## **MEMA**

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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# MEMA Fiscal Year 2022 Overview Executive Director Stephen C. McCraney



Mississippi Emergency Management
Agency (MEMA) is a multi-skilled
coordinating agency dedicated to
preserving the life and property of all
Mississippians through planning and
preparing for disasters. This year was no
exception. Having procured and delivered
resources such as water, personal protective
equipment (PPE), and contracting
healthcare personnel, MEMA continues to
display its dedication to preserving the life
and property of all its residents.

This fiscal year, MEMA requested federal assistance for the severe storms on March 22nd and 30th, as well as Hurricane Ida, a Category 4 hurricane that made landfall on August 29, 2022. The state was approved and received over \$37 million in federal assistance for Hurricane Ida recovery efforts.

Though the request for federal assistance was not approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the severe storms in March, MEMA could assist residents with purchasing materials only to repair their primary living area with funds from MEMA's Disaster Assistance Repair Program (DARP). Funds from DARP are requested by counties with an established Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC).

As MEMA disperses millions of personal protective equipment to state legislators, long-term care facilities, hospitals, and businesses, we are also poised and ready to assist with other natural and man-made disasters that may occur within the state.

Our agency remains committed to investing in local emergency management agencies by distributing 56% of our federal Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds to counties. The funds help support county efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery mission areas.

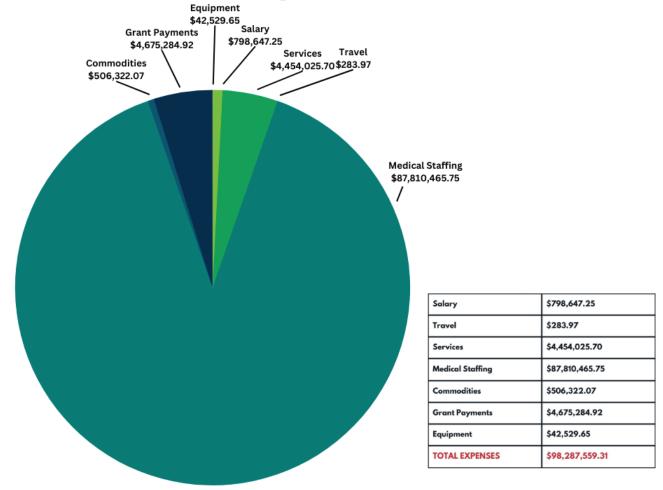
MEMA has a nationally recognized Unmanned Aerial Systems Program (UAS). This program conducts and trains pilots on how to operate and use drones to perform aerial damage assessments and assist with search and rescue missions across the state.

MEMA's dedication to life safety will not waiver. People will remain the agency's top priority.

## MEMA's COVID-19 Response: Medical Staffing and Expenses

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency was tasked to contract medical personnel to offset staffing shortages due to the surge of patients infected by the Delta variant during the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, 67 healthcare facilities received the following medical personnel: 14 physicians, 346 med surge nurses, 84 telemetry nurses, 330 ICU nurses, 49 ER nurses, 11 licensed practical nurses, 205 respiratory therapists, and 14 medics. Within nine days of the initial request, MEMA deployed over 1,000 healthcare professionals to medical facilities across the state fulfilling 94% of staffing requests. From August 26 – October 31, contracted medical professionals remained in-state to assist. The medical staffing mission cost \$87,810,465.75. FEMA has reimbursed the agency for all medical staffing payments.

## **MEMA's COVID Expenses Fiscal Year 2022**



## Office of Preparedness

MEMA's Office of Preparedness teaches emergency personnel how to prevent, respond, and recover from a natural or man-made disaster using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Using the National Preparedness Goal as its guide, the preparedness office can increase awareness and resiliency across the state.

To do this, the Office of Preparedness monitors performance under the Emergency Management Performance Grant. The Office of Preparedness plans, executes, and keeps records of courses emergency officials must complete to receive EMPG funding.

Each region of the state focuses on plans, projects, and programs specific to its area in addition to reoccurring disasters in the state. This map shows the focus area for each region in the state.

Northern Region:

- New Madrid Earthquake Plan (NMSZ)
- Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP)

#### Central Region:

- Mississippi Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan (MREPP)
- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

#### Southern Region:

- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
- State of Mississippi Evacuation Plan
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

The Office of Preparedness plays an integral role in activating the State Emergency Operations Center by filling the planning cell and providing a Planning Section Chief.

The Office of Preparedness team has many moving parts throughout the state. This fiscal year the preparedness team consists of the following:

- 1 Office Manager
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 Division Director
- 1 LEPC Coordinator
- 3 Team Leads
- 15 Preparedness Officers

Tata

North

Panola

Lafayeta

Portato

Coahonna
Custman

Tata

Panola

Lafayeta

Portato

Calhoun

Chickasaw

Monroe

Clay

Washingon

Attala

Winston

Noubee

Neshoba

Remper

North

Calhoun

Chickasaw

Monroe

Choctaw

Oktibbeha

Lowndes

Neshoba

Remper

North

Choctaw

Oktibbeha

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The Office of Preparedness is also responsible for tracking and documenting the efforts of planning, training, and exercise performance for recipients of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).

#### **Planning**

The Office of Preparedness is responsible for maintaining state-level emergency operations plans, preparedness programs and assisting local jurisdictions in whole community all-hazards planning initiatives to ensure the preparedness and resilience of the State before and after a disaster.

- Assisted all counties, including the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), in developing, reviewing, or revising their Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) and Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP). These plans are vital to ensure and maintain the State's whole community all-hazards emergency management capability.
- Provided technical assistance to institutions of higher learning in developing and maintaining their emergency operation plans.
- Revised the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP was approved in FY 2022.
- Completed the 2021 revision of the Mississippi Hurricane Plan. The plan was approved in FY 2022.
- Coordinated statewide participation in the 2021 ShakeOut Drill by distributing invitation letters, flyers, and Earthquake Preparedness Guides to school districts, local emergency management offices, community colleges, universities, and public libraries. There were 348,943 participants statewide including the Critical Seismic Areas.
- Advertised 2022 Great ShakeOut drill using bill-board displays through the Critical Seismic Areas.
- Participated in the 2022 National Earthquake Program Managers Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Mississippi's earthquake program manager was the keynote speaker who presented data from the recent liquefaction study as well as how the state addresses earthquake safety, awareness, response, and mitigation.
- Attended the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) Planning Workshop in Springfield, Illinois to discuss earthquake planning and exercise development.

