

Annual Report FY15



Building a Culture of Preparedness



Agency Overview

This annual report provides an overview of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency’s departments, programs, accomplishments and a summary of the federally declared disasters for Fiscal Year 2015.

MEMA was established in May 1980 to replace the Mississippi Civil Defense Council as the state agency charged with preserving the life and property of Mississippi residents during all types of emergencies and disasters. MEMA coordinates preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation efforts with all 82 counties, their municipalities and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

The mission of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is to coordinate activities that will save lives, protect property and reduce the suffering of Mississippi’s citizens and their communities impacted by disasters through a comprehensive and integrated program of disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation initiatives.

This year marked 10 years since the worst natural disaster in U.S. history took place in Mississippi on August 29, 2005 as Hurricane Katrina hit the state. The entire Mississippi Gulf Coast was devastated with 238 people killed and nearly every structure damaged or destroyed in the three coastal counties. All 82 counties and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians were included in the Federal Disaster Declaration (DR-1604). While recovery still continues, MEMA and FEMA have closed out 95 percent of the more than 11,000 public assistance recovery projects.

MEMA has six offices within the agency in addition to the Executive Branch which oversees External Affairs, Geographic Information Systems, Logistics, Search and Rescue, and the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program.

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Executive Branch

The Agency is led by MEMA Executive Director Robert Latham Jr., who was appointed by Gov. Phil Bryant in January 2012, manages all daily operations and serves as the Governors Authorized Representative of MEMA; Chief of Staff Bill Brown oversees the Agency's deputy directors, the senior attorney and implements the strategic guidance of the Executive Director; Deputy Director Richard Wilson oversees the Logistics Bureau, Office of Preparedness, Office of Response and Office of Field Services; and Deputy Director Deb Biggers oversees the Offices of Mitigation, Recovery, and Support Services.

Areas within the Executive Branch include:

External Affairs focuses on educating Mississippians on preparedness during non-disaster times, and provides emergency public information to the media and citizens during times of crisis and disaster through multiple communications platforms.

In FY15, External Affairs staff:

- Coordinated statewide preparedness campaigns for earthquakes, fall/spring severe weather, hurricanes, tornadoes and winter weather.
- Produced more than 100 news releases.
- Conducted 15 community preparedness presentations.
- Conducted a joint information center workshop for all state public information officers.
- Reached 60,000 "likes" on Facebook, the third highest number for any state emergency management agency. Messaging through social media posts reached more than one million people.
- Coordinated five Mitigation Kids Campaign events.
- Appointed Lead of National Emergency Management Association PIO Subcommittee.
- Taught five basic Public Information Officer courses and one joint information system course to more than 100 emergency responders.
- Coordinated state/county emergency management office meetings with Mississippi congressional delegation in Washington D.C.
- Presented at the National Hurricane Conference.
- Worked with Gov. Bryant's staff on the reports and events surrounding the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.
- Conducted more than 20 tours of the SEOC.
- Coordinated emergency management day at the State Capitol.
- Conducted two tests of the Mississippi Emergency Alert System.



MEMA Executive Director Robert Latham addressing the media in Laurel with Gov. Phil Bryant on December 24, 2014 following a tornado that killed two people in Jones County.

Executive Branch

The Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program has a program manager and a trainer. The program maintains state emergency response plans and procedures associated with preparation and response to an incident at the two nuclear power plants affecting areas within Mississippi; Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS) located near Port Gibson in Claiborne County and the River Bend Nuclear Station located in St. Francisville, La.

In FY15, REPP activities included:

- Preparations for a Grand Gulf Hostile Action Based Graded Exercise to be held in October of FY16.
- An Emergency Response Organization “Green” team drill was held on February 25, 2015 at GGNS.
- Claiborne County Incident Command Post exercise on May 12, 2015.
- GGNS “Yellow” team drill on May 26, 2015.
- Radiation practice drill completed with Claiborne County Hospital on May 28, 2015.
- Regular communication drills were initiated by GGNS. Operational Hot Line roll call communications drills conducted weekly each Wednesday. Both MEMA and Mississippi Highway Patrol participated.
- Monthly INFORM and OHL communication drills performed every third Wednesday with participation from MEMA and MHP.
- Quarterly site training drills were conducted with participation by MEMA, MEMA Planning, External Affairs and Communications, Mississippi State Department of Health/Division of Radiological Health, and MSDH/DRH Field Teams.

Geographic Information Systems has a coordinator and a specialist. MEMA Executive Director Robert Latham Jr. also chairs the Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems. MCCRSGIS was created by the State Legislature, HB 861, in 2003. Mark Sanders, the MEMA GIS Coordinator, serves as Mr. Latham’s MCCRSGIS advisor.

GIS has the hardware and software to capture, store, develop and design all types of geographic data to support all the phases of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities. MEMA GIS has created and or distributed approximately 329 map products. These static products are both paper and or digital in nature. Thematically they range from statewide to county and municipal maps. Although not all inclusive, some of the uses for these maps are inclement weather, navigation, search and rescue, planning, training, exercising, response and situational awareness.

Exercising the latest in cloud based GIS technology, MEMA GIS has created approximately 20 web based maps. These products allow the user to access dynamic interactive digital maps via a computer link that focus on a particular subject. Some of these products include locations and data pertaining to shelters, Avian Flu, Radiological Preparedness, intermodal facilities, oil and gas well locations and a Disaster Reservists tracking map.

Further utilizing cloud based GIS and cellular technology, MEMA GIS has created mobile data collecting applications. An Avian Flu monitoring application allows inspectors from the Mississippi Board of Animal Health to monitor and collect data pertaining to locations of interest with their mobile devices. Additionally, collector applications for fire hydrant locations and tracking exercises/drills held in the state each year have been created.

Executive Branch

Logistics is led by Don Wilson, who has one deputy, and coordinates the flow of commodities and goods, along with other resources to meet the needs and requirements during the preparedness, response and recovery phases of a disaster. Logistics coordinates with other state agencies on the procurement of supplies and equipment and helps secure pre-disaster contracts for commodities like fuel, ice and meals.

Below is an inventory of the commodities stocked in the MEMA Warehouse during FY15:

Item	Quantity
Commercial Shelf Stable Meals	2,880
Commercial Shelf Stable Meals- Vendor Managed Inventory	33,912
Military MRE's	32,832
Bottled Water	61,920
Sandbags	385,000
Tarps	7,000
Bariatric Cots	66
Medical Needs Cots	50
Military Cots	210



Commodities Warehouse at MEMA Headquarters in Pearl.



Executive Branch

Search and Rescue manages the development and maintenance of a comprehensive statewide search and rescue system by working with state and local agencies involved in all search and rescue planning and operations in the state. MEMA has coordinated the formation of the four Statewide Technical Advance Rescue (STAR) Teams, that have a total of 372 trained first responders. Additionally, a Logistics Team can deploy as an element that has the capabilities to house up to 150 in a base camp, feed 300 personnel up to four meals a day with mobile feeding capabilities, and provide logistical support to deployed teams.

In FY15, a four-day full scale exercise was held in Meridian, which focused on the areas of structural collapse, high-angle rescue, and trench collapse, communications, GIS, and incident command capabilities. Trained personnel and equipment also responded to 12 SAR incidents in addition to assisting with many of the 51 reported missing persons reported throughout the state.



Search and Rescue Team training, April 18-21, 2015 in Meridian, Miss.



Office of Mitigation

The **Office of Mitigation** manages the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Floodplain Management Bureau, the Mitigation Planning Bureau, and other non-disaster grant programs, which help prevent damage and loss of life and property in future disasters.

The Mitigation Office Director, Jana Henderson, oversees the office and is also designated as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer.

