



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 a.m., Jan. 7, 2010

****Correction State Winter Weather Update****

PEARL – MEMA and state agencies are prepared for the winter weather moving into our state this morning. Wednesday Governor Haley Barbour issued a state of emergency in advance of this wintery blast.

The current National Weather Service forecast calls for rain, sleet and snow with sub freezing temperatures moving into much of the state by this afternoon. Temperatures are forecast to remain below freezing through the weekend for much of the state.

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

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

MS Dept. of Education: School closing can be found on the Mississippi Department of Education's Web site at www.mde.k12.ms.us.

MS Dept. of Transportation: MDOT crews are reporting ice roads and bridges in Alcorn, Benton, Bolivar, Calhoun, Coahoma, Desoto, Lee, Marshall, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union and Yalobusha counties. MDOT crews are working to clear these roadways of ice. All roads and bridges have been reported as passable.

MS State Dept. of Health: MSDH Emergency Response Coordinators across the state are continually checking on healthcare facilities licensed by MSDH to ensure they are prepared for impending winter weather and that they are able to continue all standard operations. The MSDH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services continues to remind State EMS of the immediate response necessary to residents exposed to extreme weather. More information on staying safe and healthy during severe winter weather is available on www.healthmys.com.

MS Institutions of Higher Learning: Classes have been cancelled at MSU, MUW and UM today due to the developing weather situation. Please refer to university Web sites for more specific information. Questions for IHL can be sent to lrsmith@mississippi.edu.

MS Dept. of Public Safety: MDPS has an 800 number the public can call to get updated with the latest road and weather conditions for their area. That number is 800-843-5352. Mississippians can also go to, www.dps.state.ms.us look under road conditions to find district by district information.

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

MS Attorney General: “Consumer Tips for Storm Victims” guide can be found at www.agjimhood.com . Many of these tips are applicable in winter/ice storms. Consumers with concerns or any fraud related complaints can call the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-281-4418.

MS State Fire Marshal: Fire safety information and tips are available in the special Holiday and Heating Fire Safety Web page on www.mid.state.ms.us.

MS Department of Human Services: Marshall County DHS office is closed. Currently all other county offices are open. Closings, if necessary, will be announced through MS Public Broadcasting and other local media sources as available.

MS Commission for Volunteer Service: MCVS has made initial preparations to manage a potential volunteer response, including placing two AmeriCorps NCCC Disaster Response Teams on standby and notifying Mississippi Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters to issue a tentative alert to affiliates. MCVS will work with local emergency managers to establish Volunteer Reception Centers as needed.

MS National Guard: The Mississippi National Guard is fully prepared to support state and local authorities with manpower and equipment statewide during and after this winter weather threat.

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. Starting today, MPB will increase its weather and emergency information reports. Follow MPB weather updates on Twitter.

MS Forestry Commission: The Forestry Commission is prepared to provide wildfire protection in the event of any wildfire activity occurring during this period of severely cold weather. Also, the Forestry Commission stands ready to provide assistance to county emergency coordinators in response to damages caused by an ice storm event.

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

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