

ALL HAZARDS Preparedness Guide



**Mississippi Emergency
Management Agency**

"Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property."

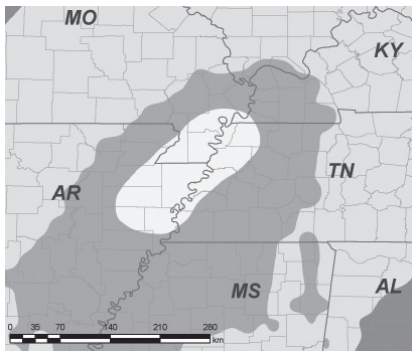
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EARTHQUAKES

While earthquakes have been recorded throughout Mississippi, the greatest risk of earthquake damage in our state comes from the New Madrid seismic zone. The southern end of the 200 mile long zone is in Arkansas, about 40 miles from the northwest corner of Mississippi.



Earthquakes: Know the Terms

Aftershock

An earthquake of similar or lesser intensity that follows the main earthquake.

Earthquake

A sudden slipping or movement of a portion of the earth's crust, accompanied and followed by a series of vibrations.

Epicenter

The place on the earth's surface directly above the point on the fault where the earthquake rupture began. Once fault slippage begins, it expands along the fault during the earthquake and can extend hundreds of miles before stopping.

Fault

The fracture across which displacement has occurred during an earthquake. The slippage may range from less than an inch to more than 10 yards in a severe earthquake.

Magnitude

The amount of energy released during an earthquake, which is computed from the amplitude of the seismic waves. A magnitude of 7.0 on the Richter Scale indicates an extremely strong earthquake. Each whole number on the scale represents an increase of about 30 times more energy released than the previous whole number represents. Therefore, an earthquake measuring 6.0 is about 30 times more powerful than one measuring 5.0.

Seismic Waves

Vibrations that travel outward from the earthquake fault at speeds of several miles per second. Although fault slippage directly under a structure can cause considerable damage, the vibrations of seismic waves cause most of the destruction during earthquakes.

Earthquakes: What to do

If indoors:

- ▶ DROP to the ground; take COVER by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and HOLD ON until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- ▶ Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- ▶ Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow, unless you are under a heavy light fixture that could fall. In that case, move to the nearest safe place.
- ▶ Use a doorway for shelter only if it is in close proximity to you and if you know it is a strongly supported, loadbearing doorway.
- ▶ Stay inside until shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.
- ▶ DO NOT use elevators.

If outdoors:

- ▶ Stay there.
- ▶ Move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.
- ▶ Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits, and alongside exterior walls. Ground movement during an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.

If in a moving vehicle:

- ▶ Stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires.
- ▶ Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped. Avoid roads, bridges, or ramps that might have been damaged by the earthquake.

If trapped under debris:

- ▶ Do not light a match.
- ▶ Do not move about or kick up dust.
- ▶ Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.
- ▶ Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can locate you. Use a whistle if possible. Shout only as a last resort. Shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

FLOODING

Flooding can happen anytime, anywhere. Mississippi ranks eighth in the nation for the number of repetitive loss-structures. The state also has more than 5.2 million acres classified as floodplain, which is fifth in the nation.

Floods can be slow or fast-rising but generally develop during a period of days . Taking precautions now, such as engaging in floodplain management activities, constructing barriers and purchasing flood insurance will help reduce the amount of structural damage to your home and property should a flood occur.



Flooding: Know the Terms

Flood Watch:

Flooding is possible. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Flash Flood Watch:

Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Flood Warning:

Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

Flash Flood Warning:

A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

Take these steps now before a flood occurs:

- ▶ Purchase flood insurance. You can obtain flood insurance through your insurance company. Flood insurance is guaranteed through the National Flood Insurance Program.
- ▶ Take photographs and/or videos of all your important possessions. If a flood damages your home, these items will help you file your flood insurance claim.
- ▶ Store important documents and irreplaceable personal objects where they won't be damaged. If a major flood is expected, consider putting these items in a storage facility.
- ▶ Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family.
- ▶ Have an out-of-state relative or friend serve as your family contact person, and make sure everyone in your family knows the contact person's name, address and phone number.
- ▶ Buy and install a sump pump with backup power. Have an electrician raise electric components such as sockets, switches and circuit breakers at least 12 inches above your home's projected flood elevation.
- ▶ Install backflow valves or plug for your drains, toilets and sewer connections.
- ▶ Anchor fuel tanks so they will not be torn free by floodwaters.

