

MEMA'S

MEDIA GUIDEBOOK



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ABOUT

INTRODUCTION

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Our mission at the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is to safeguard Mississippi and its citizens by fostering a culture of preparedness, executing timely responses during a disaster, and quickly restoring quality of life post-event. Emergency Management is a comprehensive approach to administering and governing efforts in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

MEMA is the state's coordinating agency during a disaster. MEMA employees plan and prepare for emergency scenarios, respond to and support local EMAs during emergency events, and coordinate and resource recovery efforts in the wake of a disaster.

Following a disaster, counties are responsible for assessing and reporting damage to MEMA. Each county or municipality is responsible for applying for grants and writing projects for reimbursement. MEMA validates local damage assessments and manages the projects and grants applied for by local governments.



**STARTS
LOCAL
ENDS
LOCAL**

BEING PREPARED

Before a disaster strikes, MEMA develops and exercises plans for potential emergency disasters that could impact Mississippi.

MEMA helps prepare local communities with effective planning tools utilizing an all-hazards approach.

- The Office of Preparedness offers a wide range of emergency management and first responder training for all levels of government, private industry, and volunteer organizations, as well as other members of the whole community. Courses are offered state-wide by a team of preparedness officers instructing in a field environment or a virtual platform.



ACTIVATION

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

During an event, MEMA can activate the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). This allows the state to mobilize multiple agencies to respond to an impending or active disaster. The agencies serving in the SEOC are known as Emergency Support Functions (ESF). The SEOC can activate to various levels of response depending on the severity of an event. Level 1 is the highest activation level (Hurricane Katrina) while Level 4 is normal activation.



WHAT IS MEMA DOING DURING AN ACTIVATION?

When activated, MEMA coordinates, meets, plans, and communicates with responders and ESFs. These can include but are not limited to, the National Weather Service, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Mississippi Department of Human Services, and the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. MEMA and other ESFs are planning our next moves in the Response operation. Our goal is to ensure that lives and property are safe. Our relationship with the local emergency management offices is crucial during an activation. Local EMAs are the boots on the ground and can give MEMA real-time valuable information so the state can posture for a robust response if an incident exceeds local capabilities.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS (ESF)

During an event, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency has the authority to activate other state agencies that are Emergency Support Functions (ESF) during a disaster.

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  ESF 1 Transportation |  ESF 2 Communications |  ESF 3 Public Service Commission |  ESF 4 Firefighting |  ESF 5 Emergency Management |
|  ESF 6 Mass Care and Human Services |  ESF 7 Logistics |  ESF 8 Public Health and Medical Services |  ESF 9 Search and Rescue |  ESF 10 Oil and Hazardous Materials |
|  ESF 11 Animals, Ag and Commerce |  ESF 12 MS Public Utilities Staff |  ESF 13 Public Safety |  ESF 14 Cross-Sector Business & Infrastructure |  ESF 15 External Affairs |
| |  ESF 16 Military Support | |  ESF 17 Cyber Security Division | |

STATE OF EMERGENCY VS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

What is the difference?

STATE OF EMERGENCY (SOE)

The Governor declares a State of Emergency when he/she believes a disaster has occurred or may be imminent that is severe enough to require State aid to supplement local resources in preventing or alleviating damages, loss, hardship, or suffering. This declaration authorizes the state to make emergency purchases or procure contracts without following the standard state procurement guidelines. It may also position the State to seek federal assistance when the scope of the event exceeds the State's resources.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The Executive Director of MEMA has the legal authority to sign an administrative order allowing the agency to purchase and deploy necessary commodities when responding to or preparing for a disaster. An administrative order is limited. While MEMA can activate several state agencies, one thing an Administrative Order cannot do is activate and mobilize the Mississippi National Guard (only the Governor can through a State of Emergency and Executive Order).



HOW THE STATE REQUESTS FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

1

STATE OF EMERGENCY
IS DECLARED

SOE can be signed
before or after an incident

2

DISASTER
HITS

The State has 30 days from
disaster end date to
request federal assistance

3

COUNTY CONDUCTS
DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

County must conduct
damage assessments
to give to MEMA

4

MEMA
VALIDATES COUNTY
ASSESSMENTS

Assessing Number of
Major/Destroyed Homes and costs for
damaged public infrastructure.