- Developed a mock plan for evacuating each state in FEMA Region IV if there was a seismic event in the participating states.
- Initiated the rewrite of the Mississippi New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) Earthquake Plan.
- Assisted the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (MOHS) in completing the 2021 Threat and Hazard Incident Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Report (SPR).
- Completed the 2021 revision of the Mississippi Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan (MREPP) through coordination with whole community emergency management stakeholders.
- Attended the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Florida which focused on hurricane preparedness and response during a pandemic.
- Developed a Shelter Plan template for local emergency managers.

#### **Training**

Training courses in the Office of Preparedness are delivered to local emergency managers, first responders, state agencies, volunteer organizations, tribal communities and universities. The training provided is structured to meet this diverse audience's needs, emphasizing separate organizations working together in all-hazards emergencies to save lives and protect property. Emphasis is placed on governing doctrines such as the National Response Framework (NRF), National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Preparedness Goal (NPG), and the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

MEMA's training programs offer courses in the following categories:

- Emergency Planning
- Basic Emergency Management
- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Incident Command
- Response and Recovery
- Communication
- All-Hazard Position Specific courses
- Radiological Emergency Preparedness

Mississippi's State Training Officer oversees enrollment in Mississippi for students requesting to attend courses at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD, where more than 400 courses in emergency management are offered.

DATE	TOTAL PERSONNEL TRAINED	TOTAL NUMBER OF CLASSES
July 1 thru September 2021	330	17
October 1 thru December 2021	237	16
January 1 thru March 2022	519	31
April 1 thru June 2022	760	35

#### **Exercise**

The Office of Preparedness works with federal, tribal, state, local partner agencies and stakeholders to design, coordinate, and facilitate exercises that validate emergency planning efforts and identify training needs to promote and support a culture of preparedness for the whole community.

All exercises are aligned with exercise objectives. The mission areas and core capabilities are identified in the NPG. The exercises support training in accordance with NIMS while identifying improvement planning opportunities with HSEEP guidance.

All exercises are coordinated with federal, state, and local partners to develop and implement the Office of Preparedness Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW).

The Office of Preparedness began implementing annual Regional Exercises as outlined in the Office of Preparedness IPP. The Regional Exercises coordinated for 2021-2022 were Shelter Tabletop Exercises which were developed by local emergency managers with assistance from MEMA to validate each county's shelter support plan. A total of 80 counties and MBCI participated in the regional exercises. Also, damage assessment training utilizing CrisisTrack and County CEMP Workshops in all (Northern, Central, and Southern) regions of the state were facilitated. Inter-agency coordination was used to complete damage assessments with multiple jurisdictions in the target areas to validate and identify gaps and improvement opportunities while assessing damages resulting from a catastrophic incident in their jurisdictions. The gaps and improvement opportunities identified during the exercise will be used to revise existing plans, update procedures, and provide training opportunities to foster a culture of preparedness within the State of Mississippi.

DATE	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF EXERCISES
July 1 thru September 2021	131	6
October 1 thru December 2021	350,000	1
January 1 thru March 2022	135	5
April 1 thru June 2022	304	9

#### Radiological

The Office of Preparedness Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REP) offers a wide variety of training and exercises to prepare, prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, and recover from the potentially harmful effects of radiation and the risks associated with the transportation of radiological materials across the state. Training opportunities include:

- Refresher for Radiological Response
- Equipment Training
- Pre-Hospital Transport of Contaminated Patient
- Reception and Congregate Care of Evacuees
- Bus Driver Dosimetry
- Safety Officer Training
- Transportation Training



DATE	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF REP TRAINING EVENTS
July 1 thru September 2021	25	3
October 1 thru December 2021	139	11
January 1 thru March 2022	14	1
April 1 thru June 2022	155	7

#### **Local Emergency Planning Committee Coordinator**

The Office of Preparedness Local Emergency Planning Committee Coordinator works with all 82 local emergency managers and the MS Band of Choctaw Indians to ensure all counties have active local emergency planning committees to form a partnership with local governments and industries as a resource for enhancing hazardous materials. Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) must develop an emergency response plan, review the plan at least annually, and provide information about chemicals in the community to citizens.



## Office of Response

The Office of Response consists of Operations, Telecommunications, Field Services, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact/Mutual Aid. During Fiscal Year 22, Response was activated 25 times. This includes the COVID-19 response. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is activated when a disaster or event is imminent. In an activation, MEMA coordinates with local, state, tribal, and federal partners in anticipation of an event or disaster. The level of activation is dependent on the potential severity, impacts, and necessary personnel to respond and help recover.

Event	Time Period	Activation Level
Continued COVID-19	March 12, 2020	SEOC Level 2 (Partial)
Tropical Storm Elsa	July 1-7, 2021	SEOC Level 2 (Partial)
Severe Weather	July 11, 2021	SEOC Level 2 (Partial)
Severe Weather	August 1, 2021	SEOC Level 2 (Partial)
Tropical Storm Fred	August 11, 2021	SEOC Level 2 (Partial)
Severe Weather	August 21, 2021	SEOC Level 2 (Partial)
Hurricane Ida	August 26-31, 2021	SEOC Level 2 (Partial)
		Governor SOE, FEMA EM-3569
Severe Weather	September 1, 2021	SEOC Level 2 (Partial)
Tropical Storm Nicholas	September 12, 2021	SEOC Level 2 (Partial)
Missing Child	September 21, 2021	SEOC Level 2 (Partial)
Severe Weather	October 27-29, 2021	SEOC Level 2 (Partial)
Severe Weather	December 6, 2021	SEOC Level 4 (Normal
		Activation)
Severe Weather	December 29, 2021	SEOC Level 4 (Normal
		Activation)
Winter Weather	January 20-23, 2022	SEOC Level 3 (Virtual Activation)
Winter Weather	February 2-4, 2022	SEOC Level 4 (Normal
		Activation)
Severe Weather	February 17, 2022	SEOC Level 3 (Virtual Activation)
Severe Weather	March 7, 2022	SEOC Level 3 (Virtual Activation)
Winter Weather	March 11-12, 2022	SEOC Level 4 (Normal
		Activation)
Severe Weather	March 22, 2022	SEOC Level 3 (Virtual Activation)
Severe Weather	March 30, 2022	SEOC Level 3 (Virtual Activation)
Severe Weather	April 5, 2021	SEOC Level 3 (Virtual Activation)
Severe Weather	April 13, 2022	SEOC Level 3 (Virtual Activation)
Severe Weather	April 17, 2022	SEOC Level 4 (Normal
		Activation)
Severe Weather	May 5-7, 2022	SEOC Level 4 (Normal
		Activation)
Severe Weather	May 15, 2022	SEOC Level 4 (Normal
		Activation)
	I	'

#### **Bureaus/Branches:**

The **Operations Bureau** has a multitude of responsibilities:

- Manages the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activates the SEOC at the direction of the Executive Director
- Coordinates requests for assistance through 16 Emergency Support Functions
- Administers the state's WebEOC, which is an online asset and resource request system
- Monitors the MEMA Daily SitRoom and activates incident SitRooms during incidents or events
- Provides incident-specific situational awareness gathered at the WatchDesk through the production and distribution of Operational Summaries, Weather Summaries, and Spot Reports.





