



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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Flood Awareness Week

PEARL – The state of Mississippi averages nearly 60 inches of rain each year which can cause flooding in our state. This is why Governor Haley Barbour has declared March 15-19 as Flood Awareness Week in Mississippi.

Flooding is the most common and costliest disaster in our state. Last year alone damages from flooding cost Mississippi residents nearly \$19 million. This high risk is why the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, the Association of Floodplain Managers of Mississippi and the National Weather Service are teaming up to educate residents about their flood risk.

This is why residents are encouraged to take this time to learn what their flood risk is and the benefits of buying flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program.

“A common misconception is that people who are not required to carry flood insurance aren’t at risk of flooding,” said MEMA Director Mike Womack. “But that’s just not the case. Most Mississippians are at risk of flooding if the conditions are just right.”

The entire state of Mississippi is a mapped flood zone with more than 5 million acres fall within the “High Risk Zones” which means we all share some risk.

Since the creating of the NFIP in 1978 there have been 41 Presidential Disaster declarations in Mississippi, 29 of those declarations were for flooding at a cost of nearly \$3 billion.

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