



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Hancock County Opens Shelter, Calls for Voluntary Evacuation
for Tropical Storm Lee**

PEARL- MEMA has been notified by Hancock County Emergency Management that there is a call for **voluntary evacuation** of all low lying areas of the county due to potential hazards of Tropical Storm Lee.

Hancock Co. EMA will open a shelter at 6 p.m. tonight at the Kiln Storm Shelter located on state Route 43 in Kiln next to the ball fields. For further information please call the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center at 228-466-8320.

National Weather Service forecasters predict Tropical Storm Lee will produce more than 12 inches of rain and tides 2 to 4 feet higher than normal along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

MEMA Director Mike Womack urges Mississippians to prepare now for effects from Tropical Storm Lee. A tropical storm warning has been issued for Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties.

“If you live in low lying areas that are prone to flooding, now is the time to know what you will do if you have to leave your home,” Womack said. “Having a plan could save your life.”

Womack also urges residents to be aware that impacts will also be felt well inland. The heavy rainfall is expected to cause inland flooding which can be just as dangerous as tidal surge during tropical events.

Planning ahead also includes having a stocked emergency supply kit. A disaster supply kit should include items such as:

- Flashlight and battery-powered radio with extra batteries.
- Canned and non-perishable food.
- Manual can opener.
- Bottled water.
- Toiletry items.
- Pet food and pet supplies.
- Medicine and prescription medication.
- Copies of important family papers and documents.
- Cash.

(more)

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Tropical Storm conditions can bring periods of severe weather and high winds which could knock power out for an extended period of time. The effects of a tropical storm Lee are expected to linger through the Labor Day weekend.

Residents should stay tuned to local media stations for the latest storm predictions and information from county emergency managers.

MEMA will continue to release updated information about Tropical Storm Lee as necessary.

For more preparedness information visit MEMA's Web site at www.msema.org. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook for updates.

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