

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY



# NEWS

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CONTACT:                    **AMY CARRUTH, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC INFORMATION**  
                                  **JENNIFER GRIFFIN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

**(601) 352-9100**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PRESIDENT REVIEWING DISASTER DECLARATION REQUEST**

(Jackson, Miss.) — The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has received confirmation that the Governor’s request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration has been received and is being reviewed by the President.

officials are reviewing the preliminary damage assessment reports compiled by a team of local, state and federal officials. The teams spent the weekend surveying damage to individuals and businesses caused by a strong storm system that moved across the state on April 6.

“I have been briefed on the outcome of the joint preliminary damage assessments and will make a recommendation to Governor Musgrove for federal assistance on Monday,” said MEMA Director Robert Latham. “We intend to submit our official request for assistance to federal officials by Monday afternoon.”

MEMA continues to work with local, state and federal officials to determine the extent of damage to public facilities and infrastructure. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment Teams are conducting first-hand, on-the-scene surveys in counties affected by the severe storms on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The teams are comprised of MEMA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (DHS EP&R), and local officials to conduct preliminary damage assessments (PDA’s).

These assessments will be used to confirm the initial damage to roads, bridges, public buildings and some private, non-profit entities. The PDA’s will determine if the state meets the criteria for federal assistance.

The teams will not be accepting requests for interviews. All media inquiries should continue to come through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

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