Take these steps if floodwaters are rising:

- ▶ Fill sinks, bathtubs and jugs with clean water in case water becomes contaminated.
- ▶ Listen to a battery-operated radio for the latest storm information.
- ▶ Local authorities may instruct you to turn off all utilities and close your main gas valve.
- ▶ If told to evacuate your home, do so immediately.
- ▶ If water starts to rise inside your house before you evacuate, retreat to the second floor, attic or your roof if necessary.
- ▶ If you come in contact with floodwater, wash your hands with soap and disinfected water. Floodwater may carry raw sewage, chemical waste and other infectious substances.
- ▶ Avoid walking through floodwater. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- ▶ Don't ever drive through a flood area or rising water.
- ▶ Avoid downed power lines because electric currents pass easily through water.
- ▶ Look out for animals, especially snakes. Animals lose their homes in floods too.

Driving Flood Facts

The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:

- ▶ 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 (SUV's) and pick-ups.

After a Flood

- ▶ Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- ▶ Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- ▶ Avoid moving water.
- ▶ Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- ▶ Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- ▶ Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- ▶ Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.
- ▶ Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- ▶ Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.





EXTREME HEAT

Heat Can Kill!

- ▶ In a normal year, approximately 175 Americans die from extreme heat. Young children, elderly people, and those who are sick or overweight are more likely to become victims.
- ▶ Because men sweat more than women, men are more susceptible to heat illness because they become more quickly dehydrated.
- ▶ Sunburn can significantly slow the skin's ability to release excess heat.



Extreme Heat: Know the Terms

Heat Wave

Prolonged period of excessive heat, often combined with excessive humidity.

Heat Index

A number in degrees Fahrenheit (F) that tells how hot it feels when relative humidity is added to the air temperature. Exposure to full sunshine can increase the heat index by 15 degrees.

Heat Cramps

Muscular pains and spasms due to heavy exertion. Although heat cramps are the least severe, they are often the first signal that the body is having trouble with the heat.

Heat Exhaustion

Typically occurs when people exercise heavily or work in a hot, humid place where body fluids are lost through heavy sweating. Blood flow to the skin increases, causing blood flow to decrease to the vital organs. This results in a form of mild shock. If not treated, the victim's condition will worsen. Body temperature will keep rising and the victim may suffer heat stroke.

Heat Stroke

A life-threatening condition. The victim's temperature control system, which produces sweating to cool the body, stops working. The body temperature can rise so high that brain damage and death may result if the body is not cooled quickly.

Sun Stroke

Another term for heat stroke.

How To Protect Yourself

- ▶ Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.
- ▶ Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available.
- ▶ Consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls, and other community facilities.
- ▶ Eat well-balanced, light, and regular meals. Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.
- ▶ Drink plenty of water. Persons who have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease; are on fluid-restricted diets; or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.
- ▶ Limit intake of alcoholic beverages.
- ▶ Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible.
- ▶ Protect face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.
- ▶ Check on family, friends, and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
- ▶ Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- ▶ Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat, and take frequent breaks.
- ▶ Extreme heat brings with it the possibility of heat-induced illnesses. The following table lists these illnesses, their symptoms, and the first aid treatment.

How To Treat Heat Illness

Condition	Symptoms	First Aid
Sunburn	Skin redness and pain, possible swelling, blisters, fever, headaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Take a shower using soap to remove oils that may block pores, preventing the body from cooling naturally.▶ Apply dry, sterile dressings to any blisters, and get medical attention.

How To Treat Heat Illness

Condition	Symptoms	First Aid
Heat Cramps	Painful spasms, usually in leg and abdominal muscles; heavy sweating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Get the victim to a cooler location.▶ Lightly stretch and gently massage affected muscles to relieve spasms.▶ Give sips of up to a half glass of cool water every 15 minutes. (Do not give liquids with caffeine or alcohol.)▶ Discontinue liquids, if victim is nauseated.

