



Mississippi Emergency Management Agency News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Residents Should Prepare for Severe Weather

PEARL – The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and meteorologists with the National Weather Service are asking residents to prepare for storms on New Year’s Eve that are capable of producing severe thunderstorms with tornadoes, damaging winds, large hail and heavy rain. One or two strong tornadoes, with winds up to 120 mph, are possible.

“There is some uncertainty in how severe this event will be so we encourage residents to pay close attention to the forecast Friday morning,” said Stephen Wilkinson, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the NWS in Jackson.

This year, Mississippi has seen many extremes in weather that varied from winter to summer like conditions that produced tornadoes, flooding, thunderstorms and snow. Although this year is quickly coming to an end, MEMA and NWS encourage people to remain prepared.

“Although we have had a significant amount of severe weather this year, the holiday season may catch people off guard,” said MEMA Director Mike Womack. “Now is the time to think about what you will do if your area is threatened.”

MEMA and the NWS both recommend you take the following steps:

- Check weather radios for working batteries.
- Know your family emergency plan in case a weather warning is issued.
- Check and restock your emergency supply kit in case you are without electricity for an extended period of time.

For details on how to put together an emergency plan and supply kit please visit MEMA’s website at www.msema.org. The State Emergency Operations Center in Pearl will be monitoring the weather, ready to assist counties if requested. The public is encouraged to follow MEMA on Twitter and Facebook for information updates using the phrase MSEMA.

Media with questions can contact MEMA External Affairs at 866-920-MEMA (6362).

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