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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GOV. BARBOUR DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR
FOUR MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES**

JACKSON – Gov. Haley Barbour declared a state of emergency today for counties impacted by the severe storms and tornadoes Nov. 16.

Those storms were responsible for damages and injuries in at least four counties: Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Jones and Marion.

“A disaster declaration is a step toward obtaining assistance for those who suffered severe damage in these communities,” Gov. Barbour said. “Our prayers are with the families affected by the severe weather.”

The most widespread damages and injuries were reported in Jones County where eight homes were destroyed and another 20 homes sustained major damage. Jones County reported 15 injuries from the storm and one person was hospitalized

Gov. Barbour also will request a U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration to assist survivors of these storms.

If granted the SBA disaster program can offer residents and business owners low-interest loans to replace property damaged or lost in the storms. These loans can also help residents who did not have enough insurance to cover their losses.