The <u>Human Services Branch</u> is a collaboration between ESF 6, ESF 11 and other supporting agencies. These ESF partners for human services work together to ensure that basic human and animal needs are met during a disaster. ESF 6 ensures that sheltering, feeding, school services, and volunteer services are coordinated and distributed throughout a time of the disaster. ESF 11 and its partners ensure that basic animal sheltering and feeding can be met during a disaster. They also coordinate after a disaster on recognizing and getting totals of farmland and supplies that are damaged during a disaster.

The Emergency Services Branch is comprised of State agencies that provide immediate emergency support following an incident. The Emergency Services branch consists of ESF 4 (Firefighting), ESF 8 (MSDH), ESF 9 (Search and Rescue), ESF 10 (MS Department of Environmental Quality), ESF 13 (Law Enforcement), and ESF 16 (Military). After an incident, ESF 4 responds to any fire suppression needs, ESF 8 responds to any medical needs, ESF 9 and ESF 13 respond to any law enforcement needs, ESF 10 responds to any environmental hazards and ESF 16 encompasses the needs of the state from the National Guard when requested.

The <u>Infrastructure Branch</u> is a partnership between ESF-1, ESF-2, ESF-3 and ESF-12 with help from supporting agencies. These Emergency Support Functions for Infrastructure services work as a team to help people in their time of need during disasters and major events. ESF-1 ensures those roadways such as highways and interstates are equipped for travel. ESF-1 also helps in disasters with barricades, traffic control and light systems. ESF-2 ensures that all communications are running such as MSWIN radios, dispatch radio systems, and major cell towers. ESF-3 makes sure all public work systems are up and running even if that means requesting a generator for cities in need of power to run their sewer systems. ESF-12 ensures that power is up and running for all power companies and counties. ESF-12 also helps in coordinating generators for businesses, nursing homes and other major companies to remain running during disaster events.

The <u>State Warning Point (SWP)</u> operates 24/7/365, with the responsibility of alerting state and local officials to all natural or man-made incidents. The SWP coordinates emergency radio communications on the state's Wireless Information Network (MSWIN) to provide situational awareness, coordinate assistance, and advise local emergency managers.

The SWP averages more than 4,500 alerts per year, including severe thunderstorms, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, Grand Gulf Nuclear Station status, and hazardous materials.

Incidents Reported to the State Warning Point for Fiscal Year 2022:

Weather Incidents: 1,039

• Transportation Incidents: 327

• Hazardous Materials: 831

AtHoc (emergency communications system) Alerts sent in Fiscal Year 2022:

• Information Alerts: 3,505

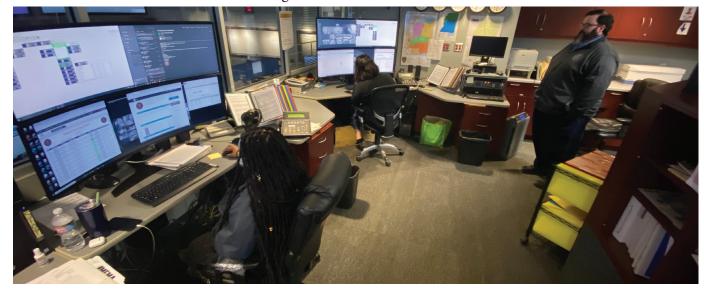
• High Severity Alerts: 937

Moderate Severity Alerts: 7

Low Severity Alerts: 1

Total number of AtHoc alerts sent in Fiscal Year 2022: 4,450

Phone calls received into the State Warning Point for Fiscal Year 2022: 4,579



**The Field Services Bureau has nine area coordinators and a bureau director.** They are responsible for working with local jurisdictions throughout the state and other MEMA offices/bureaus on emergency management activities, deployments, and day-to-day operations. The Bureau is responsible for the following components of Field Services:

- Facilitate technical assistance and guidance regarding the statutes, regulations, and policies applicable to emergency management guidelines.
- Assist local officials with the preparation and implementation of emergency plans, training, and exercises.
- Liaison with FEMA in the field.
- Organize and facilitate quarterly local district EMA meetings to help build strong working relationships with all partners.
- Coordinate deployment of state resources during disasters.
- Support local jurisdictions in coordinating damage assessments in disaster-impacted areas.
- MEMA's area coordinators are FAA Certified UAS Pilots and support the MEMA Unmanned Aerial Systems Program, including aerial damage assessment, Search and Rescue, situational awareness, etc.

In its fifth year of support to MEMA and the state, MEMA's Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Program is nationally recognized for its success and contributions to the field of UAS in support of emergency managers and first responders. MEMA's UAS Program provides statewide support to damage assessments, search and rescue efforts, response to wildland fires and hazardous materials incidents, and situational awareness missions. MEMA's UAS program provides Mississippi taxpayers with rapidly deployable aviation assets at less than one percent of the cost of traditional rotary winged aircraft. The addition of live video streaming capability has enhanced MEMA's State Emergency Operations Center's (SEOC) immediate situational awareness.

#### **Total Number of Assigned UAS Missions: 87**

• Damage Assessments: 33

• Search & Rescue: 40

Hazmat/Fires: 6

Situational Awareness: 4

• Exercise & Training Support: 4







The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE) program and the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have partnered with MEMA's UAS program. In its second year of support to ASSURE and NIST, MEMA's UAS pilots have contributed to UAS technology development as subject matter experts in NIST's annual prize competition series to advance the use of UAS by First Responders in Incident Command and Search & Rescue Operations. Additionally, MEMA's UAS program has contributed to FEMA and ASSURE's new UAS for First Responders training curriculum (AWR-422) that will be published in 2023.

#### Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Mutual Aid Report 2022

Mission Assignments

Event	Resource	Number of Missions Assigned
Hurricane Ida	Search and Rescue	1
	Mississippi National Guard	3
	Mississippi Board of Animal Health	1
	Mississippi Forestry Commission	1
	Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks	1

#### **Deployment Missions**

Event	Date	Resource	Quantity
California Wildfires	September 2021	Mississippi National Guard (MSNG)	1 CH-47 (Chinook) 10 Personnel
Louisiana-Hurricane Ida	August 2021	Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MSDPS)	20 Troopers 20 Cruisers 2 Side by Sides 2 Four Wheelers 1 CH-47 5 Personnel
		1 Engineering Company	150 Personnel
		1 Military Police Company	120 Personnel
		1 Joint Information Systems Support Package	6 Personnel
		Mississippi State Fire Academy	11 Fire Fighters
		Gluckstadt Fire	8 Firefighters 1 Fire Tankers
		Madison Fire Department	5 Firefighters
		Harrison County	5 Firefighters 2 Fire Tankers
		Ocean Springs	2 Firefighters
		Forrest County	1 Fire Tanker
		Hattiesburg Fire Department	6 Firefighters
		Jackson County	2 Firefighters
			1 Breathing Air Truck
		Long Beach Fire Department	6 Firefighters
		Pass Christian Fire Department	8 Firefighters
		Vicksburg Fire Department	8 Firefighters
		Culkin Fire Department	1 Firefighter
			1 Fire Tanker

## The Mississippi Business Emergency Operations Center

The Mississippi Business Emergency Operations Center (MSBEOC) strives to establish the coordination of activities and resources of private-sector businesses and volunteer organizations in the state and across the nation. The goals are to improve response, maintain or restore self-sufficiency and reduce reliance on federal assistance to maximize business, industry, and economic stabilization, returning the business environment to normal operations as quickly as possible.

The MSBEOC provides disaster-specific communications from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency to industry associations and those registered members to coordinate private-sector businesses. It connects those needing resources with resource providers during response and recovery from an emergency or disaster. The MSBEOC is a platform for information sharing throughout the business community during response and recovery events.



## Office of Logistics

The Office of Logistics consists of four branches, Property, Fleet, Facilities, and State Emergency Logistical Operations Center (SELOC), with 21 personnel. The property branch manages over 2,692 property items valued at over \$27,575,686 assigned to the MEMA staff. The fleet branch manages 57 state-owned vehicles, and the average age of the fleet is seven years, for a total of 4,242,205 miles. The vehicles have an average of 74,425 miles per vehicle. Also, the FY 22 accumulated mileage of 490,417 for an average of 8,603 per vehicle. During this time, Logistics vehicles were rented to support the Mississippi National Guard PPE delivery, with 9,812 miles driven (1 July 2021 – 26 July 2022). The facilities branch manages and maintains the State Emergency Operation Center with 75,000 square feet and the SELOC with 112,000 square feet of office and warehouse space. Logistics responded and supported local governments with resources during two major federal declarations and one emergency declaration during Fiscal Year 22.

#### State Emergency Logistical Operations Center (SELOC) FY 2022:

The 103,000-square-foot climate-controlled warehouse facility houses the State Pandemic Stockpile and supports COVID Response activities to include, but not limited to, storage and distribution of PPE and Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) test sets across the state.

The SELOC houses more than 3,610 pallets of commodities and resources, with an estimated cost of over \$21,000,000. These resources include PPE (gloves, gowns, face shields, masks, bouffant caps, and shoe covers), hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, cleaners, body bags, vaccination and testing supplies, bottled water, tarps, sandbags, shelf-stable meals, fans, heaters, and coolers. Most of these items are part of the State Pandemic Stockpile and are available at a moment's notice for deployment. We also provide space to the MSDH to store pandemic response materials and commodities.



COVID logistical operations over the last year supported first responders, schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities, government, and non-government organizations, as well as statewide testing and vaccination efforts. During this period, the COVID Joint Logistics section, led by MEMA, delivered 11,095,013 items across the state.

In addition to the COVID-19 mission, the SELOC has supported numerous other events impacting the state, including Hurricane Ida, the City of Jackson water issues following the 2021 Winter Storms, and several severe weather outbreaks. Through these events, the facility supported PPE distribution to support responders in the COVID-19 environment with water, MREs, sandbags, and tarps.

### Since Operations Began at the SELOC (Fiscal Year 22):

Items Received: 5,391,681Items Deployed: 11,095,013Facilities Serviced: 1565

PPE SUPPLIES	TOTAL DISTRIBUTED
Bouffant Caps	51,000
Cadaver Bags	70
Coveralls	4,540
Face Shields	56,640
Gloves	2,720,000
Gowns	128,605
Masks	7,514,100
Shoe Covers	110,000
Disinfectant Spray	3,084
Disinfectant Wipes	16,768
Hand Sanitizer	176,949
Test Kits	100,301
PCR Test Tube	212,956
Total	11,095,013

#### **Severe Weather Events**

WINTER WEATHER EVENT DR 4598		
Bottled Water 36,288		
Tarps	100	
Blankets 200		

SEVERE WEATHER EVENT SEPTEMBER	
Bottled Water 480	
Tarps 290	

SEVERE WEATHER EVENT MARCH	
Bottled Water 27,552	
Tarps 1,394	

SEVERE WEATHER EVENT APRIL	
Tarps	626

HURRICANE IDA DR 4626	
Bottled Water 7,848	
Shelf Stable Meals 828	

TOTALS		
Tarps	2,410	
Shelf Stable Meals	828	
Bottled Water	72,168	



## Recovery

The Office of Recovery consists of three core offices: Mitigation, Public Assistance and Housing and Individual Assistance. Following a disaster, the Offices of Public Assistance and Housing and Individual Assistance step in to help local governments, certain private nonprofits and individuals recover financially. But when it comes to rebuilding communities, the Office of Mitigation supports local projects funded by mitigation grants that will help lessen the impacts of subsequent disasters. All three offices play a vital role in the agency's overall mission to keep Mississippians safe during times of disaster and restore quality of life, post-event.

#### Office of Mitigation

The Mitigation Office administers hazard mitigation grant programs to state and local governments, qualifying nonprofits, and tribal organizations. Grant programs include the post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA), the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, and the Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Program, which funds the mitigation of high-loss insured properties through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant (BRIC).

<u>Hazard Mitigation Planning Bureau</u> is responsible for developing and maintaining State and local Hazard Mitigation Plans. It encourages the development of a long-term mitigation strategy.

Mitigation by the Numbers

- 81- County Plans Approved
- 1- County Plan Pending Approval
- 376- Jurisdiction Plans Approved



<u>The Mitigation Grants Bureau</u> administers the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Non-Disaster Grant Programs, Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Programs. The Bureau provides grants to assist eligible applicants in building back stronger and safer before and after a Major Presidential Declaration.

#### Open Disasters- 16

- Approved projects totaling -\$6,341,808.90
- Federal funds Obligated -\$4,756,356.68
- Managing Open Projects totaling -\$13,637,605.65
- Payments Made totaling -\$ 3,106.597.01
- Closed projects totaling -\$33,792,395.86



<u>The Floodplain Management Bureau</u> provides technical assistance to local communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program.

