

**DRAFT I**  
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Office of the Governor

Media Contact: Lisa Mader, Director of Communications (601) 359-3227.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RAPID RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVATED TO ASSIST WORKERS AFFECTED BY LAYOFFS ON THE COAST**

JACKSON, Miss., June – Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced today that intensive efforts are underway to assist displaced workers due to the closure of International Paper and Rohm and Haas, both located in Moss Point, Mississippi. “When a company has to layoff employees, it is difficult for both the employer and the affected workers. The system we have in place, Rapid Response is working diligently to address their needs,” said Governor Musgrove.

Rapid Response is comprised of representatives of key local and state agencies lead by the Employment Training Division of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). Team members first meet on-site with the employer and discuss resources and services available to help them manage the layoff and identify employees’ specific needs. Following this, a plan of action is be developed to deliver the needed services.

“Our people are Mississippi’s greatest resource. It is vital for us to maximize the resources and talents of the various state agencies to deal with business closings and mass layoffs,” added Governor Musgrove.

Other members of the Rapid Response Team are; Mississippi State University Extension Service, Department of Human Services, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Community Colleges and the local Workforce Investment area.

A variety of services are available to assist workers who have been laid off. The Rapid Response Team provides information on; Education and training opportunities, Resume writing assistance, Career assessment, Access to Internet for job search and posting resumes, Children’s health insurance program, Free confidential financial counseling, Job search and job placement assistance, Starting a business, Unemployment insurance, and NAFTA/TAA benefits.

For information on Rapid Response contact the MDA’s Employment Training Division at 1-800-762-2781.

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