

MEMA/Local Emergency Management Agency Officials  
Press Conference  
Wednesday, February 14, 2001  
1:00 p.m.

**Talking Points**

- The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is charged with the responsibility of preparing for, and responding to, disasters in our state.
- They do an outstanding job in their efforts, but they are certainly more effective when there is a local emergency official in place who can help coordinate local disaster preparation.
- The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is working with local officials across the state to increase the number of communities that have local emergency management officials working to assist their communities in preparation for disasters.
- Since January 2000, eleven new counties have been added to the local and county emergency office program.

- Because of these eleven new county programs, Mississippi now has 53 counties with active programs.
- \$777,000 in federal funds will be distributed to assist these 53 active counties with their Emergency Management programs to help local governments in their efforts to prepare for, respond to, recover from and lessen the disaster impact on their communities.
- In his 1<sup>st</sup> year in the position of Director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Robert has actively pursued increasing the emergency preparedness of our state.
- These 11 new county programs represent the result of his effort and determination to make Mississippi better emergency prepared.
- Robert, thank you for your hard work and to your commitment to the people of this state.
- I also want to thank the County Directors who have joined us here today.

- They have a commitment to the people of their counties and local communities.
- They have a commitment to help prepare their counties and local communities for a disaster.
- They have a commitment to the safety of every person across Mississippi.
- It is important that we have local emergency officials working together with Robert Latham and the emergency personnel at MEMA and on the Federal.
- These local directors will work hand-in-hand with us on a state level to provide a quick response to people in an emergency situation.
- Our emergency officials constantly monitor the safety of our state and do all they can to make sure every precaution is taken to prepare our cities, towns, communities and counties in case of a disaster.
- I would like to ask Robert Latham to say a few words.

- **Press Conference Agenda**

- Governor
- Robert Latham
- Governor closes and opens for questions.

- Local Directors in attendance:

- Jeff Harper – Clarke County
- Jerry Johnson – Lafayette
- Bill Weisenberger – Madison
- Hugh Hollowell – Marshall
- Bobby Camp, Jr. – Monroe
- Jim Britt – Oktibbeha
- Randy Stewart – Tunica
- Eugene Martin - Wilkinson