How To Treat Heat Illness

Condition	Symptoms	First Aid
Heat Exhaustion	Heavy sweating but skin may be cool, pale, or flushed. Weak pulse. Normal body temperature is possible, but temperature will likely rise. Fainting or dizziness, nausea, vomiting, exhaustion, and headaches are possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Get victim to lie down in a cool place.▶ Loosen or remove clothing.▶ Apply cool, wet clothes.▶ Fan or move victim to air-conditioned place.▶ Give sips of water if victim is conscious.▶ Be sure water is consumed slowly.▶ Give half glass of cool water every 15 minutes.▶ Discontinue water if victim is nauseated.▶ Seek immediate medical attention if vomiting occurs.

How To Treat Heat Illness

Condition	Symptoms	First Aid
Heat Stroke (a severe medical emergency)	High body temperature (105+); hot, red, dry skin; rapid, weak pulse; and rapid shallow breathing. Victim will probably not sweat unless victim was sweating from recent strenuous activity. Possible unconsciousness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Call 9-1-1 or emergency medical services, or get the victim to a hospital immediately. Delay can be fatal.▶ Move victim to a cooler environment.▶ Removing clothing▶ Try a cool bath, sponging, or wet sheet to reduce body temperature.▶ Watch for breathing problems.

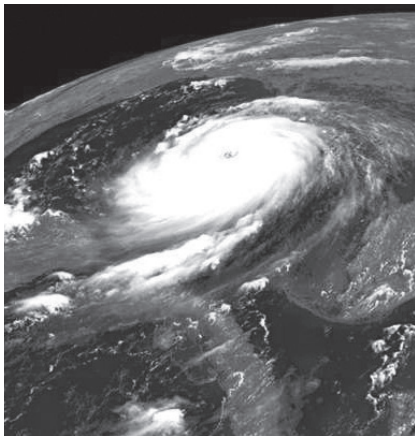
How To Prepare Your Home

- ▶ Install window air conditioners snugly; insulate if necessary.
- ▶ Check air-conditioning ducts for proper insulation.
- ▶ Install temporary window reflectors (for use between windows and drapes), such as aluminum foil-covered cardboard, to reflect heat back outside.
- ▶ Weather-strip doors and sills to keep cool air in.
- ▶ Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings or louvers.
- ▶ Keep storm windows up all year.



HURRICANES

On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina proved the ENTIRE state of Mississippi can be affected by a hurricane. The category 3 hurricane was more than 450 miles wide when it made landfall near Bay St. Louis. Hurricane Katrina 236 people were killed in Mississippi and left behind an estimated \$125 billion in damages in throughout the state. All 82 Mississippi counties were included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration. Hurricanes can cause damage with high winds, tornadoes, flooding and tornadoes.



Hurricanes & Tropical Weather: Know the Terms:

Tropical Depression

An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 MPH (33 knots) or less. Sustained winds are defined as one-minute average wind measured at about 33 ft (10 meters) above the surface.

Tropical Storm

An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39–73 MPH (34–63 knots).

Hurricane

An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 MPH (64 knots) or higher.

Storm Surge

A dome of water pushed onshore by hurricane and tropical storm winds. Storm surges can reach 25 feet high and be 50–1000 miles wide.

Hurricane/Tropical Storm Watch

Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are possible in the specified area, usually within 36 hours. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Hurricane/Tropical Storm Warning

Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area, usually within 24 hours.

To prepare for a hurricane:

- ▶ Make plans to secure your property. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- ▶ Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- ▶ Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed.
- ▶ Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- ▶ Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- ▶ Consider building a safe room.

During a hurricane:

- ▶ Listen to the radio or TV for information.
- ▶ Secure your home, close storm shutters, and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- ▶ Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- ▶ Turn off propane tanks.
- ▶ Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- ▶ Moor your boat if time permits.
- ▶ Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.

You should evacuate under the following conditions:

- ▶ If you are directed by local authorities to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.
- ▶ If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure—such shelters are particularly hazardous during hurricanes no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- ▶ If you live in a high-rise building—hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- ▶ If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an inland waterway.

