



State Emergency Operations Center

Joint Information Center

CONTACT: (866) 920-MEMA (6362)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4:30 p.m. May 19, 2011

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www.goMDOT.com

UPDATE:

MDOT Roadway Information Due to Flooding

JACKSON, MISS., Thursday, May 19, 2011--- The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) would like to inform motorists of the following roadway information regarding the Mississippi River high flood waters.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation is working in conjunction with the Corps of Engineers to provide accurate information regarding the high flood water at the Mississippi River. MDOT is continuously working to update survey data along with the Corps of Engineers who are updating their inundation maps to identify the affected roadways.

“We have already closed one of the major routes in the region – Hwy 61 north and south of Vicksburg; and we may face the possibility that we’ll have to close another very soon -- U.S. 49 West,” said Central District Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall. “With 6,000 vehicles using this route every day this will be yet another major impact on travel in the Delta. It’s important to emphasize that Yazoo City will not be entirely cut-off from the Delta as Hwy 12 at Belzoni and U.S. 49 East will be accessible. We’re working with the Corps of Engineers daily monitoring the water levels, and we will not close a route until water encroaches the roadway itself. I encourage anyone traveling in this area in the immediate future to check www.gomdot.com for the latest updates.”

A BRIEF WORD ABOUT PROBABLE ROAD CLOSURES – MDOT survey crews are monitoring water surface elevations near our flood-threatened roadways throughout the day every day. We are in consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers daily and together we use this information to make predictions about when roadways will be inundated and report that to the public here immediately as changes are made. These dates can and will change as flooding patterns change. These dates are merely estimates based on the most current information and should be used for planning purposes only. The actual road closures will only be performed when the water encroaches onto our roadways and makes them unsafe for travel. MDOT will continue to keep our highways open as long as possible to serve the traveling public.

CURRENT ROAD CLOSURES

- US 49W – Humphreys & Yazoo Counties – Whittington Auxiliary Channel South of Silver City to Yazoo River – Closed at 7:30 p.m. 19-May-11
- SR3 – Warren County – approximately 2.3 miles north of the US 61/SR 3 intersection – CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
- SR 16 / SR 149 (Old Hwy 49W) – Yazoo County –Erickson Road to Yazoo River – CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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- SR3 Warren County – from SR3/US 61 intersection to International Paper entrance. CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
- US 61 – Warren County – North of Vicksburg at the US 61/SR 3 intersection near Redwood to Backwater Levee – CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
- SR 16 / SR 149 (Old Hwy 49W) – Yazoo County – Whittington Auxiliary Channel to Erickson Road – CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
- US 61 – Warren & Claiborne Counties- South of Vicksburg, North of Port Gibson, at the Big Black River crossing – CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
- SR 24 – Wilkinson County near Fort Adams – The water is over the road 3 miles east of Fort Adams, it is approximately 6 inches deep across roadway and will continue to rise as the river reaches its crest – CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
- SR 465 – Warren & Issaquena County between US 61 & Eagle Lake – CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

PROBABLE FUTURE ROAD CLOSURES:

- SR 3 – Yazoo County – Starting approximately 0.65 miles north of the SR 3/SR 433 intersection, northward for 2 miles – near Satartia – estimated closure date – 21-May-11

GRAND GULF EVACUATION ROUTE CHANGES:

- US 61 - Claiborne County – Due to possible flooding on US 61, Sectors 1, 2A and 2B will use SR 462 to SR 27.

ROADS PREDICTED TO REMAIN OPEN:

- SR 1 – Sharkey/Issaquena County – West of US 61 at the SR 1/SR 465 intersection
- SR 16/County Road 16 – Sharkey County – in the vicinity of Delta National Forrest
- SR 3 – Yazoo County – at Yazoo City
- US 49E – Yazoo and Holmes County – North of Eden
- US 49E – Yazoo County – near Mississippi Chemical

MDOT would also like to remind the public that a portion of I-20 near Edwards is closed to wide load traffic and Highway 27 has a width restriction of 12 feet between Utica and Vicksburg. This information is vital due to possible critical relief efforts in case of an emergency due to flooding.

MDOT would like to remind motorists to visit the website at www.goMDOT.com for a list of road closures and probable future closures due to flooding. Also, you can call MDOT Call Center Information Line at (866) 521-6368 for road closure information.

For the most up-to-date information in your area, please visit www.MSTraffic.com and sign up for your traffic alerts. Also, visit <http://www.mstraffic.com/mobile> to get the latest traffic information from MSTraffic.com on your mobile device. MDOT advises the public to pull off the road to a safe location if you need to check the MSTraffic.com website while driving. MDOT's number one concern is the safety of the traveling public. For more information, contact the MDOT Public Affairs Division at 601-359-7074.