



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2010

Flooding expected in Mississippi today

PEARL – According to meteorologists with the National Weather Service as much as four to five inches of rain fell in portions of Central and North Mississippi, with as much as five additional inches expected fall today and Monday morning in some of those same areas.

Specifically, areas in the Delta and other low-lying areas could experience flash-flooding which can cover roadways causing highways to become impassable. This flooding may also affect residential areas.

That's why the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency wants to inform families of the danger that flooding can cause.

During a Flood

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.

If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:

- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.

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"Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property"
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Flood Facts

- As little as six inches of moving water can knock pedestrians off their feet.
- A foot of water will float moving vehicles, and two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles and pick-up trucks.

Media should call Joint Information Center in Mobile at 985-902-5231/5240.

For more information, contact the State Emergency Joint Information Center at 866-920-MEMA (6362), or visit us online at www.msema.org. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook using the keyword MSEMA.

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