If you are unable to evacuate, go to your safe room. If you do not have one, follow these guidelines:

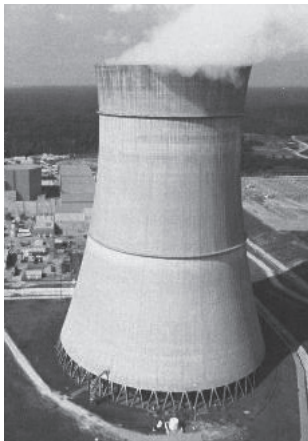
- ▶ Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- ▶ Close all interior doors—secure and brace external doors.
- ▶ Keep curtains and blinds closed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm - winds will pick up again.
- ▶ Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.
- ▶ Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.



NUCLEAR DISASTER

The Mississippi Radiological Emergency Planning Program maintains state emergency response plans and procedures associated with preparation and response to an incident at the two nuclear plants affecting areas within Mississippi: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station located in Port Gibson and the River Bend Station located in St. Francisville, Louisiana.

If you live in an area that could be affected by an incident at either of the two nuclear facilities you will be alerted that an incident has occurred from sirens in your area.



When the sirens are sounded the Emergency Alert System will be activated and instructions given on how to respond as to whether or not they should take shelter or evacuate.

- ▶ **REMEMBER** – hearing a siren or tone alert does not mean evacuate. It simply means **TURN YOUR RADIO ON** and listen for instructions.
- ▶ **STAY TUNED** to your **RADIO & REMAIN CALM & FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!**
- ▶ Appropriate emergency actions (shelter in place, evacuations) will be taken before there is any danger to the public's health and safety.

Nuclear Plant Emergencies: Know the Terms

Notification of Unusual Event

A small problem has occurred at the plant. No radiation leak is expected. No action on your part will be necessary.

Alert

A small problem has occurred, and small amounts of radiation could leak inside the plant. This will not affect you and no action is required.

Site Area Emergency

Area sirens may be sounded. Listen to your radio or television for safety information.

General Emergency

Radiation could leak outside the plant and off the plant site. The sirens will sound. Tune to your local radio or television station for reports. Be prepared to follow instructions promptly.

Nuclear Power Plant Emergency

If Ordered to Shelter in Place:

- ▶ STAY TUNED to your RADIO & REMAIN CALM & FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!
- ▶ Remain in your home.
- ▶ Close all doors and windows.
- ▶ Turn off all outside sources of air.
- ▶ Close fireplaces.
- ▶ Use phone only during a personal emergency.
- ▶ Stay tuned to local radio station.

If Ordered to Evacuate:

- ▶ STAY TUNED to your RADIO & REMAIN CALM & FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!
- ▶ Turn off appliances (except refrigerators and freezers) and faucets.
- ▶ Close all blinds and curtains.
- ▶ Check your home for security.
- ▶ Lock the doors.
- ▶ Tie a white cloth on or near the front door to show that you have left.
- ▶ Check with your neighbor to see if they are able to leave .
- ▶ Keep car windows and vents closed; use re-circulating air.

If you think you have been exposed to nuclear radiation:

- ▶ Change clothes and shoes.
- ▶ Put exposed clothing in a plastic bag.
- ▶ Seal the bag and place it out of the way.
- ▶ Take a thorough shower.

Keep food in covered containers or in the refrigerator. Food not previously covered should be washed before being put in to containers.



THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING

All thunderstorms are dangerous. Every thunderstorm produces lightning, which kills more people each year than tornadoes. In July 2008, a 38-year-old man was struck and killed by lightning in Centreville, Mississippi while under a tree talking to friends. Heavy rain from thunderstorms can lead to flash flooding. Strong winds, hail, and tornadoes are also dangers associated with some thunderstorms.



Thunderstorms and Lightning: Know the Terms

Severe Thunderstorm Watch

Tells you when and where severe thunderstorms are likely to occur. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning

Issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm.

To prepare for a thunderstorm, you should do the following:

- ▶ Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage.
- ▶ Remember the 30/30 lightning safety rule: Go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.

The following are guidelines for what you should do if a thunderstorm is likely in your area:

- ▶ Postpone outdoor activities.
- ▶ Get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile (not a convertible). Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- ▶ Remember, rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal.
- ▶ Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- ▶ Shutter windows and secure outside doors. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades, or curtains.
- ▶ Avoid showering or bathing. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.

