

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Response to Incidents in Rosedale and Natchez

Jackson - "The FBI investigation confirms the initial findings of the State and Local officials that there was no intentional or accidental release of any product on any individual or individuals from the incidents involving airplanes in Rosedale and Natchez," said Robert Latham, Director of MEMA.

The FBI interviewed the men fishing in the pleasure craft on the Mississippi River in Rosedale. The occupants in the pleasure craft contacted the FBI when they heard the information from the reports on the news media. The men saw a yellow crop duster flying over and it appeared to dip its wing, discharge a puff of smoke from the engine, and continue to fly up the river. They did not see or feel any release from the plane. The MS State Health Department biological tests confirmed there was no Anthrax present from the samples they tested. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Athens, Georgia is conducting further diagnostic testing.

The FBI interviewed the gentlemen and his grandson that flew over the land-based Coast Guard facility in Natchez. The gentlemen reported that he did fly over the area in an airplane and his plane was not equipped to spray or release anything into the air.

"A very light ash-like material was sampled from the area, and the material tested negative for anthrax," said Eric Dear, head of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's Emergency Response Division. "Further diagnostic testing is being done. The original source of this material was likely from ground level and carried by the wind."

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