The **Floodplain Management Bureau** assisted with the following in FY15: 330 National Flood Insurance Program participating communities, 27 Community Rating System Communities, 38 Community Assistance Visits, approximately 429 floodplain reviews, 42 Technical Assistance Visits or contacts and 17 local ordinance reviews. There are 70,300 NFIP policies in the state covering just over \$16.1 billion.

The **Mitigation Planning Bureau** assisted with the following in FY15: One State Hazard Mitigation Plan approved, 82 county mitigation plans completed, and two jurisdictional Mitigation Plans under development, as well as 377 jurisdictions and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians with approved plans.

The **Mitigation Grants Bureau** assists with grants to local governments following disasters. The grants bureau has 12 open disasters totaling \$411,928,684. There is also an estimated \$329,722,677 obligated for more than 250 projects and more than 20 projects under FEMA review.



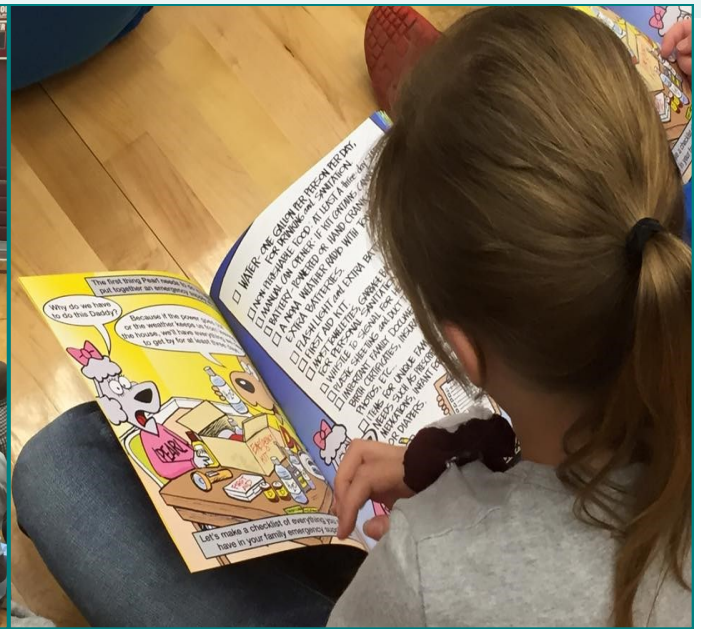
The State of Mississippi has invested more than **\$200 million** in federal, state and local dollars in a total of **11,476** safe rooms with a statewide capacity of more than **84,000**.

Mississippi has constructed:

- ◆ **Individual safe rooms: 10,918** completed with an investment of more than **\$39.5 million**.
- ◆ **FEMA 361 safe rooms: 56** completed and **34** under construction with an investment of more than **\$200 million**.
- ◆ **Community safe rooms: 212** completed with more than **\$1.3 million** invested.

Mitigation Kid's Campaign

In FY15, the Office of Mitigation launched a Kids Preparedness Campaign featuring Delta the Disaster Dog, Pearl the Preparedness Pup and Jake the Mitigation Wizard. The trio travels the state visiting their “expert” friends discussing how to prepare and mitigate against all disasters. MEMA has mascots Delta, Pearl and Jake visit schools and community events. The first school visit was to Louisville Elementary, a city hit hard by an EF-3 tornado in April 2014. First Lady Deborah Bryant read the book to students and also joined MEMA at school events in Smithville, which was devastated by an EF-5 tornado in 2011, and Columbia that was hit by an EF-3 tornado on Dec. 23, 2014. For FY15, MEMA reached more than 800 students. The program is the first step in building a new culture of preparedness. Educating our children is the best path to preparing future generations in disaster preparedness. The campaign is funded through a FEMA Mitigation grant.