- ▶ Use a corded telephone only for emergencies. Cordless and cellular telephones are safe to use.
- ▶ Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
- ▶ Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.

Avoid the following:

- ▶ Natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.
- ▶ Hilltops, open fields, the beach, or a boat on the water.
- ▶ Isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- ▶ Anything metal—tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs and bicycles.

During A Thunderstorm

If you are:

Then:

In a forest

Seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees.

In an open area

Go to a low place such as a ravine or valley. Be alert for flash floods.

On open water

Get to land and find shelter immediately.

Anywhere you feel your hair stand on end (which indicates that lightning is about to strike)

Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. **DO NOT** lie flat on the ground

If someone is struck by lightning:

Call 9-1-1 for medical assistance as soon as possible.

The following are things you should check when you attempt to give aid to a victim of lightning:

- ▶ **Breathing:** if breathing has stopped, begin mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- ▶ **Heartbeat:** if the heart has stopped, administer CPR.
- ▶ **Pulse:** if the victim has a pulse and is breathing, look for other possible injuries. Check for burns where the lightning entered and left the body. Also be alert for nervous system damage, broken bones, and loss of hearing and eyesight.



TORNADOES

Tornadoes are one of the greatest weather risks facing Mississippi. They spawn from powerful thunderstorms and can cause deaths and devastate neighborhoods in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the



ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. National Weather Service Statistics show Mississippi averages 28 tornadoes and seven deaths per year since 1950. In 2008 the state had a record 109 tornadoes. April 2011 saw 63 tornadoes in our state, the most for any month since 1950. Two of these tornadoes were rated as EF5 with winds more than 200 mph. The April outbreak of tornadoes is responsible for 37 deaths statewide.

Tornadoes: Know the Terms

Tornado Watch

Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Tornado Warning

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

Stay Informed

- ▶ Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information.
- ▶ Look for approaching storms.
- ▶ Look for the following danger signs:
 - ▶ Dark, often greenish sky.
 - ▶ Large hail.
 - ▶ A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating).
 - ▶ Loud roar, similar to a freight train.

What to Do During a Tornado

If You Are In Your Home

- ▶ Go to the lowest level of the home, an inner hallway, or smaller inner room without windows, such as a closet or bathroom.
- ▶ Get away from windows and go to the center of the room.
- ▶ Get under a sturdy piece of furniture, such as a workbench or heavy table.

If You Are In A Mobile Home

- ▶ Evacuate the mobile home, even if it is equipped with tie-downs. Take shelter in a building with a strong foundation, or if one is not available, lie in a ditch or low-lying area a safe distance away from the mobile home. Tornadoes cannot change elevation quickly enough to pick someone up out of a ditch, especially a deep ditch or culvert.

If You Are At Work Or School

- ▶ Go to an inside hallway at the lowest level of the building.
- ▶ Avoid places with wide-span roofs, such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways or shopping malls.
- ▶ Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

What to Do During a Tornado

If Outdoors

- ▶ If possible, get inside a sturdy building with a concrete foundation.
- ▶ If shelter is not available, or there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building.

If You Are In A Vehicle

- ▶ Never try to out drive a tornado. Tornadoes can change can lift a vehicle and toss it in the air.
- ▶ If there is no time to get indoors, get out of the vehicle and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle.



WINTER WEATHER

Every part of Mississippi is susceptible to winter weather conditions that include ice and snow storms. While they are not common occurrences like severe thunderstorms and tornadoes we must still be prepared.



Winter Weather: Know the Terms

Winter Storm Watch

A winter storm is possible in your area. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for more information.

Winter Storm Warning

A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

Freezing Rain

Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees, and power lines.

Sleet

Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.

Frost/Freeze Warning

Below freezing temperatures are expected.

Dress for the Weather

- ▶ Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- ▶ Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.
- ▶ Wear a hat.
- ▶ Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

Prepare your home and family

- ▶ Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- ▶ Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
- ▶ Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.

- ▶ Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- ▶ Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- ▶ Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).
- ▶ Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.

Prepare your car

Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:

- ▶ Antifreeze levels - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- ▶ Battery and ignition system - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- ▶ Brakes - check for wear and fluid levels.
- ▶ Heater and defroster - ensure they work properly.
- ▶ Lights and flashing hazard lights – ensure they work properly.
- ▶ Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.



