MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NEWS

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************************MEDIA ADVISORY************************

WHO: MEMA, DeSoto County Emergency Management, local elected officials from DeSoto County, Horn Lake, Southaven, Olive Branch, and Hernando

WHAT: Press Conference announcing the Department of Justice FY'99 Federal Grant of $100,048 for Regional Response Team (RRT) in DeSoto County

WHEN: **Thursday, November 7, 2002, at 11:00 a.m.**

WHERE: DeSoto County EMA Office
365 Losher Street
Hernando, MS
3rd Floor in Board of Supervisor's room, Admin Building

WHY: 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.

The money will be used for the purchase of specialized first responder equipment for the first Regional Response Team in DeSoto 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.

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; and to purchase decontamination equipment for the State.

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