5

MEMA
REQUESTS
FEMA TO CONDUCT
JOINT DAMAGE
ASSESSMENTS

6

FEDERAL, STATE, AND
LOCAL PARTNERS
CONDUCT JOINT
DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

7

MEMA
DRAFTS REQUEST FOR
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Must use FEMA validated
numbers to request
assistance

8

GOVERNOR SIGNS
REQUEST TO FEMA
AND PRESIDENT

9

PRESIDENT APPROVES
REQUEST

There is no timeline given
for the President to decide

10

IF APPROVED
APPLICATION PROCESS
FOR ASSISTANCE
BEGINS



**MEMA
ASSISTANCE**

ABOUT DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

What may be considered by a homeowner as "destroyed" could be classified as minor damage.

Damage is defined very differently in emergency management versus what residents may consider destroyed. MEMA uses the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Damage Assessment Guidelines to determine the extent of the damage. There are four categories of damage: *Affected*, *Minor*, *Major*, and *Destroyed*. This is why MEMA will shy away from saying anything is destroyed before damage assessments occur; instead, we use the word impacted. Based on FEMA guidelines, MEMA will determine the impact a natural disaster truly has on a community following damage assessments conducted by the counties and validated by the state.

DEGREES OF DAMAGE

- Affected: a home is considered affected if the damage to the home is mostly cosmetic.
- Minor: a home with repairable non-structural damage.
- Major: a home with structural damage or other significant damage that requires extensive repairs.
- Destroyed: the home is a total loss.

Per FEMA Guidelines



FLOOD

DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

Assessing flood damage is a little more in-depth than a home damaged by a tornado. These are FEMA Guidelines for assessing flood damage.

| | MANUFACTURED HOMES | CONVENTIONALLY BUILT HOMES |
|-----------|---|--|
| AFFECTED | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to porch, carport, garage or outbuilding not for commercial use • No damage affecting habitability; cosmetic damage only | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any waterline in crawl space or unfinished basement when essential living space is not damaged • Damage to porch, carport, garage or outbuilding not for commercial use |
| MINOR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterline reaches floor system but has not entered living space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Examples: bottom board, insulation or ductwork • No structural damage to the residence and has not been displaced from the foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterline at 1-3 inches in essential living space • Waterline exceeds 3" but below 18" (important factors: duration of flood, waterline reached outlets, number of essential living spaces flooded) • Any waterline in a finished basement |
| MAJOR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water covers the floor system and has entered living space but below the roofline • The residence has been displaced from the foundation, block or piers and other structural components are damaged | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterline above 18" or the electrical outlets in an essential living space • Waterline exceeds 3" but below 18" (important factors: duration of flood, waterline reached outlets, number of essential living spaces flooded) |
| DESTROYED | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterline at the roofline or higher, or complete failure of two or more major structural components (walls, foundation or roof) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterline at the roofline or higher, or complete failure of two or more major structural components (walls, foundation or roof) |

FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARATIONS

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

The President can declare an emergency for any occasion or instance when the President determines federal assistance is needed.

Emergency declarations supplement State and local or Indian tribal government efforts in providing emergency services, such as the protection of lives, property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States. The total amount of assistance in a single emergency may not exceed \$5 million. The President shall report to Congress if this amount is exceeded. - *Typically requested before a hurricane and can provide reimbursement for mobilization costs incurred before landfall.* Does not offer individual assistance to homeowners.

MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION

A major disaster declaration provides a wide range of federal assistance programs for individuals and public infrastructure, including funds for both emergency and permanent work. The President of the United States can declare a Major Disaster Declaration for any natural event, including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought, or, regardless of cause, fire, flood, or explosion, that the President believes has caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the combined capabilities of state and local governments to respond.



TWO TYPES OF POSSIBLE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING A DISASTER

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

WHO'S ELIGIBLE:

Individuals and families who sustained loss after a disaster for declared counties

HOW TO BECOME ELIGIBLE:

The President must declare a Major Disaster Declaration for counties affected by a disaster.