#### Floodplain Management

- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) communities participating: 334
- Community Rating System (CRS) Communities:
   28
- Average Savings Per Policy in CRS Community: \$54.00
- Total CRS Community Savings: \$2,375,619.00
- Policies in Force: 52,901
- Total Flood Insurance Coverage: \$14,134,015,900.00
- Flood Insurance Claims to Date in MS: 65,275
- Flood Insurance Payout to Date: \$3,122,682,429.00
- Average Yearly Premium in Mississippi: \$777.95



#### The floodplain staff performed the following:

- Community Assistance Visits: 65
- Community Assistance Visits (closed): 15
- Number of Regulatory Ordinances Reviewed: 52
- Communities Adopting Ordinances: 23
- Floodplain Determination Letters: 428
- Technical Assistance Visits/Contacts: 375
- Community Assistance Contacts: 58
- Floodplain Workshops Conducted: 14
- Substantial Damage Determinations: 35



#### **Office of Public Assistance**

When Mississippi determines an incident may exceed the financial capabilities to recover, a request is forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for assistance. This is when MEMA's Office of Public Assistance (PA) provides guidance to state and local governments, Native American tribes, and some private nonprofit organizations. Once a Federal Declaration is approved, MEMA PA works to ensure all eligible applicants request assistance. This starts the process to identify, create a scope of work to repair or replace and document all costs so the eligible applicant can secure all the federal and state funding they are legally able to receive. MEMA Public Assistance also approves all funds paid to applicants to ensure all state and federal rules and laws are followed. This action protects the applicant in possible future audits and the State of Mississippi.

- Open Disasters 20
- Closed Disasters 1
- Approved Projects 2,161
- Federal Funds Obligated to Date \$318,441,063.04
- Managing Open Projects 2,161
- Payments Made \$194,893,893.21
- Closed Projects 332

#### Office of Housing and Individual Assistance

Recovery is a complex and long-term process that involves a range of activities and many participants. Recovery begins shortly after the disaster and can continue for many years. It involves short-term restoration of essential community functions and long-term rebuilding. The Office of Housing and Individual Assistance (OHIA) plays a significant role in the recovery process of declared and non-declared incidents.



The office comprises nine individuals and has two bureaus: Individual Assistance and Disaster Housing. The office also houses MEMA's Disability Integration Advisor.

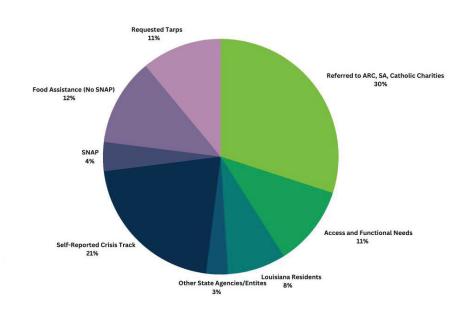
This office plays a vital role in the disaster recovery process. Some of the recovery activities include:

- Managing the Disaster Call Center
- Validating damage assessments
- Focusing on unmet needs
- Assisting people with Access and Functional Needs
- Conducting case management on residents impacted by a disaster
- Exploring temporary housing options
- Heading the State-Led Disaster Housing Task Force
- Training opportunities offered by FEMA and other organizations



#### **Disaster Call Center**

MEMA's Disaster Call Center was activated four times this fiscal year, beginning with Hurricane Ida in August 2021. In the spring of 2022, it was activated for three consecutive weeks for severe weather. The information collected from the callers is used by MEMA, other state agencies, and non-profit organizations to address the unmet needs of impacted callers. (See the call categories from the Hurricane Ida call center activation chart.)



During this fiscal year, more than 1,000 people impacted by severe weather called the Disaster Call Center for assistance.

The Disability Integration Advisor assisted or provided resources for all callers who identified as having Access and Functional Needs.

During the fiscal year 2022, the Office of Housing and Individual Assistance developed the Temporary Housing Assistance Program (THAP) Guide. The THAP establishes the guidelines and expectations of how MEMA responds to temporary housing needs post-disaster.

THAP consists of two programs: the Temporary Rental Assistance Program (TRAP), which provides temporary housing for a period no longer than 90 days, and the Disaster Assistance Repair Program (DARP), which is available for eligible counties that request assistance on behalf of residents of the impacted county whose homes need repair due to damage caused by a disaster.

During this fiscal year, MEMA has distributed \$262,000 in DARP funds to Bolivar, Leflore, Sunflower, and Tishomingo counties. This resulted in a total of 29 repaired homes. (See the below chart.)

County	Disaster Type	DARP Funds Disbursed	DARP Funds Spent	DARP Funds Returned to MEMA	# of Homes Repaired
Bolivar	Flooding	\$112,000	\$100,000	\$0 (ongoing)	16
Leflore	Flooding	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	10
Sunflower	Flooding	\$50,000	\$6,130.98	\$43,869.02	1
Tishomingo	Tornado	\$50,000	\$7,094.33	\$42,905.67	2
		\$262,000	\$163,225.31	\$86,774.69	29

#### **Validating Damage Assessments**

This year, the OHIA Bureau conducted 443 validations of damage assessments for 24 counties per the request of emergency management directors in impacted counties. The purpose of these validations is to ensure that counties are capturing every home that has received damaged. The accuracy of the validations can often determine if a federal or Small Business Administration declaration will be issued. Validations can also trigger the state to request Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) from FEMA and SBA. Twenty counties received Joint PDAs.

Date	Disaster Type	# of Validations	Type of Assistance	Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments
August 29, 2021	Hurricane Ida	82	FEMA Declaration	80
March 22, 2022	Severe Weather	67	SBA declaration (Wayne County)	121
March 30, 2022	Severe Weather	167	SBA declaration (Holmes County)	149
April 7-13, 2022	Severe Weather	127	(No Declaration)	N/A

During this fiscal year, OHIA also:

- Provided technical assistance to county emergency management directors in all 82 counties in Mississippi. This is tracked by a weekly call log.
- Completed 41 case management reports for residents in Leflore, Sunflower, and Tishomingo counties impacted by a flooding event.
- Conducted 44 in-person visits to counties, which covers 54 percent of the state. These visits are captured through Monitoring Visit Reports, Trip Reports, district meetings, damage assessments, and case management. (See map)
- Completed a total of 165 hours of training courses outside of the required courses.
- Attended two national conferences.
- Created case management documents.
- Developed measures to protect Personally Identifiable Information collected from residents impacted by a disaster.
- Began developing the Disaster Recovery Framework, which is intended to be an all-hazards document providing the state with a scalable recovery organization that can be implemented for incidents of varying levels of complexity.

