The Office of Preparedness has made the ultimate adjustment during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Loretta Thorpe has led her team into the new age of virtual training; making Mississippi one of the first states to resume training during the pandemic. Preparedness is tasked with educating and preparing counties and other stakeholders for emergency disasters through teaching FEMA courses. They began teaching virtual classes in July of 2020. To this date, the staff in Preparedness has instructed 34 classes with 709 participants. Not only is Preparedness teaching classes, but the 22-member staff has been vital to the planning portion of the COVID-19 pandemic, assisting in the warehouse with documentation and conducting radiological preparedness exercises and training. Completion of these courses and training are tied to grant funds and are important to complete. Disasters do not stop, and education must continue. Thank you to the Office of Preparedness for being an example of resiliency and adaptation during these trying times.

A MESSAGE TO THE PREPAREDNESS TEAM:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your hard work and dedication to this Agency and Office. As a team, you have put a tremendous amount of time and dedication into continuing Preparedness efforts of planning, training, and exercise activities to support the local emergency managers and the whole community. One major accomplishment that I am very proud of is the virtual platform that we utilize daily. Your knowledge and skills allowed you to convert in-person preparedness activities to a virtual platform. Thank you for your ability, motivation, and attitude to successfully raise the bar in the Office of Preparedness. – Loretta Thorpe
Casey Mott

Casey has been a valuable member of the MITS team for the past year. He is hardworking, courteous and always has a positive attitude. Casey has a passion for his work and puts 100% into every task he is assigned. Thank you for all that you do, Casey! Congratulations!

FROM THE OFFICE OF MITIGATION

National Flood Insurance Program

IF FEMA PROVIDES YOUR NFIP-PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY WITH NEW OR REVISED FLOOD HAZARD DATA YOU MUST:

- **ADOPT NEW REGULATIONS THAT INCLUDE THE NEW DATA**
- **OR**
- **AMEND EXISTING REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE NEW DATA**

Adopted regulations must be submitted to FEMA & the state for approval within six months.

IF A COMMUNITY **DOES NOT** ADOPT OR AMEND APPROPRIATE REGULATIONS WITHIN SIX MONTHS, THE COMMUNITY WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM THE NFIP.

CONSEQUENCES OF SUSPENSION:

- Property owners will not be able to purchase NFIP flood insurance policies & existing policies will not be renewed
- Federal grants or loans for development will not be available in identified flood hazard areas
- Federal disaster assistance will not be available to permanently repair damages to insurable buildings from any origin inside the SFHA
- Federal mortgage insurance & loan guarantees will not be provided
WELCOME TO THE MEMA TEAM:

Winna Hyche
Support Services

Sallie Sones
Support Services

Summer Harrison
Public Assistance

GOOD FRIDAY OFFICES CLOSED

April

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HAPPY EASTER

OFFICES CLOSED