



HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GOV. BARBOUR DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR 39
MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES**

JACKSON – Governor Barbour today declared a State of Emergency for 39 Mississippi counties and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians after severe storms moved across the state.

The counties of Adams, Alcorn, Attala, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Coahoma, Covington, Grenada, Hinds, Holmes, Issaquena, Kemper, Lafayette, Lauderdale, Leake, Leflore, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Neshoba, Newton, Panola, Pike, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Rankin, Scott, Smith, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union, Yalobusha, Webster and Yazoo have reported damage from the storms. Five deaths have been reported.

The State of Emergency order allows emergency responders to efficiently utilize resources and receive state aid to respond to the situation.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who lost loved ones or property in these devastating spring storms,” Gov. Barbour said. “A large section of our state has been impacted, and our emergency responders are doing an excellent job in helping communities. This State of Emergency declaration will allow the state to offer aid to begin recovery efforts.”

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency officials are working closely with local emergency managers to assess the damages. MEMA continues to monitor severe storm weather moving through the state.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the counties of Adams, Alcorn, Attala, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Coahoma, Covington, Grenada, Hinds, Holmes, Issaquena, Kemper, Lafayette, Lauderdale, Leake, Leflore, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Neshoba, Newton, Panola, Pike, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Rankin, Scott, Smith, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union, Yalobusha, Webster, and Yazoo and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, along with other parts of the State of Mississippi were severely affected by severe thunderstorms and tornadoes beginning on April 26 and continuing throughout April 27, 2011, which included torrential rain, damaging winds, hail, flooding, lightning and tornadoes, and thus state assistance will be necessary to support local government response and recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, this severe spring weather system has caused at least five known deaths, more than 30 injuries, damage to homes, businesses, and public property, and threatened the safety of the citizens and property throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the health and safety of the residents and the protection of their property within the affected areas, and in the public interest, all steps should be taken to protect people and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Section 33-15-11(b)(17), Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and in the public interest and for the general welfare, do hereby proclaim a State of Emergency to exist in the areas of the State of Mississippi affected by this severe weather system. The provisions of this proclamation shall exist and remain in effect until such time as this threat to public safety shall cease to exist as prescribed in Section 33-15-11(b)(17), Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

FURTHER, all agencies of the State of Mississippi shall discharge their emergency responsibilities as deemed necessary as set forth in the state of Mississippi's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the twenty seventh day of April in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eleven and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.


HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

C. DELBERT HOSEMANN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE