



MEMA



FEMA

News Release

Date: May 7, 2011

EM-3320

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Flood awareness lessens exposure to danger

CLINTON, Miss. – Floods kill more people each year than any other weather phenomenon.

About 60 percent of all flood deaths result from people trying to cross flooded roads in vehicles when moving water sweeps them away.

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency remind residents about the dangers of floods.

MEMA Director Mike Womack encourages residents to monitor local weather warnings by listening to local media and NOAA Weather Radio, which issues alert signals if a watch or warning is issued.

“Take the time now to learn about whether your community is at risk for flooding and how to prepare,” Womack said.

Federal Coordinating Officer Terry L. Quarles urges Mississippi residents to be constantly aware of their environment and any potential for flooding.

“There’s no doubt that where people are aware of the dangers and power of flooding, they can take measures to lessen the exposure to danger for themselves and family members,” Quarles said.

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

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- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.
- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles and pick-up trucks.

Helpful information about how to protect yourself and your property from flooding is available at www.msema.org by clicking on the “Floods” link.

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FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

FEMA’s temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.