PREPAREDNESS KIT

What You Should Have on Hand:

- ▶ Flashlight(s) with extra batteries.
- ▶ Portable radio with extra batteries.
- ▶ NOAA Weather Radio.
- ▶ Non-perishable food for at least three days.
- ▶ Bottled water (1 gallon per person per day).
- ▶ First Aid Kit with prescription medications.
- ▶ Bedding and clothing for each family member.
- ▶ Blankets and towels.
- ▶ Plastic dishes/eating utensils.
- ▶ Rain Jackets/pants.
- ▶ Sun screen/sunglasses/mosquito repellent.
- ▶ Baby supplies (food, diapers, medication).
- ▶ Pet supplies (food, leash & carrier, vaccination records).
- ▶ Sanitary supplies.
- ▶ Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, cleanser, bleach, towelettes, toilet paper, trash bags, feminine hygiene products.
- ▶ Copies of important documents.
- ▶ Driver's license, SS card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, medical records, family pictures, etc.
- ▶ Cash, enough to fill up your vehicle with gas and travelers checks.
- ▶ Emergency generator.

Pet Preparedness

- ▶ Pets are not allowed in most public shelters. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets.
- ▶ Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. In your disaster supply kit, include all important pet documents and a backup leash, collar and ID tag.
- ▶ Include a crate, pet carrier, littler box if appropriate, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach in your kit to provide for your pet's sanitation needs.

Special Needs Disaster Tips

- ▶ Create a support network to help in an emergency.
- ▶ Tell these people where you keep your emergency supplies.
- ▶ Give one member of your support network a key to your house or apartment.
- ▶ Contact your city or county emergency management office to be placed on a list of people with disabilities.
- ▶ Wear medical alert tags or bracelets to help identify your disability.
- ▶ If you are dependent on dialysis or other life sustaining treatment, know the location and availability of more than one facility.
- ▶ Show others how to operate your wheelchair.
- ▶ Know the size and weight of wheelchair and whether it is collapsible, in case it has to be transported.

Helpful Phone Numbers and Websites

Agency	Phone	Website
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency	601.933.MEMA	www.msema.org
Office of the Governor	1.877.405.0733	www.mississippi.gov
Office of the Lt. Governor	601.359.3200	www.mississippi.gov
MS State Dept. of Health	601.576.7400	www.msdh.state.ms.us
MS Attorney General's Office	601.359.3680	www.ago.state.ms.us
MS Dept. of Education	601.359.3513	www.mde.k12.ms.us
MS Insurance Department/ State Fire Marshal's Office	1.888.648.0877	www.mid.state.ms.us
MS Dept. of Public Safety/ MS Highway Safety Patrol	601.987.1212	www.dps.state.ms.us
MS Office of the State Auditor	1.800.321.1275	www.osa.state.ms.us
MS Dept. of Agriculture & Commerce	601.359.1100	www.mdac.state.ms.us
MS Forestry Commission	601.359.1386	www.mfc.state.ms.us
MS Dept. of Human Services	1.800.345.6347	www.mdhs.state.ms.us

Helpful Phone Numbers and Websites

Agency	Phone	Website
MS Public Broadcasting	601.432.6565	www.mpbonline.org
MS Dept. of Employment Security	601.321.6000	www.mdes.ms.gov
MS Development Authority	601.359.3449	www.mississippi.org
MS Dept. of Environmental Quality	1.888.786.0661	www.deq.state.ms.us
MS Dept. of Mental Health	1-877-210-8513	www.dmh.state.ms.us
MS National Guard	601.313.6193	www.ngms.state.ms.us
Secretary of State	601.359.1350	www.sos.state.ms.us
MS Dept. of Transportation	601.359.7001	www.gomdot.com
MS Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks	601.432.2400	www.mdwfp.com
211-Mississippi	1.866.472.8265	www.211.org
American Red Cross	1.800.REDCROSS	www.redcross.org
Salvation Army	1.800.SAL.ARMY	www.salvationarmyusa.org



Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

"Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property."

 ALL HAZARDS
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