



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11:30a.m., Jan. 7, 2010

State Winter Weather Update

PEARL – MEMA and state agencies continue to monitor the progress of the winter weather moving through the state. 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, announcements and preparations being made by state agencies:

MEMA: Panola EMA is reporting one weather related traffic fatality on highway 51. MEMA continues to keep 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 Transportation: MDOT crews are reporting ice roads and bridges in Alcorn, Benton, Bolivar, Calhoun, Chickasaw, 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 Department of Human Services: DHS offices are closed in the following counties: Benton, Calhoun, Grenada, Itawamba, Kemper, Lee, Lowndes, Marshall, Monroe, Noxubee Oktibbeha, Pontotoc, Tate, Tippah, Union and Winston counties. Chickasaw County DHS will close at noon and Itawamba offices will close at 2 p.m. Currently all other county offices are open. Closings will be announced through MS Public Broadcasting and other local media sources as available. Follow the Mississippi Department of Human Services on Twitter at: http://twitter.com/MS_DHS

MS Dept. of Public Safety: MDPS has activated its 800 number which the public can call to get 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.

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.

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

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.

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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