

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Urges Calm, Caution in Response To Recent Anthrax Exposures

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today urged all Mississippians to remain calm in light of recent incidents of anthrax exposures through the mail system, and also called on people to use caution when opening their mail.

“The incidents in Florida, New York and yesterday on Capitol Hill have us all concerned, but we can’t let these concerns dominate our lives,” Musgrove said. “It is important for us to exercise caution in handling mail. At the same time, the terrorists win if they completely disrupt our way of life. We simply can’t let that happen.”

Musgrove, along with Attorney General Mike Moore, Dr. Ed Thompson of the State Department of Health, Robert Latham of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, and Commissioner David Huggins of the Department of Public Safety, announced that law enforcement and public safety agencies across the state had been issued a protocol for handling emergency calls regarding anthrax.

At the press conference, Musgrove also announced he has issued an executive order establishing a State Incident Management System, based on the National Interagency Incident Management System. Under this system, all state and local emergency response agencies and personnel will coordinate their work under common terminology, communications and command.

“To provide the best response to the emergency needs of the state, we must have a system in place under which agencies can best coordinate their actions,” said Musgrove.