First Lady Deborah Bryant in Smithville, April 29, 2015



Louisville Event, Feb. 10, 2015



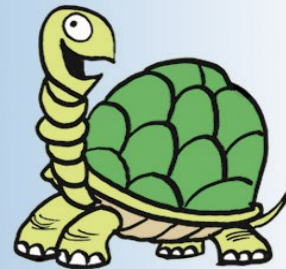
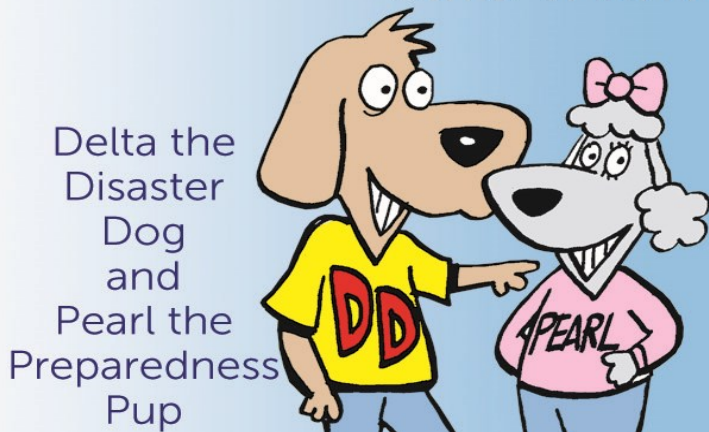
Itta Bena Event, June 26, 2015

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: A CHILD'S JOURNEY IN MISSISSIPPI



msema.org

Travel around the state with Delta, Pearl and Jake to learn how to be safe from disasters.



Gusty the Seagull

Shaky the Earthworm

Twisty the Turtle



Icy the Owl

Rainey the Raccoon

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Office of Recovery

The **Office of Recovery** is led by Larry Bowman and coordinates all recovery operations following federally declared disasters in the state. The office is comprised of two bureaus, Individual Assistance and Public Assistance.

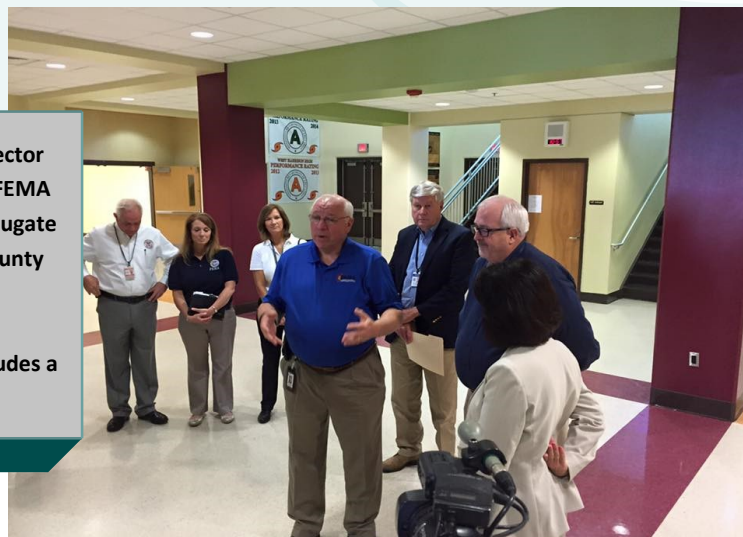
The **Individual Assistance Bureau** is responsible for administering federal aid and resources to individual citizens during presidentially declared disasters. The bureau also works with non-profit and faith based organizations in both declared and non-declared events, to assist with unmet needs of disaster survivors.

The **Public Assistance Bureau** is responsible for overseeing federal grants to local and state governments, as well as certain non-profit organizations for the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster damaged, publicly owned facilities, during presidentially declared disasters. The Agency is managing the recovery efforts for 15 disasters as of June 30, 2015. The bureau has an office in Biloxi, collocated with FEMA, called the Mississippi Recovery Office. This coast office is where all Hurricane Katrina Recovery Projects are being processed. There are more than 11,000 public assistance projects as a result of Hurricane Katrina with a total cost of more than \$3.2 billion.

