

Flood Awareness Week
Press Conference with MEMA
Monday, April 23, 2001
10:30 a.m.
Capitol Rotunda

Talking Points

- Good Morning
- On New Year's Day in 1927, many parts of the Mississippi River began reaching flood stage levels, which was the earliest time in any year on record.
- But, that was only the beginning.
- By spring, heavy rains began to fall over the Mid Mississippi Valley.
- In April, after 13 levees along the Mississippi River broke, widespread flooding encompassed 27,000 square miles.
- Flooding continued for 153 consecutive days.
- This catastrophe caused more than a thousand deaths, forced almost a million people from their homes and ruined more than 5 million acres of farmland.

- You can see why it is appropriate that flood awareness week be recognized during the month of April.
- It has been 74 years since The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927, but flooding still affects many parts of our state today.
- Just last month, Attala and Holmes counties experienced heavy rains, which resulted in extensive flooding.
- Since the 1979 flood in Jackson, much has been done to alleviate flooding in our state.
- Flood control efforts have improved much in Mississippi.
- But even with the improvements, flooding can still disrupt lives and can destroy homes and businesses.
- Flooding is a natural disaster, for which we can only do so much to control.
- It is a fight between “mankind and nature.”

- And as you can guess, many times mankind does not win the battle.
- Through the efforts of MEMA and the Association of Flood Plain Managers of Mississippi, we are making more Mississippians aware of the dangers of flooding.
- Mother Nature continually keeps Robert Latham and his staff at MEMA busy.
- Mississippians constantly rely on their relief efforts and information, and for that, I would like to say “thank you.”
- (Recognize Robert Latham to say a few words.)
- Flooding, like all natural disasters, does not discriminate.
- It can affect every class and race, young and old, rich and poor.
- We must continue to join together to make improvements in Mississippi that make our state an even better place for all of us to call home.