ASSISTANCE MAY INCLUDE:

- Grants to help pay for temporary housing
- Emergency home repairs
- Uninsured or underinsured personal property losses
- Medical expenses caused by the disaster
- Other serious disaster-related expenses

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

WHO'S ELIGIBLE:

Local and state governments as well as certain non-profits for declared counties

- FEMA can provide up to 75% reimbursement for eligible costs

HOW TO BECOME ELIGIBLE:

A Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance must be declared by the President for your county following the disaster.

ASSISTANCE MAY INCLUDE:

- Mitigation grants for emergency protective measures
- Debris removal
- Infrastructure repairs or replacement needed due to disaster related damage

LONG-TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEES

Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRC) are composed of representatives from community faith-based groups, local organizations, and other organizations working to assist individuals and families as they recover from disaster. Each county has the authority to form one. With an established LTRC and a recognized 501c.3, counties can apply for state Disaster Assistance Repair Program (DARP) funds through MEMA. These funds can only be used for building materials for repairs. Counties with established LTRCs have been successful in repairing hundreds of homes. DARP funds are only available to communities that do not qualify for FEMA Individual Assistance grants.



MITIGATION

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency's Office of Mitigation is responsible for coordinating disaster loss reduction programs, initiatives, and policies throughout the state. Disaster loss reduction measures are carried out through the development of state and local hazard mitigation plans and the implementation of those plans.

The mitigation office administers hazard mitigation grant programs to state and local governments, qualifying nonprofits, and tribal organizations. Grant programs include the post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, and the Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Program, which funds the mitigation of high-loss insured properties through the National Flood Insurance Program.

HOW CAN THE MEDIA HELP?

INFORMATION DURING EMERGENCIES

- Information is vital during disasters or emergencies. MEMA relies on media outlets to share valuable information.
- The media can help to protect the public from dangerous situations by providing details and vital information before, during, and after a storm. Information shared by MEMA during a disaster could be life-saving.
- MEMA and the media work together to provide accurate and timely updates to all Mississippians. These updates are not sensationalized, nor do they only focus on one particular area of the disaster.
- The media can help level expectations for federal assistance. Federal assistance from FEMA is never a guarantee. Assistance from the State or FEMA will not always be possible. This is why MEMA encourages homeowners to purchase insurance.
- MEMA's mission is to promptly release relevant information to the public before, during, and after an event.
- If a disaster is wide-scale, MEMA will activate a JIC (Joint Information Center) where PIOs from various state agencies work together to coordinate all state messaging on a single platform. Any press releases from the JIC will be attached to state letterhead, not one agency.





HOW MEMA CAN HELP THE MEDIA

BEFORE A DISASTER

- Weather updates are posted on MEMA's social media pages about upcoming weather events and what to expect and how to prepare.
- MEMA keeps a list of open shelters in impacted counties on our website, MSEMA.org
- MEMA External Affairs conducts media interviews to explain to the public how they can prepare for upcoming events.
- If the event is expected to be impactful to Mississippi, MEMA will schedule a news conference.

DURING A DISASTER

- MEMA is usually busy during the middle of a disaster. We are monitoring the situation and coordinating with our partners, so media opportunities are limited during this time.
- If the event warrants, MEMA will schedule a news conference to update the media on the ongoing situation.

AFTER A DISASTER

- MEMA Unmanned Aerial System (UAS Drone) teams fly damage assessment missions. MEMA often shares these videos and photos on social media and we welcome the media to use these videos on their platforms. You do not have to ask permission to use the video, but we do ask that you credit MEMA.
- MEMA sends out press releases with updated damage numbers as they are reported to MEMA from county Emergency Management Agencies.



HELPFUL TOOLS AND LINKS

Here are some resources that may be useful when you are doing research or looking for information.

Websites:

msema.org - Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

nhc.noaa.gov - National Hurricane Center

www.weather.gov/jan/severe_statistics - MS Severe Weather Statistics

mdottraffic.com - traffic conditions for the entire state of MS

poweroutage.us/area/state/mississippi - MS Power outages

www.fema.gov/disaster/declarations - Declared Disasters in MS by FEMA

nwschat.weather.gov/live/ - National Weather Service Live Chat

Any video posted on social media or YouTube by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is free to use.

