



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2010

State Prepares For Heavy Snow

PEARL – The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, along with other key state agencies are preparing for a strong winter storm system that is forecast to dump heavy snow in the central and southern parts of the state. The National Weather Service is forecasting up to nine inches of snow south of Interstate 20 beginning tonight and lasting through Friday afternoon. Several inches of snow are also forecast for areas north of I-20.

Earlier today Governor Haley Barbour issued a state of emergency for the entire state in advance of the weather.

The following is a list of preparations being made by state agencies:

MEMA: Keeping in close contact with local emergency managers to provide resources if necessary. For updates follow us on Facebook and twitter using **MSEMA**.

MS Dept. of Education: The Mississippi Department of Education has asked district superintendents to report school closings to the department and closings will be listed on www.mde.k12.ms.us.

MS Dept. of Transportation: MDOT will have crews monitoring the roadways at all times out in each district, especially the bridges and overpasses since they tend to ice first. MDOT maintenance crews will be out on the roads with trucks to salt/gravel those icy roadways. For road condition updates go to www.mstraffic.com.

MS Dept. of Public Safety: The Emergency Operations Center at MDPS Headquarters call center is scheduled to be activated Friday at 6 a.m. The public can call 800-843-5352 to get updated with the latest road and weather conditions for their area. The public can also go to, www.dps.state.ms.us look under road conditions to find district by district information.

MS Department of Human Services: The MS Dept. of Human Services is monitoring weather conditions and will close county offices as local Emergency Management officials deem necessary. The State Office will follow the lead of the Department of Finance and Administration and the Office of the Governor with an announcement made prior to 6:00 a.m. Friday.

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“Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property”
Visit us online at www.msema.org

MS Department of Mental Health: The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) announces the following county health department sites – including regional home health offices and Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Food and Nutrition Education Program (WIC) warehouses – will be closed Friday due to inclement weather: **Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jones, Jefferson Davis, Marion, Lamar, Perry, Wayne.** As weather conditions worsen, more county health departments may also close. MSDH advises calling before visiting health departments. “Fast Lane” senior citizen flu clinics planned for Friday in these counties are cancelled. For more information, visit the MSDH website at www.HealthyMS.com or call us toll-free at 1-866-HLTHY4U (1-866-458-4948).

MS Department of Mental Health: DMH continues to keep in contact with its facilities to monitor any needs related to the weather. The goal of DMH and its facilities is to ensure the safety of all people affected or potentially affected. For a complete list of program closings visit <http://www.dmh.ms.gov/disaster.htm>.

MS 211: Hotline can be accessed from any phone around the state by simply dialing 211 just as you would 911 for an emergency. Our call specialists can connect callers to the help they need--from shelter information to financial assistance with heating bills.

MS Public Broadcasting: Mississippians can stay informed of the latest weather updates, road conditions and shelter information across the state by tuning to Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Follow MPB weather updates on Twitter.

For more information, contact MEMA External Affairs at 866-920-MEMA (6362), or visit us online at www.msema.org.

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