

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: MEMA Offers Safety Tips During This Time of Uncertainty

(Jackson) - "Most major disasters and emergencies, with which we have dealt with in the past, like **severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods** give us some warning. Unfortunately terrorism does not afford us such a luxury," said MEMA Director Robert Latham. "Regardless of the type of disaster, there are some steps you and your family can take to alleviate the fear of the unknown." Each family should develop and review a Family Disaster Plan for any type of disaster. The plan should include an evacuation plan, a communication plan, and a disaster supply kit.

1. Develop and Review a Family Evacuation Plan

Contact your Local Emergency Management Director to learn of your community's emergency plan, location of shelters and hospitals, evacuation routes and emergency warning system. If an incident occurs, listen to local radio or television and follow the instructions of emergency officials. Evacuate immediately, if told to do so. Lock your homes when you leave. Travel routes specified by local officials, taking your Family Disaster Supply Kit with you. You may be asked to "Shelter-in-place." This means to go indoors, closing all outside doors and windows. Turn off all window fans, dryers, kitchen and bath exhaust fans, air conditioners and other sources of outside air. If you are traveling in an automobile, close windows and air vents. Continue to monitor the media for further instructions.

2. Develop and review a Family Communications Plan

This will give assurances that all are safe and enable you to make plans to get back together. Ask an out-of-state friend or relative to serve as the family contact. After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance, outside of the disaster area. Make sure all family members know the name, address, and telephone numbers of the contact person.

3. Develop and maintain a current Family Disaster Supply Kit

A Disaster Supply Kit should consist of the materials your family would need to survive for 3 to 7 days without power. This is the same type of kit that should be in place to survive the aftermath of a tornado or hurricane. The Kit should include: non-perishable food; water (at least one gallon per person, per day); a First Aid Kit with prescription medicines; a battery powered radio and NOAA weather radio; flashlights with extra batteries; specialty items necessary for babies or elderly; pet care items; blankets & pillows; toiletries; vehicles with full fuel tanks and an amount of cash, in case banks or ATMs are not available.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating local, state, and federal resources to protect the public during disasters and emergencies. MEMA helps develop plans for effective response to all hazards, trains emergency personnel, provides information to families and communities, and assists in recovery from disaster losses.

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