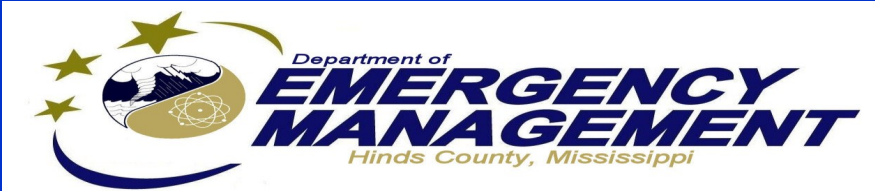


## Quarterly Newsletter



Website Address: <http://www.co.hinds.ms.us/pgs/ctydivision/eoc.asp>

## Hinds County Supervisors Hire New EMA Director

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### EOC Staff

Ricky Moore,  
Director  
Fire Coordinator

Joey Perkins,  
Assistant Director

Rosilind Longino,  
Deputy Director  
Of Administration

Tracy Funches,  
Deputy Director of  
Field Services

Lavonne Berryhill,  
Emergency Management  
Specialist III

Robin Garrard,  
Emergency Management  
Specialist I

Kenneth Smith,  
911 Coordinator

Ricky Moore of Terry, Mississippi, was named Director of the Hinds County Department of Emergency Management in January of 2014, where he previously served as the Assistant Director for 20 years. He is a Mississippi Certified Emergency Manager and Fire Coordinator. As Director, he will have oversight of the twelve Volunteer Fire Departments in Hinds County and is responsible for coordinating with other emergency managers at the local and state level.

Prior to returning to Hinds County, Ricky served as an Instructor at United States Environmental Services. While employed there he became a National Center for Construction Education and Research Instructor (NCCER). He served as an Instructor for courses in Hazardous Materials, Industrial Craft Smith, and Driving, Operating and Tank Cleaning of a Confined Space Hydro Blasting Vacuum Truck. His greatest accomplishment in this position is to see his students use the skills they learned in these courses to find work in the industry.

From 1989 – 2009, Ricky served as the Assistant Director at the Hinds County Department of Emergency Management. During his tenure, he was the Southwest One Regional Response Team Leader, Dive Team Leader, Hazmat Responder, served on the 911 Council, assisted in day to day operations with the twelve volunteer fire departments, and multiple other emergency management related duties. While serving as Assistant Director, Ricky earned certifications in over fifty emergency management related courses.

Prior to his service with the Hinds County Department of Emergency Management, Mr. Moore was the Supervisor of Building Maintenance for the City of Jackson's Public Works Department from 1985 – 1989. In that position he was responsible for day to day operations of the maintenance department.

Ricky Moore is a lifelong Mississippian. He attended Jackson Public Schools and Hinds Community College. Ricky has one son and considers watching him grow into the man he has become to be his greatest accomplishment.

## Severe Weather Preparedness Week

February 3—7, 2014 was Mississippi Severe Weather Preparedness Week. Hinds County participated in a Statewide Tornado Drill by sending email notifications to all county employees and also utilized the Code Red Emergency Notification System by sending a drill message to all personnel on the Emergency Management Notification Tree.

During this week preparedness information distributed by the National Weather Service was shared via email, Facebook and Twitter. The topics covered severe thunderstorms, flash flooding, tornadoes, lightning and different methods available to receive severe weather warnings. In depth information on how to prepare for these types of severe weather can be found at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/severeweather/index.shtml>



## Disaster Supply Kit

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

## I-55 Traffic Pattern Changes

The Mississippi Department of Transportation has begun working on the road widening project for I-55 South between Byram & McDowell Road. This project is expected to take approximately 3 years and be completed in mid 2016. Expect many changes and entrance/exit ramp closures throughout this process.

In the early morning hours of March 15, 2014 the traffic patterns changed. Northbound I-55 shifted to the west into middle lanes. As part of this change Northbound access from Siwell Rd. will be closed for approximately 20 days. Pay close attention to road signs, leave early, drive slower, and determine alternative routes to your destination. Be patient and follow all direction given by MDOT, James Construction and all Law Enforcement Officers and/or Public Safety Officials.



