Operations Center in Pearl is activated and MEMA is working with FEMA to provide disaster assistance to those individuals who were affected by the April 24 storms. Residents may register online at <http://www.disasterassistance.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

**Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service:** Volunteer Reception Centers in Yazoo City and Ebenezer are closed today, due to the high risk of severe weather. For more information or to volunteer visit [www.volunteermisississippi.org](http://www.volunteermisississippi.org) or call 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. 2-1-1 is currently in the process of creating a resource directory for the victims affected by the tornadoes.

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**Mississippi Department of Employment Security:** Individuals in Attala, Choctaw, Holmes, Warren and Yazoo Counties in Mississippi, who were unable to work because of severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding may apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. People who live or work in one of the affected counties and could not work because of major destruction caused by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding are entitled to apply and may be eligible to receive unemployment benefits. Self-employed individuals and those who are unemployed as a result of the major disaster may also be eligible. In addition, those who were unable to reach their jobs or who were scheduled to begin employment, but the disaster prevented them from doing so, may apply.

Individuals in Attala, Choctaw, Holmes, Warren, and Yazoo counties in Mississippi, can apply online 24 hours a day at [www.mdes.ms.gov](http://www.mdes.ms.gov) or by calling toll-free, 1-888-844-3577 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The deadline to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance is June 1, 2010.

**Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality:** MDEQ and Warren County announced that a Household Hazardous Waste collection day will be held for Eagle Lake residents in Warren County at Simon's Gin on Eagle Lake Road on Saturday, May 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HHW wastes include household chemical items, electronic wastes and large bulky household appliances. The wastes eligible for the HHW collection services are as follows:

Residents that are unable to participate in the Eagle Lake HHW collection event may participate in Warren County's upcoming scheduled HHW event in Vicksburg on Saturday, June, 26, 2010. For any concerns or questions regarding this information, contact the solid waste management programs at MDEQ at 601-961-5171 or Kelly Worthy with Warren County at 601-634-8073.

**Mississippi State Department of Health:** Boil Water notices have been issued in Warren County by the Hilldale Water District for customers who receive their drinking water from their water supply located in Warren County. This affects approximately 40 customers on Evan Street in the Oak Park Subdivision. Town of Tchula also issued a Boil-Water Alert for customers who receive their drinking water from their water supply located in Holmes County. This affects approximately 200 customers in the Gwinn Subdivision. Hilton Heights Water Association 1 & 2 issued a Boil-Water Alert for customers who receive their drinking water from their water supply located in Yazoo County. This affects all customers who get their water from Hilton Heights Water Association. Water system officials notified the Mississippi State Department of Health of a system wide pressure loss due to a power outage caused by storm.

**Mississippi Department of Insurance:** Mississippi storm victims who are hiring laborers and contractors to remove trees and debris from their damaged property are urged to save receipts so they may be properly reimbursed by their insurance company. Consumers who need assistance can stop by the Consumer Assistance Center in the Sunflower parking lot, 734 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Yazoo City or call 1-800562-2957.

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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