In FY15 Recovery staff:

- Closed 692 Katrina projects with 380 remaining.
- Disbursed more than \$122 million in federal Katrina funds with \$394 million remaining.
- Closed 136 projects in the other 14 open disasters with 1,663 remaining.
- Disbursed more than \$23 million in federal funds for open disasters with \$261 million remaining.
- Administered the Temporary Housing Program in both Jones and Marion counties after tornadoes.
- Opened SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers after tornadoes.
- Worked closely with the Community Based Recovery Committees to provide individual assistance.

MEMA Executive Director Robert Latham with FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate visiting a Harrison County High School rebuilt following Hurricane Katrina that also includes a safe room.



DR-4205, Columbia Tornado

On Dec. 23, 2014, severe storms and tornadoes swept across Mississippi, causing five deaths and more than 50 injuries in the southern part of the state. The National Weather Service confirmed five tornadoes in Mississippi, with the worst being an EF-3 in Marion County/city of Columbia with winds near 165 mph. Three people were killed, numerous businesses, homes, mobile homes, a National Guard building and power poles and lines were heavily damaged or destroyed.

President Barack Obama partially granted Gov. Phil Bryant’s request for a Federal Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance, which provides grants for repair and rebuilding of government and non-profit infrastructure and buildings. The request for Individual Assistance to citizens was not approved. The Small Business Administration offered low interest disaster loans to residents and businesses who qualified. Columbia Strong, a community based recovery organization, assisted residents with repairs and rebuilds. Jones County, where two people were killed, was not approved in the disaster declaration.

DR-4205 Severe Storms and Tornadoes

Program:	Public Assistance
Description:	Severe Storms and Tornadoes
Projects:	24 Projects
	-20 obligated
	-Four unobligated
Eligible Obligated:	\$3,522,109.97
Federal paid:	\$2,734,007.28 (77.62%)
State:	\$261,475.49 (7.42%)

Gov. Bryant also activated the state’s disaster temporary housing assistance program that provided rental reimbursement to homeowners for up to 90 days and renters for up to 30 days.



Columbia Strong groundbreaking of a new home.



Tornado damage in Laurel where two people were killed.

FY 2015 Open Disasters Funding

Disaster	Federal Amount	Disaster Trust State Payments
1550	\$ 146,259.79	\$ 109,432.07
1604	\$ 122,448,112.12	\$
1764	\$ 49,971.32	\$ 23,404.75
1794	\$ 642,345.99	\$ 256,251.06
1837	\$	\$ 22,890.66
1906	\$	\$ 466,353.07
1916	\$ 212,784.07	\$ 16,191.05
1972	\$ 1,188,860.19	\$ 637,433.06
1983	\$ 50,451.73	\$ 136,246.40
3291	\$	\$ 1,201.05
3320	\$	\$
4081	\$ 768,254.65	\$ 31,999.53
4101	\$ 377,677.01	\$ 1,305.90
4175	\$ 18,325,667.45	\$ 383,874.78
4175-Disaster Case Management	\$ 98,679.49	
4205	\$ 1,822,738.82	\$
	\$ 146,131,802.63	2,086,583.38

Grants/Other Funding

Preparedness			Response	
			Health Department	\$ 139,432.54
Earthquake	\$ 7,919.74	Federal		
HMEP	\$ 208,142.88	Federal		
Waste Isolation Pilot Program (WIPP)	\$ 75,924.23	Other	EMPG (Federal)	
Radiological Emergency Planning (REP) Program	\$ 228,558.00	Other	State	\$ 1,667,544.16
			Local	\$ 2,729,584.56
				\$ 4,397,128.72
				\$ 4,537,157.00

Office of Support Services

The **Office of Support Services** is led by Chris Fields and coordinates all financial and personnel issues for the agency. The Office is comprised of four bureaus: Human Resources, Facilities, Property and Fleet, Accounting and Finance, and Information Technology.

The **Human Resources Bureau** oversees all matters associated with 109 full-time, 49 time-limited and 21 contract positions.

