

I want to update you on the current status of Hurricane Lilli and our preparedness activity.

Robert Latham, Head of Mississippi Emergency Management Agency has a full team of people in place.

Regarding the safe evacuation of New Orleans, I and my staff are in constant contact with Governor Mike Foster of Louisiana.

We will do whatever we can to accommodate the citizens of Louisiana in the case of an evacuation. I have asked Governor Mike Foster to work with us to develop a comprehensive plan between Mississippi and Louisiana for the safe and effective emergency preparedness for any natural disaster. Robert Latham, the person with the authority for overall preparedness is in charge for Mississippi.

He has indicated to me that he will select his emergency preparedness person as well.

Until a plan can be developed that will not have an adverse impact on our local communities and will not divert resources from state and local services that are needed to protect our people, I do not plan to authorize the implementation of the I-59 contra flow plan.