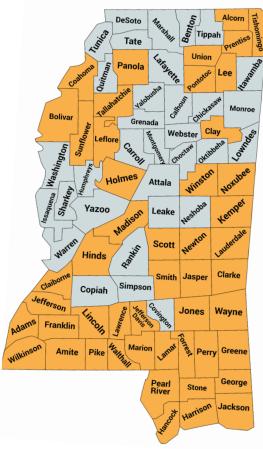


Image: Counties traveled to during in-person visits are highlighted in orange

## **Administrative Services**

#### **Office of Human Resources**

Overtime hours worked during disasters for FY2022: 7,261.86

New Hires for FY2022: 33

Disaster Reservist Program: During FY2022, **73** Reservists were utilized for **101** missions covering **seven** disasters and **two** training events.

Missions to include, but not limited, to the following:

- Assisted Public Assistance with documentation on several disasters.
- Assisted Response/Commo during weather events.
- IT Support.
- Crisis Track Training.
- MS Dept of Health Call Center.
- Assisted Logistics at State Emergency Logistics Operations Center (SELOC) with delivering items
  requested in WebEOC to the county level, shipping/receiving, facility maintenance and fleet
  management.
- Assisted MEMA staff and county EMA directors with damage assessments.
- Assisted Individual Assistance at Disaster Assistance Centers (DACs) during Hurricane Ida.
- Assisted with IA Case management with Long Term Recovery groups due to June 2021 flooding and August 2021 tornadoes.
- Assisted Finance and Accounting for COVID expenses.

MEMA's Disaster Reservist program was created to provide a corps of trained and experienced Mississippians who can be activated on an as-needed basis to meet staffing needs during emergencies. The program keeps a database of individuals with skills and experience that may be used during disasters. Disaster Reservists may include individuals with skills in logistics, public information, public works or engineering backgrounds, but individuals with other experiences may also be used. Individuals may also be retired from government or private industry careers and be available to enter a contract once a disaster or emergency occurs. Reservists are required to attend training exercises at least two times a year on state and federal emergency plans. Once a reservist is on active-duty status, he or she will become a contract employee of MEMA for the duration of their deployment or mission assignment. Reservist pay is based on training, skills and experience.



#### Office of Finance and Accounting

MEMA's Finance Department ensures all bills are paid and grant funding is appropriated correctly. The Finance Department prepares budget proposals to present to the State Legislature. MEMA operates under two different budgets. The General Funds and the Disaster Trust Fund. The agency's general support budget is comprised of approximately 54% state funding and 45% federal funding. The only federal grant that supports all-hazards preparedness efforts is the Emergency Management Performance Grant. MEMA awards grants to counties based on a population allocation plus a stipend of \$5,000 if the county has a part-time emergency management program or \$10,000 for a full-time program. The EMPG program, state general fund money, any permit money received from the Waste Isolation Pilot Program and funding received from Entergy, Inc., as MEMA helps support the company's emergency plans for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Facility in Port Gibson.

#### **Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)**

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency was awarded \$5,185,063 through the EMPG Grant for FY 2022. The FY 2022 award included \$640,131 in supplemental funding through the 2022 Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. The objective of the EMPG FY2022 funding is to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial emergency management agencies to implement the National Preparedness System (NPS) and to support the National Preparedness Goal (NPG) of a secure and resilient nation. Programs receiving EMPG funding are required to invest funding in (1) Closing capability gaps identified in the state's most recent Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR); and (2) building or sustaining those capabilities that are identified as a high priority through the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)/SPR process. In accordance with federal grant requirements, including Executive Order (EO) 13985 on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, FY2022 EMPG funds will be invested in Equity and Readiness activities while building and sustaining plans, personnel, equipment, commodities/supplies, contractual and Management and Administrative costs necessary to sustain capabilities across the state in support of all five mission areas identified in the NPG.



#### **HEMP Grant**

Active LEPCs are eligible to apply for and receive funding through the Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Program designed to increase state, territorial, tribal, and local effectiveness in safely and efficiently handling hazardous materials incidents. The Mississippi State Fire Academy (MSFA) is sub-awarded a portion of the HMEP Grant for conducting Hazardous Materials training in accordance with NFPA 472 standards and OSHA 29 CFR standards. To ensure training is delivered in an equitable manner through the HMEP sub-award, the MSFA is required to deliver Hazardous Materials training to volunteer firefighters across all jurisdictions using the HMEP funding. The MEMA LEPC coordinator is responsible for assisting LEPCs with gathering data under the EPCRA, monitoring LEPC planning and exercise activity, assisting with requests for training, and reviewing LEPC plans.

#### For Fiscal Year 22:

- In accordance with 49CFR \$171.8, Railroads reported 12 High Hazard Flammable Trains (HHFT's) to the Southeast Central Railway (SERC).
- In accordance with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), 2,593 regulated facilities submitted annual Tier II inventory forms to the SERC and LEPCs through the electronic inventory reporting system E-Plan.
- Over 300 local responders received training in Hazmat Tech, Hazmat Awareness and Operations, Hazmat Incident Command and Chemistry of Hazardous Materials through the HMEP Grant.
- 5 LEPCs and the Mississippi State Fire Academy (MSFA) secured leading-edge equipment for response training and exercise activities through the HMEP Grant.

#### 911 Grant Program

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency was awarded \$3,261,796.67 through the 911 Grant program administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department of Transportation. Funding was awarded for PSAPs to migrate to Next Generation 911 (NG911) infrastructure. With this funding, a total of 21 PSAPs were able to upgrade existing equipment and migrate towards NG911. A total of 105 telecommunicators received training on the implementation of NG911.

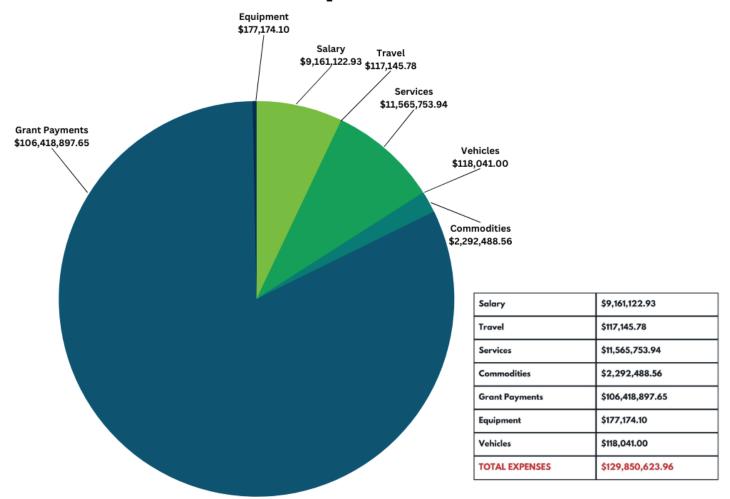


Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)

In accordance with Presidential Policy Directive-8 (PPD-8) on National Preparedness, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) employs a full-time program manager to assist the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (MOHS) with completing an annual capabilities assessment designed to measure state and local emergency management capabilities as outlined in the National Preparedness Goal (NPG). The Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and the Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) quantitatively measure local and state capabilities across the 32 core capabilities identified in the National Preparedness Goal (NPG) and inform the investment justification for all EMPG funding. The 2021 THIRA was submitted to FEMA on December 30, 2021.

