THE MEMA MINUTE

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency's Monthly Newsletter

WILDFIRE DRONE RESPONSE

MEMA's Area Coordinators and UAS Program Coordinator, David Battaly, have already assisted in several wildfire response efforts this year, but most recently they played a vital role in responding to a wildfire that burned approximately 1,137 acres across north Rankin County.

MEMA's UAS team worked alongside Rankin County EMA, the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Lake Harbor Fire Department and Leesburg Fire Department to respond to this specific wildfire off of Coal's Bluff Road in Lena.

Mike Crowell, Region 3 Coordinator for the Mississippi Forestry Commission said, "MEMA's UAS team greatly enhanced the Incident Command's situational awareness of this very dangerous fire. The UAS capabilities enabled Incident Command to quickly focus firefighting efforts while ensuring personnel and equipment were not in harm's way."

In addition to this fire, MEMA's UAS team as also responded to two other wildfires in Florence and Flora this season.

Employee of the Month
JARRETT WATKINS

Jarrett currently serves as the Preparedness Officer for the Southern Bureau as well as the agency's Safety Officer. His positive attitude and desire to learn are contagious within the Office of Preparedness. Jarrett consistently leads by example and is the definition of a team player. Each and every day he comes to work with a smile and a willingness to face whatever challenges the day may bring. Congratulations and thank you for all that you do, Jarrett!

OFFICE OF HOUSING & IA WORKSHOP

On February 17, members of MEMA along with partners from the Red Cross, Department of Education, IHL and other agencies participated in a table top exercise. The discussion was facilitated by Todd DeMuth and focused on a potential tornado outbreak/winter weather event scenario. The exercise provided beneficial insight in regards to response efforts from all involved agencies and organizations.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to MEMA Executive Director McCraney for being named in the Mississippi Top 50!

Annually, fifty of the most influential leaders in the state are presented this award in an effort to spotlight the individuals whose contributions are instrumental in making Mississippi better each and every year.

DID YOU KNOW ?

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM FUN FACTS

NFIP WAS CREATED IN 1968

334 PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES IN MS

$15.5 BILLION IN STATEWIDE COVERAGE

$2.9 BILLION PAID OUT IN NFIP CLAIMS

ADDITIONAL NFIP INFORMATION:

- Participation is voluntary and not mandatory
- Local governments enforce flood damage prevention ordinances
- Floods are the most common & costly natural disaster in the U.S.
- Homeowner's insurance DOES NOT cover flood damage
- Flood risk is rated by zones: high, medium and low risks
- People in low risk areas file about 20% of NFIP claims
- High risk zone flood insurance is a requirement of a federally backed loan
- It takes 30 days for a new policy to take effect