



# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ELEVEN COUNTIES AWARDED \$75,500 FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS**

(Jackson, MS) — Governor Ronnie Musgrove and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Director Robert Latham today announced \$75,500 in grants awards to eleven counties for hazardous materials preparedness. The grants will assist the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) in Claiborne, DeSoto, Jackson, Lauderdale, Newton, Oktibbeha, Pontotoc, Tishomingo, Tunica, Wayne, and Yazoo Counties with prevention, mitigation and public education about hazardous chemicals in their communities.

“Preparedness is a priority of this administration,” said Musgrove. “We are working hard to ensure the safety and security of our communities and will do everything necessary to protect our people. These grants will assist in that mission.”

“We are pleased to be able to award funds for all eleven of the grant applications received by LEPCs throughout the state,” said MEMA Director Robert Latham. “These funds require no local match and are available to LEPCs to provide hazardous materials training for emergency responders and educational materials for the public.”

The funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation and State of Mississippi under the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant program. The grants awarded are:

Claiborne County LEPC	\$4,200
DeSoto County LEPC	\$6,500
Jackson County LEPC	\$4,300
Lauderdale County LEPC	\$7,700
Newton County LEPC	\$6,700
Oktibbeha County LEPC	\$4,400
Pontotoc County LEPC	\$5,200
Tishomingo County LEPC	\$6,200
Tunica County LEPC	\$6,700
Wayne County LEPC	\$5,700
Yazoo County LEPC	\$5,700

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All grant monies awarded must be expended by the LEPC on or before September 30, 2004. Local Emergency Planning Committees will have an additional opportunity to apply for 2005 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grants in July of 2004.

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