**Disabilities Planning**

**What You’ll Need:**
- At least a week-long supply of prescription medicines along with a list of all medications, dosage and any allergies
- Descriptions of required accommodations, medical conditions and/or functional needs.
- List of medical supplies and durable medical equipment needed
- Extra eyeglasses and/or hearing aid batteries
- Extra wheelchair batteries and/or oxygen
- A list of the type and serial number of medical devices. Include special instructions for operating your equipment if needed
- Copies of medical insurance and Medicare cards
- Contact information for doctors as well as relatives or friends who should be notified if you are hurt
- If you have a service animal, you’ll need pet food, extra water, the animal’s collar with ID tag, medical records and any other supplies.
- Handheld electronic devices loaded with notes and games (and spare chargers). Inexpensive to decrease auditory discomfort and comfort snacks and toys that help needs for stimulation

**PETS PLANNING**

- Come up with shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pet
- Have your pet wear his or her collar with name and identification tags
- Make copies of important documents from your pet’s medical records and identification
- Also plastic trash bags and cleaning products to your emergency supply kit to provide for your pet’s sanitation needs
- Have a crate or pet carrier available in case of evacuation

**Emergency Supply Kit**

- 3-day supply of water (1 gallon per person, per day)
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Flashlight
- Portable radio and NOAA weather radio
- Extra batteries
- Phone chargers
- First aid kit with prescription medications
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of important documents
- Extra cash

Depending on your family’s needs, you may also want to include: extra medical items, baby supplies and pet supplies.

**Crisis Track Damage Assessment Tool**

One of the key features provided by the MEMA contract with Crisis Track is the Crisis Track Damage Assessment Tool. This tool will allow MEMA to better prepare to respond to affected counties with state resources when needed and ultimately, it will speed up the recovery and reconstruction process. As our first responders and law enforcement work together to ensure disaster readiness, the most important factor in ensuring safety is personal preparedness. Please take advantage of the vital information in this guide and take the necessary steps to protect your family and your property. There is no substitute for a plan and being prepared.

**After the Storm**

- Wait to return to the impacted area until local authorities deem it safe.
- Make sure the main electrical switch is off before you enter your home.
- Do not drink or use tap water until there is confirmation that it is not contaminated.
- If using an emergency generator, keep it outside. NEVER run the generator in the house or garage.
- If you come across a fallen power line, stay back at least 50 feet and NEVER touch the line.
- Before the cleanup process begins, take pictures to document the damage and file an insurance claim.

**Pets Planning**

- After the storm passes, the recovery phase begins, which often involves major cleanup. It’s important to know the proper way to sort damaged household items and debris to help in disposal efforts. The debris sorting process is also crucial when trying to obtain a disaster declaration.

**Debris Sorting**

- After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina over 14 years ago, we still have vivid memories bearing the scars of that storm and its aftermath. Hurricane Katrina taught us that our responsibility is to plan for the worst, pray for the best, and expect somewhere in between. As our first responders and law enforcement work together to ensure disaster readiness, the most important factor in ensuring safety is personal preparedness. Please take advantage of the vital information in this guide and take the necessary steps to protect your family and your property. There is no substitute for a plan and being prepared.

**ATLANTIC TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMES**

- In 2020, there were 28 named storms. Then the Greek alphabet is used to name additional storms.
- If there are more than 21 storms in one season, the Greek alphabet is used to name additional storms.
- After the storm passes, the recovery phase begins, which often involves major cleanup. It’s important to know the proper way to sort damaged household items and debris to help in disposal efforts. The debris sorting process is also crucial when trying to obtain a disaster declaration.

