



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Snow covers Mississippi, causes dangerous road conditions

PEARL – The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is monitoring the winter storm as it moves across the state. As of this morning parts of central Mississippi have reported more than four inches of snow accumulation and power outages in at least 13 counties.

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

Governor Haley Barbour: Today the Governor ordered state offices closed south of U.S. 82 due to snowy and icy conditions.

Governor Barbour declared a State of Emergency on Thursday and alerted the National Guard to be prepared to respond to emergencies. The Department of Public Safety and MEMA are also aiding local communities. Agency directors have the discretion to decide whether key personnel or emergency officials should report to work.

MEMA: The State Emergency Operations Center in Pearl is activated with key partner state agencies ready to assist local communities if needed. The agency is keeping in close contact with local emergency managers to monitor developing weather conditions in the impacted areas. For updates follow us on Facebook and Twitter using **MSEMA**.

MS Department of Transportation: MDOT advises motorists to take caution while traveling through the state as the winter weather system pushes across Mississippi. Ice and snow have accumulated on roads and bridges throughout the state. MDOT has already begun deicing roads in the following counties: Jefferson, Issaquena, Yazoo, Humphreys, Holmes, Lexington, Hinds, Sharkey, Warren, Scott, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Forrest, Lamar, Perry, Greene, Jones, Wayne, Clarke, Copiah, Claiborne, Jasper and Lauderdale Counties. Areas along I-220 near Highway 80, along I-20 at Clinton, and bridges in Warren County, have reportedly begun icing over. Motorists are encouraged to buckle up for safety, drive safely, stay alert and slow down. MDOT will keep motorists posted on road conditions as information becomes available.

For the most up-to-date information in your area, please visit www.mstraffic.com and sign up for traffic alerts. For more information on road conditions, please call MDOT at 601-359-7074.

MS Department of Public Safety: The Emergency Operations Center at MDPS Headquarters call center has been activated. The public can call 800-843-5352 to get updated with the latest road and

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weather conditions for their area or visit www.dps.state.ms.us and look under road conditions to find district by district information.

MS Department of Education: District superintendents are to report school closings to the department and closings will be listed on www.mde.k12.ms.us.

MS Department of Human Services: All State offices below Highway 82 are closed.

MS Institutions of Higher Learning: Officials announced this morning that Alcorn State University, Jackson State University and the University of Southern Mississippi are closed.

MS Department of Health: The following county health department sites – including regional home health offices and Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Food and Nutrition Education Program warehouses – are closed due to inclement weather: Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jones, Jefferson Davis, Marion, Lamar, Perry and 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. 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.

MS State Treasurer: Although all state offices are closed, Deputy State treasurer Liz Welch can be contacted at 601-672-4777.

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

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