Feel free to use it to tell your stories or share with your audience.

All we ask is that you give credit to MEMA.

MEMA has developed a new MEMA app. The app allows users to customize weather alerts sent directly to their phones. It also provides a list of shelter openings, and safe room locations, along with preparedness tips and checklists so every Mississippian can be prepared.



@MSEMAORG



@MSEMA



@MSEMA



MSEMA.ORG



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY



MEMA



HOW TO CONTACT MEMA

Interview Questions and Requests

MEMA Chief Communications Officer
601-933-6841

Public Information Officer
601-933-6378

Public Records Requests-The Public Records Act of 1983, Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-1, et seq., states that it is the policy of the Legislature that public records must be available for inspection by any person unless otherwise provided by this act. As such, Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(12) exempts information and data for assessment of vulnerabilities and capabilities within the borders of Mississippi as it pertains to the nation and state's security and homeland defense.

All requests for public information from this agency must be made in writing using the MEMA Public Records Request Form on our website msema.org.

If you have any questions about Public Records Requests, contact MEMA External Affairs at: memainfo@mema.ms.gov.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where can we send people to get money or help to repair their homes? Federal financial assistance is available to homeowners ONLY if a federal disaster declaration for Individual Assistance is approved by the President. Renters are not eligible for home repair assistance but may be eligible for other federal assistance. Federal financial assistance is never a guarantee. If you need immediate help finding a tarp for your roof, call your county emergency management agency office.

Can MEMA help people get a generator during a sustained power outage? MEMA cannot provide generators to individuals or reimbursement for the purchase of a generator. To be considered for reimbursement for a generator purchased after a federally declared disaster, there must be an existing medical condition that requires you to have medical equipment/appliance for medical purposes. FEMA will need the following documentation to consider a reimbursement: a copy of the receipt of proof of purchase or rental for the generator, a letter from a physician on letterhead that indicates the required equipment is for medical purposes, and an official letter from the electric company for the power outage.

What should citizens do if they have damage? First, take pictures of the damage for documentation purposes. Second, call your insurance provider to file a claim and report the damage on MEMA's CrisisTrack. Depending on the repairs needed, your county emergency management agency could be of assistance. Contact your local EMA for more information.

MEMA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does MEMA offer any grants for safe rooms? The Individual Safe Room program opens and closes depending on funding. Local governments can apply for Hazard Mitigation Grants for public community safe rooms. For more information, visit MEMA's Mitigation page.

What should people do if FEMA is referring them to fill out an SBA Loan application? During the FEMA Assistance process, you may be referred to the U.S. Small Business Administration for a potential loan. While your application is being processed, FEMA is evaluating your needs to see if you qualify for home repairs or other FEMA benefits. FEMA will contact you if you qualify for federal benefits. You may be eligible for additional benefits from FEMA by applying for an SBA loan.

Can MEMA help people replace or reimburse for spoiled food during a power outage? MEMA does not provide reimbursement for food spoiling during a natural disaster. In certain disasters, recipients of benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) could receive replacement benefits. For more information and qualifications for replacement, you should contact your local Mississippi Department of Health and Human Services (MDHS).





MEDIA SAFETY TIPS

YOUR SAFETY IS IMPORTANT

MEMA wants everyone to stay safe and make it home after a storm. This includes YOU! When you are out covering a severe storm, here are some things you can do to stay safe.

- **Pack a disaster supply kit**

- You should have a first aid kit in case of any injuries while reporting during an emergency.
- Pack enough water and food to stay hydrated and sustain yourself. During hurricanes, stores and gas stations may be closed, and you may not be able to buy food while reporting on them.
- Pack rain gear and tall boots. Do not walk or drive through flooded areas.
- Pack bug spray to prevent mosquito bites.

