MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **FEBRUARY 14, 2001** **10:30 A.M.**
SUBJECT: WAYNESBORO WELL FIRE

(Waynesboro) – On February 13, 2001, Author Norad, Wayne County Emergency Management Director, reported an oil well blowout in Waynesboro, MS. The Wayne County Sheriff's Department ordered a three-mile evacuation zone around the oil well. Citizens were advised to evacuate to local hotels until the area is declared safe by the local officals.

Noble Drilling Company in conjunction with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office called in Boots & Coots Oilfield firefighters to try to control the situation. The US Coast Guard Strike Team, requested by MDEQ, responded to the incident with air monitoring equipment and technical support to Wayne County. The Wayne County Board of Supervisors signed a proclamation of the existence of a local emergency.

The cause of the oil well blowout is under investigation. Currently, oil well equipment is the only damage being reported.

As an effort to provide a coordinated State response to the well fire, MEMA and MDEQ are lending support to Wayne County officials and residents to ensure a safe environment for the return of the local citizens.

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