- For FY 22, over 25 Emergency Coordinating Officers, emergency management personnel and non-government personnel contributed information for completing the annual assessments.
- Over 1,072 hours were dedicated to completing this annual assessment.

## **MEMA's General Expenses Fiscal Year 2022**



#### FY 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant State of Mississippi County Funding

County	Base	Population	Population	Total 2022
·	Allocation	•	Allocation	Allocation
Adams	\$10,000.00	29,538	\$18,313.56	\$28,313.56
Alcorn	\$10,000.00	34,740	\$21,538.80	\$31,538.80
Amite	\$10,000.00	12,720	\$7,886.40	\$17,886.40
Attala	\$10,000.00	17,889	\$11,091.18	\$21,091.18
Benton	\$10,000.00	7,646	\$4,740.52	\$14,740.52
Bolivar	\$10,000.00	30,985	\$19,210.70	\$29,210.70
Calhoun	\$10,000.00	13,266	\$8,224.92	\$18,224.92
Carroll	\$10,000.00	9,998	\$6,198.76	\$16,198.76
Chickasaw	\$10,000.00	17,106	\$10,605.72	\$20,605.72
Choctaw	\$10,000.00	8,246	\$5,112.52	\$15,112.52
Claiborne	\$10,000.00	9,135	\$5,663.70	\$15,663.70
Clarke	\$10,000.00	15,614	\$9,680.68	\$19,680.68
Clay	\$10,000.00	18,636	\$11,554.32	\$21,554.32
Coahoma	\$10,000.00	21,390	\$13,261.80	\$23,261.80
Copiah	\$10,000.00	28,368	\$17,588.16	\$27,588.16
Covington	\$10,000.00	18,340	\$11,370.80	\$21,370.80
Desoto	\$10,000.00	185,314	\$114,894.68	\$124,894.68
Forrest	\$10,000.00	77,875	\$48,282.50	\$58,282.50
Franklin	\$10,000.00	7,675	\$4,758.50	\$14,758.50
George	\$10,000.00	24,350	\$15,097.00	\$25,097.00
Greene	\$10,000.00	13,530	\$8,388.60	\$18,388.60
Grenada	\$10,000.00	21,629	\$13,409.98	\$23,409.98
Hancock	\$10,000.00	46,053	\$28,552.86	\$38,552.86
Harrison	\$10,000.00	208,621	\$129,345.02	\$139,345.02
Hinds	\$10,000.00	227,742	\$141,200.04	\$151,200.04
Holmes	\$10,000.00	17,000	\$10,540.00	\$20,540.00
Humphreys	\$10,000.00	7,785	\$4,826.70	\$14,826.70
Issaquena	\$10,000.00	1,338	\$829.56	\$10,829.56
Itawamba	\$10,000.00	23,863	\$14,795.06	\$24,795.06
Jackson	\$10,000.00	143,252	\$88,816.24	\$98,816.24
Jasper	\$10,000.00	16,367	\$10,147.54	\$20,147.54
Jefferson	\$10,000.00	7,260	\$4,501.20	\$14,501.20
Jefferson Davis	\$10,000.00	11,321	\$7,019.02	\$17,019.02
Jones	\$10,000.00	67,246	\$41,692.52	\$51,692.52
Kemper	\$10,000.00	8,988	\$5,572.56	\$15,572.56
Lafayette	\$10,000.00	55,813	\$34,604.06	\$44,604.06
Lamar	\$10,000.00	64,222	\$39,817.64	\$49,817.64
Lauderdale	\$10,000.00	72,984	\$45,250.08	\$55,250.08
Lawrence	\$10,000.00	12,016	\$7,449.92	\$17,449.92

#### FY 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant State of Mississippi County Funding

Country	Base Population Population Total 2022				
County	Allocation	Population	Allocation	Allocation	
Leake	\$10,000.00	21,275	\$13,190.50	\$23,190.50	
Lee	\$10,000.00	83,343	\$51,672.66	\$61,672.66	
Leflore	\$10,000.00	28,339	\$17,570.18	\$27,570.18	
Lincoln	\$10,000.00	34,907	\$21,642.34	\$31,642.34	
Lowndes	\$10,000.00	58,879	\$36,504.98	\$46,504.98	
Madison	\$10,000.00	109,145	\$67,669.90	\$77,669.90	
Marion	\$10,000.00	24,441	\$15,153.42	\$25,153.42	
Marshall	\$10,000.00	33,752	\$20,926.24	\$30,926.24	
MBCI	\$10,000.00	11,090	\$6,875.80	\$16,875.80	
Monroe	\$10,000.00	34,180	\$21,191.60	\$31,191.60	
Montgomery	\$10,000.00	9,822	\$6,089.64	\$16,089.64	
Neshoba	\$10,000.00	29,087	\$18,033.94	\$28,033.94	
Newton	\$10,000.00	21,291	\$13,200.42	\$23,200.42	
Noxubee	\$10,000.00	10,285	\$6,376.70	\$16,376.70	
Oktibbeha	\$10,000.00	51,788	\$32,108.56	\$42,108.56	
Panola	\$10,000.00	33,208	\$20,588.96	\$30,588.96	
Pearl River	\$10,000.00	56,145	\$34,809.90	\$44,809.90	
Perry	\$10,000.00	11,511	\$7,136.82	\$17,136.82	
Pike	\$10,000.00	40,324	\$25,000.88	\$35,000.88	
Pontotoc	\$10,000.00	31,184	\$19,334.08	\$29,334.08	
Prentiss	\$10,000.00	25,008	\$15,504.96	\$25,504.96	
Quitman	\$10,000.00	6,176	\$3,829.12	\$13,829.12	
Scott	\$10,000.00	27,990	\$17,353.80	\$27,353.80	
Sharkey	\$10,000.00	3,800	\$2,356.00	\$12,356.00	
Simpson	\$10,000.00	25,949	\$16,088.38	\$26,088.38	
Smith	\$10,000.00	14,209	\$8,809.58	\$18,809.58	
Stone	\$10,000.00	18,333	\$11,366.46	\$21,366.46	
Sunflower	\$10,000.00	25,971	\$16,102.02	\$26,102.02	
Tallahatchie	\$10,000.00	12,715	\$7,883.30	\$17,883.30	
Tate	\$10,000.00	28,064	\$17,399.68	\$27,399.68	
Tippah	\$10,000.00	21,815	\$13,525.30	\$23,525.30	
Tishomingo	\$10,000.00	18,850	\$11,687.00	\$21,687.00	
Tunica	\$10,000.00	9,782	\$6,064.84	\$16,064.84	
Union	\$10,000.00	27,777	\$17,221.74	\$27,221.74	
Walthall	\$10,000.00	13,884	\$8,608.08	\$18,608.08	
Warren	\$10,000.00	44,722	\$27,727.64	\$37,727.64	
Washington	\$10,000.00	44,922	\$27,851.64	\$37,851.64	
Wayne	\$10,000.00	19,779	\$12,262.98	\$22,262.98	
Webster	\$10,000.00	9,926	\$6,154.12	\$16,154.12	