- **Storm Chasing Tips**

- Do not chase storms if you don't have to.
Make sure you are on the lowest floor of a sturdy building and put as many walls between you and the storm as possible.
- If you do chase storms, go with a trained meteorologist.
They can help guide you safely around storms. They know what to look for and use weather data to predict where storms may form.
- Never chase storms alone.
Having multiple people makes working during a storm event much safer. Having another set of eyes helps everyone to notice hazards and dangerous situations faster and helps to avoid them. Also, navigating can be split so the driver can focus on driving.
- Always have an escape route.
Thinking ahead, learning the storm's track, and plotting your route allows you to have a way to safety if predicted weather conditions start to deteriorate.

SAFETY

IS ALWAYS A
PRIORITY



- **Driving during severe weather**

- Drive defensively with eyes on the road. You can easily get distracted looking for damage and tornadoes. Let your partner or coworker look for damage while you drive.
- Slow down on wet roads. Hydroplaning is a serious safety threat. Rainwater can often accumulate on old roads where tires have depressed the road over time. If hydroplaning occurs, keep the steering wheel straight and stay calm.
- Minimize driving after dark. Tornadoes and storm damage are hard to spot at night. A tree may fall across the road, and you may not see it at first because of power outages and heavy rain.
- When you park off the road, be sure to pull fully off the right-of-way and only park where it is legal to do so. Be sure you wear reflective vests if you get outside of your vehicle along roads
- Obey all traffic laws. Remember that safety comes first. Never speed or run lights to try and get some video or pictures of a tornado. Doing so could put your life and others at risk.

- **In the event of a nuclear incident at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant**

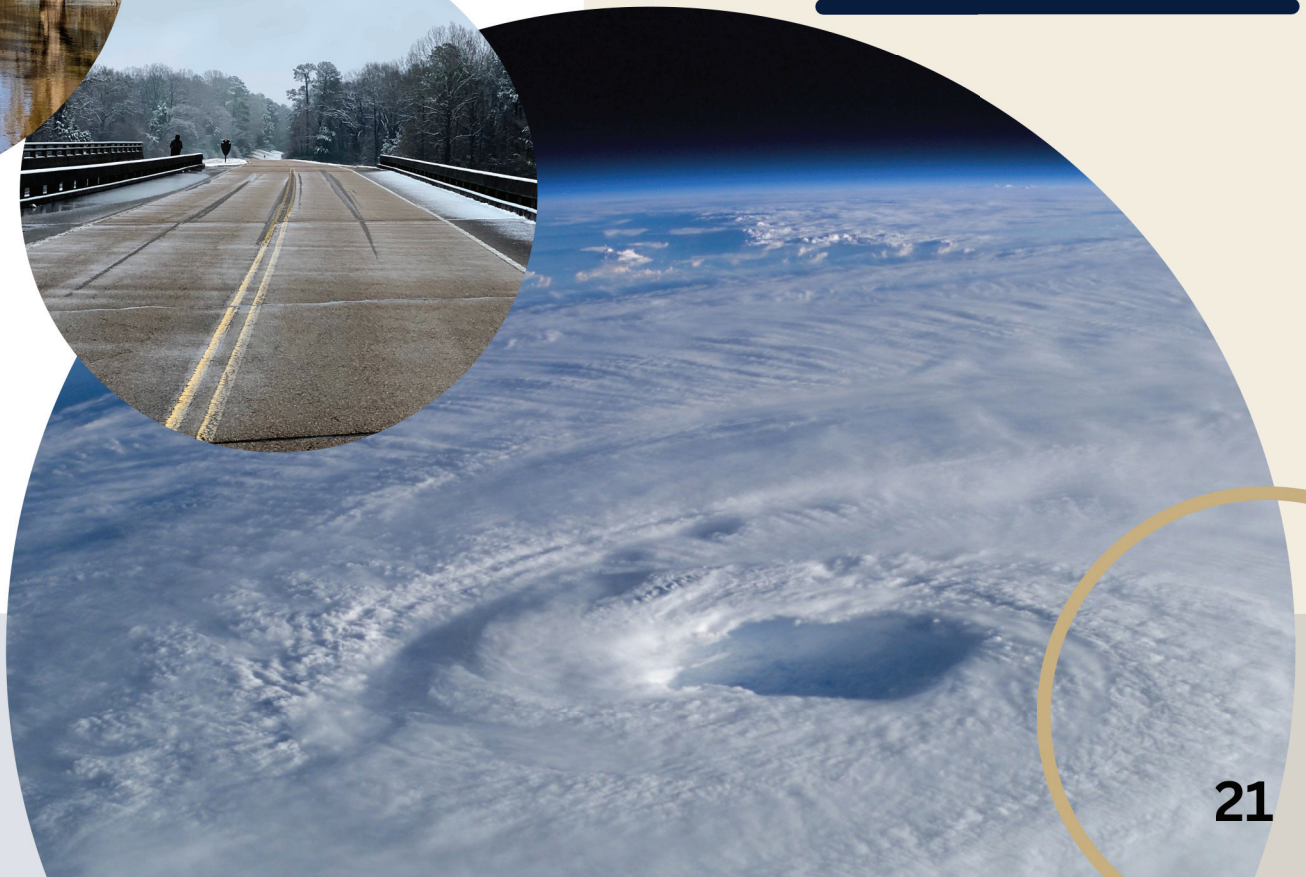
- Do NOT attempt to go to the plant. Evacuations will be underway and the roads need to be clear and you will not be allowed to enter.
- Safety of all Mississippians will be our priority.
- A Media Staging area will be set up.