## Snakes On The Move

Spring is finally upon us here in Hinds County and along with the trees budding and flowers blooming comes another aspect of nature, snakes are on the move. In the winter months they are very inactive and eat very little due to expending very little energy. As the temperatures begin to warm up they begin to venture out and bask in the sun. They retreat again in the evenings when the temperatures are cooler. As summer approaches they will leave their winter habitat in search of foraging areas, to mate and to give birth. The males move extensively in late summer to find females for mating. Snakes are attracted to cover, water and prey (rodents). Removing these things is the best answer to encouraging them to pass on by and not stay around your yard.

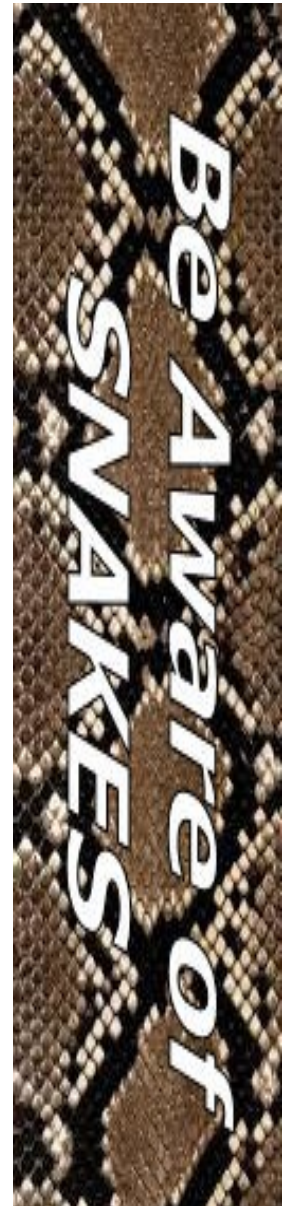
Many snake-human interactions take place during the spring and fall when they are relocating from one seasonal habitat to another. If you encounter one in the wild or in your yard it is best to avoid it. If left alone most snakes are docile and will try to flee or remain still and blend into its surroundings. Most snakes will not chase you. Seventy-five percent of bites occur when humans harass, move or attempt to kill a snake.

It is important to learn to identify the snakes in your area. Identification will help doctors determine the treatment that is needed. If a bite occurs remain calm & seek medical attention. Remove restrictive clothing and/or jewelry near the bite and keep the area of the bite below the heart. Never cut the wound and attempt to suck the venom out, apply ice or cold packs or use a tourniquet or give the person alcohol or caffeinated drinks.

**Venomous snakes:** Triangular head, often multi-colored, some will have a rattle at end of tail and when swimming the whole body will float.

**Non-venomous snakes:** Spoon shaped head, mostly one color and when swimming just the head shows.

If you are unsure if they are poisonous always err on the side of caution and avoid contact with the snake.





## Hinds County Warning Sirens

The Hinds County Outdoor Warning Siren System consists of 63 sirens owned and operated by Hinds County. They are strategically located throughout the county. The Towns of Utica, Learned, Terry, Raymond and Edwards all have sirens within town limits. The City of Byram has three county sirens within the city limits and 7 sirens owned by the City of Byram that are operated by the County and/or the City. The City of Clinton has 22 sirens that are maintained and operated by the City of Clinton. Hinds County is responsible for all sirens in the City of Jackson. There is a controller in the Hinds County Department of Emergency Management in Jackson and a second one located at the 24 Hour warning point, which is in the Hinds County Sheriff's Department Dispatch Center in Raymond, MS.

The sirens are activated on the 1st day of each month (except during inclement weather) for testing purposes.

To view a sortable list of the sirens in Hinds County visit this website.

[http://www.co.hinds.ms.us/pgs/apps/sirens/sirens\\_location\\_list.asp](http://www.co.hinds.ms.us/pgs/apps/sirens/sirens_location_list.asp)

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Website Address: <http://www.co.hinds.ms.us/pgs/ctydivision/eoc.asp>

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- |  |   |
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*Emergency Management protects communities by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other manmade disasters.*