The **Facilities, Property and Fleet Bureau** oversees all matters associated with property accounting, fleet management and facilities maintenance.

The **Accounting and Finance Bureau** oversees grants, grant review, internal auditing, payroll, travel, contracts, purchasing and accounts payable.

Information Technology is responsible for providing and managing hardware and software updates to network servers, computers, communications networks, set-up of information networks in field offices and storage devices. The bureau is also tasked with establishing email accounts, setting user permissions on the file server, training on the technical equipment used at the Agency and managing an internal firewall to prevent security breaches. MEMA has one of the most advanced, centrally controlled wireless networks in state government. The system allows wireless laptop “roaming” throughout the facility.



Office of Preparedness

The **Office of Preparedness** is led by JoEl Langford and coordinates all emergency planning activities, training programs and exercising the plans within the state. The Office is comprised of three bureaus: Planning, Training and Exercise.

The **Planning Bureau** is responsible for providing emergency planning assistance to state agencies and local governments, including the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Last year, the staff produced 22 incident action plans and situation reports during emergencies. In FY15, the bureau also assisted 21 counties with completing a Basic Incident Plan Review and Revision of Emergency Support Function Annexes.

The **Training Bureau** oversees a wide range of emergency management and first responder training for all levels of government, private industry and volunteer organizations. Courses are offered statewide by a team of training officers in a field delivered environment. In FY15, the bureau conducted 126 courses for more than 2,500 students.

The **Exercise Bureau** oversees emergency management exercises as required for those counties receiving matching federal funding. This includes offering exercise design courses, assisting with scenario development and providing on-scene evaluators, controllers or simulators during the exercise. In FY15, the bureau oversaw 50 exercises with a total participation of more than 3,800 statewide.



Basic Public Information Officer course in McComb, Miss. May 21, 2015



Search and Rescue Exercise in Meridian, Miss. April 20, 2015

Office of Field Services

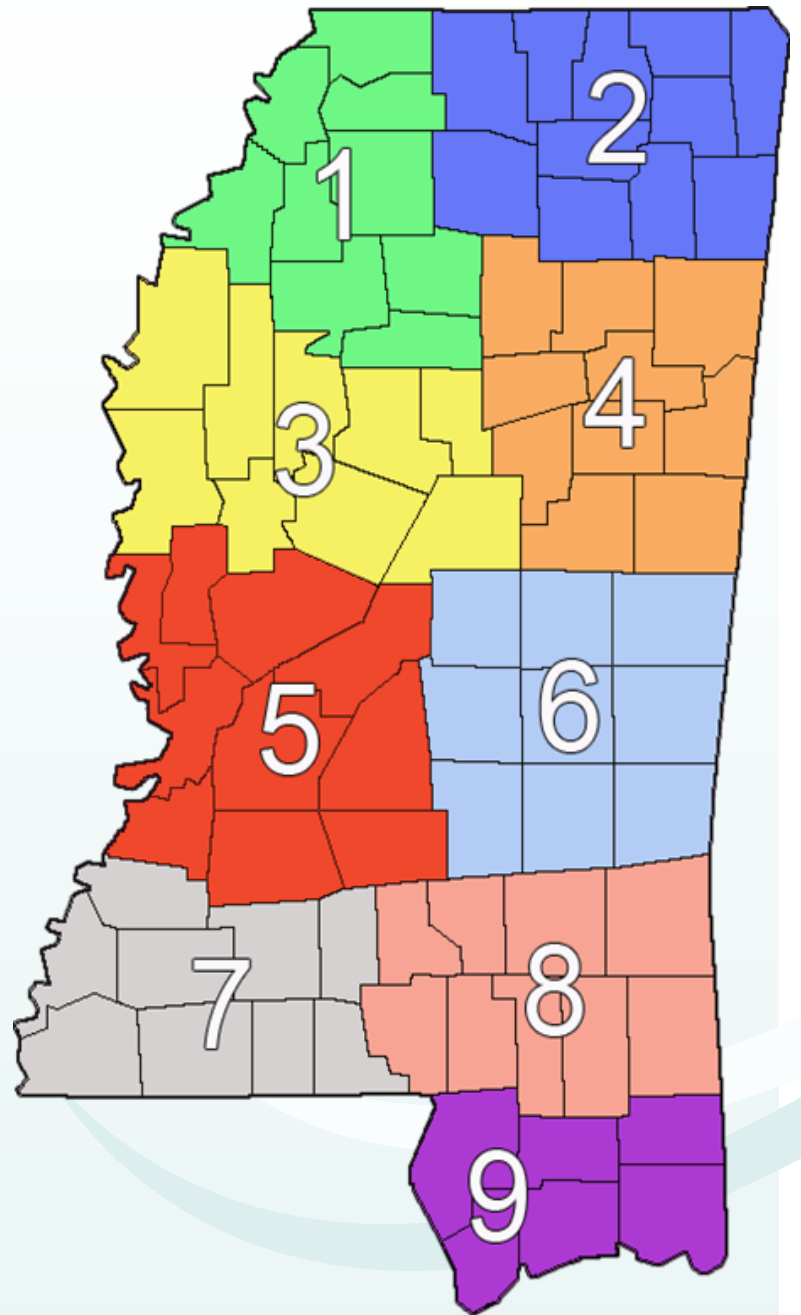
The **Office of Field Services** is led by Harrell Neal and is responsible for the Statewide Mutual Aid Compact between all cities, counties and municipalities, including the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to provide assistance for major incidents and events. Field Services also administers the Emergency Management Performance Grant to local jurisdictions.