TYPES OF EMERGENCIES IN MISSISSIPPI



Mississippi is subject to many potentially catastrophic disasters, such as severe thunderstorms, flooding, extreme heat, tornadoes, winter storms, hurricanes, and tropical storms. Not only is the state susceptible to natural disasters but man-made ones as well. From an oil spill to a potential nuclear incident, MEMA stands ready to respond. A few of Mississippi's historical events are highlighted on the following pages.



MISSISSIPPI RECORD STORMS

Mississippi River Floods of 1927

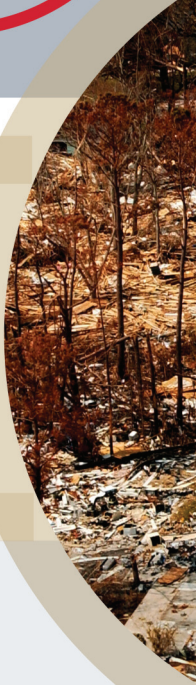
In the Spring of 1927, the Mississippi River flooded 3 million acres of land across eleven states, including Mississippi. This flood was documented as the most destructive flood in American History. The flood displaced 700,000 people and killed hundreds more. Property damage was estimated at over 400 million dollars, equivalent to over 5 billion dollars today across all of the states that were impacted. In Mississippi, it directly affected an estimated population of 185,495. An entire crop year was lost. (10,11)

Hurricane Camille 1969

In August 1969, Camille, a powerful, deadly, and destructive hurricane, tracked north-northwestward across the Gulf of Mexico and became a Category 5 hurricane. The hurricane maintained this intensity until it made landfall along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. When Hurricane Camille made landfall near Waveland, MS, it caused catastrophic damage. In Harrison County, the storm's intensity was heightened by the geography of the area in which sections of the county were flooded from both the north and south. Hurricane Camille caused 256 deaths (143 on the Gulf Coast, 113 in the Virginia floods, and three in Cuba) and \$1.421 billion in damages. (1,7)

The Delta Ice Storm of 1994

The Southern Ice Storm of 1994 was considered the second-worst ice storm in history. A mixture of freezing rain and sleet fell on February 10-11, 1994. 3 to 6 inches of ice accumulated in the hardest hit areas. The vast amount of ice brought by the storm caused more than 8,000 utility poles to collapse, and over 4,700 miles of powerlines were down, leaving more than 750,000 people without power in North Mississippi. Some of the power outages lasted up to a month. More than 3.7 million acres of forestland were damaged across north Mississippi. The value of damaged timber is estimated to be \$1.3 billion. (12)



