

State of Mississippi
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Hurricane - Attachment II
Interstate 59 Hurricane Evacuation (Contraflow) Reverse Laning Plan

Summary of Plan

The State of Mississippi has developed the *Interstate 59 Hurricane Evacuation Contraflow (Reverse Laning) Plan* that is being added to the state's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. This plan maximizes the use of Mississippi's resources by utilizing limited reverse laning of Interstate 59 to assist in evacuation measures when requested by the State of Louisiana without hampering the evacuation needs of Mississippi residents. Upon a hurricane entering the Gulf of Mexico and threatening the coastline of Mississippi and/or Louisiana, the Mississippi Highway Patrol and the Louisiana State Police will begin the coordination and planning for evacuation options and the ability of the States to support those options. During all phases of the evacuation process, the two states will be in constant communication to ensure that the needs of the Mississippi and Louisiana citizens are met.

Request For I-59 Reverse Laning

The Louisiana State Police, coordinating with Mississippi Highway Patrol, depending on the strength of the hurricane and the storm surge associated with the hurricane, will contact the Louisiana Governor's Office and discuss the need and demand to implement reverse laning evacuation plans. The Louisiana Governor's Office will make a formal request to the Mississippi Governor's Office for assistance in utilizing Interstate 59 reverse laning to evacuate Louisiana residents.

The Governor's Office, in consultation with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Mississippi Department of Public Safety, and Mississippi Department of Transportation, will respond to the request. All evacuation levels are determined by need and demand.

Evacuation Levels as agreed upon by Mississippi and Louisiana

1. Louisiana evacuees move at their leisure and are allowed the freedom to choose their evacuation course.
2. Enhance the Louisiana evacuation by requesting the evacuating traffic to utilize specific evacuation roadways within Louisiana determined by the Louisiana State Police.
3. Further enhance the utilization of evacuation roadways within Louisiana to their maximum efficiency by distributing evacuating traffic to specific evacuation roadways.

4. Louisiana State Police will direct the evacuating traffic to reverse laning within their state borders. The Mississippi Department of Transportation will advise motorists traveling I-59 southbound that the interstate is closed at the Louisiana state line.
5. Mississippi Contraflow to Mile Marker 21 - The Mississippi Department of Public Safety and Mississippi Department of Transportation will coordinate full reverse laning of Interstate 59 into Mississippi from the Louisiana state line to mile marker 21, south of Poplarville.
6. Mississippi Contraflow to Mile Marker 55 - The Mississippi Department of Public Safety and Mississippi Department of Transportation will coordinate full reverse laning of Interstate 59 into Mississippi from the Louisiana state line to mile marker 55, south of Hattiesburg at US 98.

Contraflow Route Operations

There are eleven interchanges from the Mississippi state line to mile marker 55, south of Hattiesburg at US 98. The State of Mississippi will make a determination on the service or non-service of these interchanges depending on their location, congestion potential, and the travel services offered at each interchange. Travel services refers to the availability of fuel, food & lodging.

These protective measures accommodate the needs of our neighbors in Louisiana without minimizing the equally needed protection and evacuation plans for the citizens of Mississippi.