

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: 10/27/01 Daily Activity Report

(Jackson) – "I encourage the citizens of the State of Mississippi to **not be so focused** on the threat of terrorism and become distracted from the threat of natural disasters," said Robert Latham, Director of MEMA. "Mississippi was fortunate to have a relatively light Hurricane Season however Mississippi's second peak season for tornadoes is November."

November is Tornado Awareness Month in Mississippi. Compared with other states, Mississippi ranks number 12 for frequency of tornadoes and number 2 for number of deaths caused by tornadoes. MEMA encourages all citizens to have a Disaster Supply Kit and a Family Evacuation Plan in place to be prepared for all types of disasters.

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 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.

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The State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) at MEMA remains activated at a Level 2 with representatives from MS Department of Environmental Quality, MS Highway Patrol, State Fire Marshall's Office, and the MS State Department of Health.

Since October 18, 2001, 414 reports in 56 counties have been received by the SEOC. Most of these reported cases involve suspicious mail or the suspected presence of a suspicious substance. The reports came from the following 56 counties: Adams, Alcorn, Attala, Benton, Bolivar, Calhoun, Carroll, Claiborne, Clarke, Coahoma, Copiah, Desoto, Forrest, George, Grenada, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Kemper, Lafayette, Lauderdale, Leake, Lee, Lincoln, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Neshoba, Newton, Oktibbeha, Panola, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Pontotoc, Quitman, Rankin, Scott, Simpson, Stone, Sunflower, Tate, Tunica, Union, Walthall, Warren, Washington, Webster, and Yazoo.

All HazMat, Fire & Rescue, Law Enforcement, and Medical/Health teams in the State remain on high alert. **The total number of samples received at the State Health Department Lab is 146.**

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