MISSISSIPPI RECORD STORMS



Hurricane Katrina 2005

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall as a Category 3 storm with winds of approximately 125 mph near Grand Isle, Louisiana, on August 29th; hurricane-force winds and its associated storm surge lasted 17 hours. Any homes or businesses that survived the impact of Hurricane Camille were lost in Hurricane Katrina. There were a reported 520 direct deaths from Hurricane Katrina (172 in Mississippi). An additional 565 were reported as indirect deaths. A total of 15 million people were impacted by the storm, and one million people out of the 15 million impacted were displaced from their homes. At their peak, hurricane relief shelters housed 273,000 people. Later, approximately 114,000 households were housed in FEMA trailers. (2,13)

BP Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill 2010

In April 2010, damage to a wellhead 5,000 feet below the surface of the waters in the Gulf of Mexico leaked an estimated 3.19 million barrels of oil after an explosion. This incident has been regarded as the worst oil spill and response in US History. The incident resulted in 11 fatalities. Mississippi, along with several other coastal states, is still dealing with the economic consequences of the incident as recently as today. (8)



Tornado Outbreak of 2013

In February 2013, eight tornadoes touched down in Mississippi and Alabama. One of the tornadoes was an extremely large, multiple-vortex wedge EF-4 tornado with winds up to 170 mph. It caused widespread damage across four counties, with the Hattiesburg and Petal areas receiving the worst damage, including over 300 damaged and destroyed homes. (5,6)

MISSISSIPPI RECORD STORMS

Backwater Flood of 2019

The Mississippi River rose to record levels in February 2019, causing up to 800 million dollars in agricultural damages and losses. Hundreds of families were displaced. During the 2019 flood, 686 homes flooded, 231,000 acres of cropland were underwater and never planted, 548,000 total acres were flooded, and two people died. Backwater overtopped three major highways, causing communities such as Eagle Lake to be completely isolated and inaccessible except by boat or the Yazoo Backwater Levee. The Yazoo Backwater area flooded for 219 days, from January 4 until August 10, reaching a record crest of 98.2 feet in May, breaking its record of 96.5 feet in 1973. From October 2018 through June 2019, the area suffered the greatest amount of rainfall since 1895. (4,9)

The Easter Tornado Outbreak of 2020

On April 12, 2020, 15 tornadoes ripped through Mississippi, killing 14 people in total. An EF-4 tornado left a 68-mile scar from Bassfield to Soso that could be seen on the radar. That 2-mile-wide tornado occurred on Easter Sunday of 2020 and has been recorded as the 3rd widest tornado in the United States. Eight lives were lost in the EF-4 tornado, and an undetermined number of additional injuries occurred. This tornado and others brought a monumental amount of damage to homes and businesses in the state. (3,14)

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MEMA

TERMINOLOGY

Affected Damage The structure has cosmetic damage to the interior or exterior of the home.

Situational Awareness The continual process of collecting, analyzing, and disseminating intelligence, information, and knowledge allows organizations and individuals to anticipate requirements and react effectively.

Deferred Maintenance The postponement of routine maintenance and repairs.

Destroyed Significant enough damage that the home is deemed a total loss.

Emergency As defined by the Stafford Act, an emergency is “any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, federal assistance is needed to supplement state and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States”.

Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Offers assistance during a governor-declared state of emergency or disaster through a responsive, straightforward system that allows states to send personnel, equipment, and commodities to assist with response and recovery efforts in other states.

Evacuation Organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas and their reception and care to safe areas.

MEMA

TERMINOLOGY

Incident An occurrence or event is natural or human-caused, requiring an emergency response to protect life or property. Incidents can, for example, include major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, terrorist threats, wildland, and urban fires, floods, hazardous material spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, war-related disasters, public health, medical emergencies and any other occurrences requiring an emergency response.

Joint Information Center (JIC) A centralized location is used to coordinate all incident-related public information activities. It is the central point of contact for all news media. It's usually located at the scene of the incident. Public information officials from all participating agencies should collaborate at the JIC.

Major Damage Structural damage or other significant damage that requires extensive repairs or damage from flood waters when the waterline is 18 inches or above in a conventionally built home or when the waterline enters the living space of a manufactured home.