**FEMA**

- 1-800-621-3362 or hearing impaired 1-800-621-2845

**Message from Governor Tate Reeves**

- The Mississippi Gulf Coast is no stranger to hurricane season. After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina over 14 years ago, we still have vivid memories bearing the scars of that storm and its aftermath. Hurricane Katrina taught us that our responsibility is to plan for the worst, pray for the best, and expect somewhere in between. As our first responders and law enforcement work together to ensure disaster readiness, the most important factor in ensuring safety is personal preparedness. Please take advantage of the vital information in this guide and take the necessary steps to protect your family and your property. There is no substitute for a plan and being prepared.
A tropical storm or hurricane is imminent. What will I need to pack? How do I find shelter? What will the impact be? Will I need to evacuate? These are just a few of the questions you might be asking as you prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.

Mississippians, we have become all too familiar with tornado strikes and flash flooding. Between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2019, MEMA responded to 15 confirmed tornadoes across the state as well as experiencing the longest hazardous electrical weather event. Regardless of the hurricane or tropical storm season, we urge you to be prepared and have a plan.

**Message from the National Weather Service**

**Introduction to Hurricanes**

Hurricanes are strong tropical cyclones that form over warm tropical waters such as the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. These large systems rotate in a counterclockwise motion around a center of low pressure known as the eye. Hurricanes can have wind speeds ranging from 74 mph to over 157 mph, which is determined by factors such as pressure and distance from the eye. State and federal officials strongly urge Mississippians to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season by creating an action plan for you and your family.

**Wind**

Wind is the movement of air. Winds associated with tropical cyclones and hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage to homes and buildings. Hurricanes are classified into five categories, which are based on sustained wind speed. This scale is known as the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. The scale ranges from Category 1 to Category 5, with Category 5 storms having the greatest threat of catastrophic damage.

**Flooding**

Floods can result in substantial structural damage to homes and buildings. Floods are a unique hazard, because heavy rainfall is not directly related to the strength and wind speed of a tropical cyclone. Historically, tropical storms that produce the greatest amount of rain are often weaker storms that are slow to move or stall on land.

**Flood Facts:**

- A single inch of water can carry you off your feet. A 9 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.
- More than 3 inches of flood-related fatalities each year are related to

**Message from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency**

Greg Michel and the National Weather Service urge Mississippians to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. To help answer questions like: Where will I go in the case of a disaster? What will I need to take with me? How will I be notified? The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency’s Executive Director, Gregory Michel, and the National Weather Service urge Mississippians to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season by creating an action plan for you and your family.

**Floods**

When tropical systems make landfall, there is also the threat for floods. Most often, tropical systems associated with tropical cyclones occur in thunderstorms embedded in the rain bands away from the center of the system. If the tropical system is moving near enough to the coast, it is likely to be flooded. However, if it is moving towards the coast, it could be flooded.

**Tornadoes**

Tornadoes are high-impact hazards. They can produce winds in excess of 300 mph and result in catastrophic damage to homes and buildings. Tornadoes develop as a result of the large-scale horizontal and vertical wind shear that develops during severe weather seasons. However, they are still a threat. Mississippians associated with tropical systems have a high strength rating of EF 5. Above EF 5, there is no Enhanced Fujita Scale.

**Stay Safe During Flooding:**

- Turn around. Don’t drown.
- If you can, leave the area. Do not drive through the water.
- Do not drive through flooded streets.
- Know where you are going, and move to higher ground.
- Stay off ladders, steep slopes or embankments.
- Watch for fast-moving water.

**Emergency Planning**

- Have an emergency communications plan in place.
- Develop an evacuation plan. Be sure to discuss your evacuation plan with loved ones.
- Be familiar with your local and state officials when severe weather threatens our state. I’m proud to serve Mississippians through Mississippi Emergency Management Agency’s Executive Director, Gregory Michel. As Director of MEMA, I continue to always be prepared and stay alert to your needs.

- Have access to a reputable insurance agent.

- Mississippians, we have become all too familiar with tornado strikes and flash flooding.

**Evacuation Map:**

When developing your hurricane evacuation plan, use this map as a reference to determine the most effective evacuation route for you and your family. Major interstates and highways, such as Interstate 55, Interstate 59 and Highway 80, are shown in blue and are primary evacuation routes. There are also alternative evacuation routes highlighted in green, which can also be incorporated into your plan.