There are nine Area Coordinators under the office director who are assigned to the nine MEMA districts established in the state. Area Coordinators work with local jurisdictions in emergency management activities and incidents.

During disasters, Area Coordinators assist local officials with damage assessments, identifying urgent needs, understanding available resources and coordinating state resources to assist local responders.

Area Coordinators are the Agency's liaisons and help to ensure that MEMA has good situational awareness to support local governments as necessary.

In FY15, Area Coordinators conducted more than 30 district meetings around the state to support county emergency management programs.



Office of Response

The **Office of Response** is led by Chad Callender and coordinates the state’s response, through the State Emergency Operations Center, to any type of natural, technological or man-made emergency. The office consists of two bureaus: Operations and Communications.

The **Operations Bureau** is responsible for the activation of the State Emergency Operations Center, coordinating all emergency support functions, and establishing priorities for the allocation of resources. The bureau also maintains operational control of the State Emergency Response Team and the Mobile Operations Center. Additionally, the bureau is responsible for the administration of WebEOC and training local, state and federal partners on its usage. In FY15, the Operations Bureau offered 24 WebEOC training courses, deployed for three events and activated the SEOC seven times.

The **Communications Bureau** is designated as the state’s 24-hour warning point. The bureau is responsible for alerting local, state and federal officials to all natural, man-made or technological incidents in the state. These alerts include: severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, hazardous materials incidents and others. The bureau monitors the statewide interoperable radio system, MSWIN, which includes more than 40 mutual aid and special event talk groups, in addition to links with all surrounding states. The bureau is also responsible for permitting of low level radiological shipments and daily tracking of transportation throughout the state.

MEMA’s Mobile Operations Center



MEMA’s Alvin C. Reynolds Communications Center

State Emergency Operations Center Activations

Sept. 9, 2014	Desoto County Flooding
Oct. 14, 2014	Severe Weather in Lowndes and Oktibbeha counties
Jan. 3, 2015	Winter Weather
Jan. 26-Feb. 1, 2015	Mobile Command Trailer deployed to Smith County well explosion
Feb. 15-17, 2015	Winter Weather
Feb. 19-20, 2015	Winter Weather
Feb. 22-26, 2015	Winter Weather
March 4-5, 2015	Winter Weather



Gov. Phil Bryant briefing on winter weather, Feb. 19, 2015.