Major Disaster As defined by the Stafford Act, any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, snowstorm, or drought) or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under this act to supplement the efforts and available resources of states local, governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, or hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

MEMA

TERMINOLOGY

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| Minor Damage | Repairable, non-structural damage to a home or damage from flood waters where the waterline is 18 inches or below in a conventionally built home or when the water line is in the floor system of a manufactured home. |
| Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) | The state of Mississippi's emergency coordinating agency, whose mission is to safeguard Mississippi's citizens by fostering a culture of preparedness, executing timely response during a disaster, and quickly restoring quality of life post-event. |
| Public Information Officer (PIO) | A member of the Command Staff that is responsible for interfacing with the public and media or with other agencies with incident-related information requirements. |
| Safe Room | A hardened structure specifically designed to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) criteria and provide near-absolute protection in extreme wind events, including tornadoes and hurricanes. |
| Warning | A hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, imminent or likely. A warning means weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People in the path of the storm need to take protective action. |
| Watch | The risk of a hazardous weather or hydrologic event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location, or timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough time so those who need to set their plans in motion can do so. A watch means hazardous weather is possible. People should have a plan of action in case a storm threatens, and they should listen for later information and possible warnings, especially when planning travel or outdoor activities. |



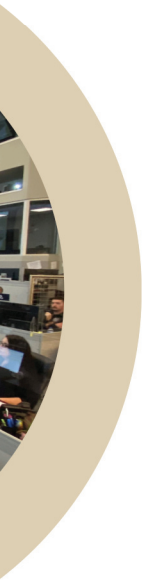
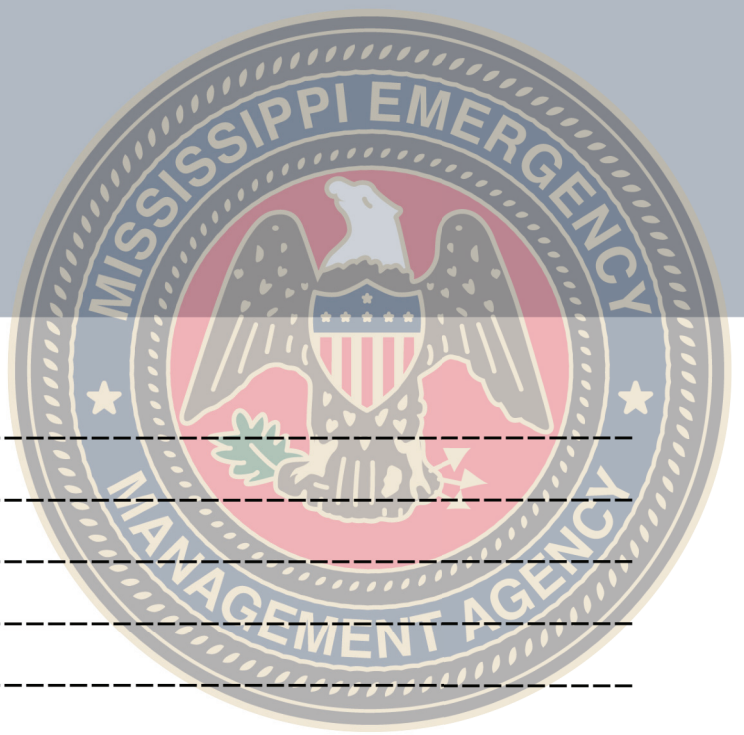
MEMA

ACRONYMS

| | |
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| DRC | Disaster Recovery Center |
| EMAC | Emergency Management Assistance Compact |
| EOC | Emergency Operations Center |
| ESF | Emergency Support Function |
| FCO | Federal Coordinating Officer |
| IAP | Incident Action Plan |
| IC | Incident Commander |
| ICP | Incident Command Post |
| ICS | Incident Command System |
| JFO | Joint Field Office |
| JIC | Joint Information Center |
| JUC | Joint Unified Command |
| MBCI | Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians |
| MCDEMA | Mississippi Civil Defense/Emergency Management Association |
| MEMA | Mississippi Emergency Management Agency |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NIMS | National Incident Management System |
| PIO | Public Information Officer |
| SCO | State Coordinating Officer |
| SELOC | State Emergency Logistical Operations Center |
| SEOC | State Emergency Operations Center |



NOTES





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