



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Severe Weather Outbreak

Pearl – Several counties are reporting damage from the severe weather sweeping through parts of north and west Mississippi today.

The National Weather Service in Jackson issued a statement this afternoon that the strong thunderstorm system moving through the state is capable of producing pea-sized to dime size hail and 40 to 50 mile per hour winds. Very heavy rain and lightning are possible with this storm.

MEMA Director Mike Womack urges residents to pay attention to the weather alerts for their areas and take proper precautions.

“If a tornado warning is issued for your area, take cover immediately,” Womack said. “If you are inside, get to the lowest level of the building or an interior room without windows. Crouch down and cover your head. If you are outside, get into a low lying area such as a ditch.”

High winds associated with the severe thunderstorm system can bring down large trees and limbs and can result in serious injury or property damage. MEMA asks residents to stay inside if possible while the thunderstorm passes. People in northern Adams and Jefferson counties should monitor this storm closely, said the weather service.

The following counties have reported damage to MEMA:

Bolivar – Damage in Benoit and Skene, mainly roofs and fallen trees.

Humphreys – Tree limbs downed and one camper rolled over.

Sunflower – Numerous trees and power lines down.

Washington – Damage south of Highway 438. Mobile homes damaged.

MEMA will update information as it becomes available.

For more information please visit us at www.msema.org or call our media line at 866-920-6362 or on-call public information officer Katherine Gunby at 769-798-1336.

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