Smith County Well Explosion, Jan. 26, 2015

SEOC Incident Reports for FY2015

Amber Alerts	7	White Powder Incident	3
Aircraft ELT	2	Wreck/Non-HAZMAT	108
Aircraft Incidents	13	Fire Danger Statement	1
Boil Water Notices	588	Flash Flood Watches	38
Bomb Threat/Susp. Pkg.	38	Flash Flood Warnings	132
Drill/Exercises	141	Fog Advisory	18
Dam Failures	2	Freeze Watch	1
Earthquake	2	Freeze Warnings	4
Explosions	3	Freezing Rain Advisory	6
Fire Incidents	19	Thunderstorm Watch	12
Fish Kills	3	Thunderstorm Warning	553
Hazardous Materials	531	Tornado Watch	17
Hazardous Road Conditions	317	Tornado Warnings	61
Mass Casualty	2	Tsunami Statements	17
Missing/Endangered Child	4	Urban & Small Stream	5
Missing Persons	29	Wind Advisory	1
Power Outages	54	Winter Storm Watch	12
Radiological	2	Winter Storm Warning	17
Search and Rescue	12	Damage Reports	77
Security	8	Storm Damage Reports (No DR)	73
School/Office Closures	371	Proclamation/Resolution	36
Shelters/Warming Centers	27		
Silver Alert	11		
Sinkhole	2		

Total Reports: 3,602

Emergency Management Performance Grant

The Emergency Management Performance Grant is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and disbursed to eligible states. MEMA uses a portion of the grant Mississippi receives, but at least 60 percent of the state's total is sent to county emergency management agencies.

The purpose of the EMPG is to assist states and local governments in preparing for all-hazards, as authorized by the federal Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The EMPG is a 50/50 cost share for the state and counties, and funds cannot be matched with other federal funding.

MEMA uses EMPG funding, combined with state and private funding, for salaries and to fund programs like exercise, planning, training and GIS to carry out the program priorities of the grant and assist county emergency managers.

Counties must apply for the grant and the funding is based on a population formula. As a result of this grant, Mississippi has 78 full-time and five part-time county emergency managers, which includes the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Emergency Management Assistance Compact

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact is an agreement signed by all 50 states and U.S. Territories that allows state to state assistance during a Governor's State of Emergency or Federal Disaster Declaration. All costs incurred during a mission are paid for by the requesting state. Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Mississippi received assistance from 45 states with more than 25,000 personnel.

In FY15, Mississippi was involved in three missions:

- Aug. 8-22, 2014** Deployed five personnel to Hawaii to support emergency operations for a tropical storm.
- April 2015** North Carolina demobilized its Mobile Disaster Hospital from Winston County where it operated for a full year following the tornado disaster in April 2014.
- June 7-July 6, 2015** Deployed a member of the Mississippi Board of Animal Health to Iowa to support the state veterinarian during the historic Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak.

Coastal Retrofit Mississippi

As a result of Hurricane Katrina, the Coastal Retrofit Mississippi mitigation project was implemented to assist homeowners with making their homes more wind resistant. Roof, window and door retrofits were designed to meet or exceed all local building codes and were part of an engineered system specifically designed for each home.

Also, as the project evolved, the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety's Bronze Category retrofits were added as available packages. The Bronze category focused on roof cover, roof decking and attic ventilation systems to include soffits.

In November 2012, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency requested that the Federal Emergency Management Agency approve lowering the homeowner cost share for participants from 25 percent to 10 percent of the standard package cost. This meant that 90 percent of the standard package retrofit would be paid by federal funds through the hazard mitigation grant, with the remaining 10 percent the responsibility of the homeowner.

The Coastal Retrofit Mississippi project ended June 30, 2015 and is currently in financial reconciliation and closeout. Since inception and through FY 2015, Coastal Retrofit approved and completed retrofits on 945 homes. Preliminary financials indicate a projected total cost of \$29.2 million, of which \$26.3 million was federally funded.





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