

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY



NEWS

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Subject: Hinds County Regional Response Team

Date: January 7, 2003

(Jackson) – Today the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Hinds County Regional Response Team. The team participants are: Hinds County Emergency Management Agency, and Sheriff’s Office; City of Clinton Police and Fire Departments; Rankin County Emergency Management Agency, Sheriff’s Office and Fire Departments; City of Richland Police, Fire and Emergency Management; Warren County Emergency Management and Sheriff’s Office and the City of Vicksburg Police and Fire Departments.

The money will be used for the purchase of specialized first responder equipment for the Regional Response Team in Hinds County. MEMA is in the process of developing and equipping 10 statewide teams. The money will also be used in costs related to planning, conducting, and evaluating weapons of mass destruction (WMD) exercises.

“The partnership demonstrated by the cities and counties working together exhibits the type of corporation that will be essential in the success of meeting the challenges of a unified response to any type of event,” said Robert Latham, director of MEMA.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency received a total of \$5.9 million from the Department of Justice for enhancement of the State’s Domestic Preparedness Strategic Plan, which outlines how MS will allocate Federal funding to address the needs identified through this process. This money is from Federal Fiscal Year 1999 - 2002 and was applied for prior to September 11, 2001. This money is separate from the money that will be received for Homeland Security.

Additional plans for the \$5.9 million include equipping a State HAZMAT Response Team to assist the Regional Response Teams if additional assistance is needed in an event; establish 24 hour warning points in every county to ensure operational information can be passed on to the counties as soon as it is received at the State level; to purchase decontamination equipment for the State; and to address the specific needs of the response to the State Capital Complex in the City of Jackson through the Department of Finance & Administration Capital Police.

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