#### FY 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant State of Mississippi County Funding

County	Base	Population	Population	Total 2022
	Allocation		Allocation	Allocation
Wilkinson	\$10,000.00	8,587	\$5,323.94	\$15,323.94
Winston	\$10,000.00	17,714	\$10,982.68	\$20,982.68
Yalobusha	\$10,000.00	12,481	\$7,738.22	\$17,738.22
Yazoo	\$10,000.00	26,743	\$16,580.66	\$26,580.66
County Total Without Match				\$2,565,333.48
County Total Plus Match				\$5,130,666.96
MEMA Total Plus Match				\$5,003,477.04
	M&A Plus Match			\$235,982.00
Grand Total			\$10,370,126.00	



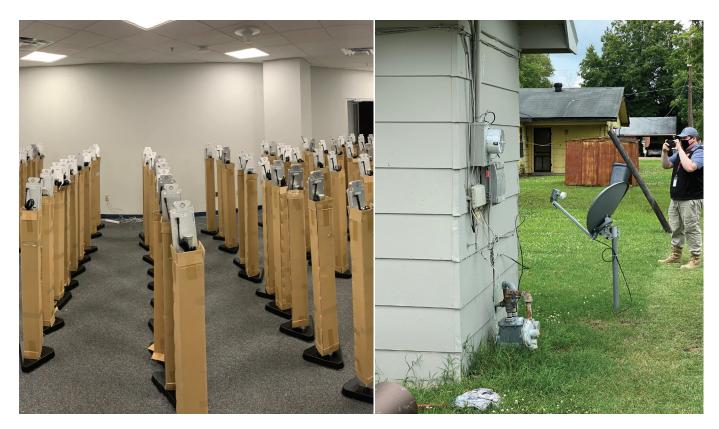




## MEMA Information Technology Services

MEMA Information Technology Services (MITS) has been busy during FY 2022. MEMA and MITS have accomplished the following:

- The revamping of the CrisisTrack course delivery has been a great success thus far. While most of these training courses were delivered to our coastal partners, it is the plan moving forward to schedule the new training structure across all counties.
- With partnerships like the one we share with the Mississippi State University (MSU) GeoProject, MEMA has supported many educational efforts regarding Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Partnerships in education on topics such as these allow those in the field to expand or sharpen their GIS skills. MEMA and MITS are happy to support hosting those classes on-site, as well as assist in coordinating other locations across the state.
- MITS continues to support our effort to create a greener and more cost-effective footprint by way of archiving and documentation. The completion of archiving and storage of all inner-agency historical documentation continues to grow. This moves our agency closer to a greener footprint in our State.
- Identifying and intercepting cyber threats has also been a large area of growth for the Office of MITS. Currently, as a government agency, we are always the target of threats to our network. The top priority in this regard has been implementing a solid network policy as well as education and partnerships with partner agencies.



- Email and cyber threats are very real, and it is important that each employee is educated and aware of those threats. To sharpen those skills, MEMA implemented monthly, mandatory cyber training using software called KnowBe4. This training has improved cybersecurity throughout MEMA.
- MEMA uses the Skillset software for employee growth and education. These versatile courses are
  for all employees to use. They range anywhere from learning Excel to leadership development and
  much more.
- MITS is always looking for ways to utilize its in-house talent to create simple, cost-effective solutions. One of those ways is an in-house built ticketing system application called EchoDesk. EchoDesk was designed in-house to ensure that all agency IT needs were communicated to MITS in a central location for tracking and delivery of efficient IT service.

EchoDesk Statistics FY2022:

- Total Tickets CREATED: 1,690
- Total Tickets RESOLVED: 1438
- Total Tickets CLOSED: 248
- MITS deployed personnel to support the MEMA Call Center four times during FY 2022.
- MEMA was one of the first state agencies to move to dual backup fiber connections.

MITS will continue to add and upgrade the current services and programs offered by our department. MITS, as always, looks forward to another great year serving the employees of MEMA and the great State of Mississippi.







### Office of External Affairs

MEMA External Affairs is tasked with engaging, educating, and informing the public before, during, and after a disaster to help protect the lives and property of all Mississippians. Information is imperative and can be lifesaving during an emergency. The External Affairs Office is responsible for portraying the agency's reputation to the public and maintaining its credibility.

Team members serve as liaisons with government officials, state agencies, stakeholders, and nonprofits. External Affairs must be knowledgeable of how each office inside MEMA operates and functions to share accurate information about their work and programs.

Social Media serves as a vital tool for emergency messaging as more people turn to it as their source of news and information. In the Summer of 2022, the Office of External Affairs launched an Instagram account to broaden the agency's presence on social media platforms. MEMA External Affairs has grown the agency's social media presence by thousands and received millions of impressions or reaches this year. External Affairs members are also highly involved in outreach programs to educate citizens about what the agency does and how to better prepare for a disaster. This includes visits to schools, churches and leading tours of the State Emergency Operations Center.

The External Affairs team is constantly creating new and innovative ways to share MEMA's messaging and efforts with the public including managing and updating the MEMA website to include important information, press releases, and media advisories. Using drones and cameras, the External Affairs Office provides footage and photos of disasters and MEMA projects to the media. Members of the External Affairs Office also continue to cultivate vital working relationships with the media, which is another critical resource used to share important information during times of disaster.

MEMA External Affairs is in the process of designing and developing a new MEMA App for statewide use. This application will provide targeted weather alerts, pertinent preparedness, and assistance information when available.



PLATFORM	REACH OR VIEWS	IMPRESSIONS OR PAGE VISITS	NEW MEMEBERS/LIKES FOLLOWERS/SUBCRIBERS
Facebook	2,515,233	N/A	13,458
Twitter	N/A	2,686,800	1,808
Nextdoor	N/A	1,425,362	2,582
Linkedin	1,462	29,793 (organic and unique)	272
Youtube	15,290	88,760	94
Instagram	127	191	N/A

MEMA WEBSITE ANALYTICS		
Page Clicks	230,000	
Total Impressions	28.8 Million	

Total Impressions/Reach	35,546,109
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