

Quarterly Newsletter



<http://www.hindscountyms.com/departments/emergency-management>
Hinds County Board of Supervisors

~Robert Graham, District 1 ~ Darrel McQuirter, District 2 ~ Peggy Calhoun, District 3, ~ Mike Morgan, District 4 ~ Bobby "Bobcat" McGowan, District 5 ~

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EOC Staff

Ricky Moore
Director/Fire Coordinator

Joey Perkins
Assistant Director

Lavonne Berryhill
Administrative Coordinator

Tracy Funches
Operations Coordinator

Kyle Greer
EMS Coordinator

Robin Garrard
Planner Coordinator
Newsletter Editor

Kenneth Smith
911 Coordinator

Brandy Martin
Administrative Assistant

From the Desk of the Director.....

"America's PrepareAthon! is a national community-based campaign that moves individuals from awareness to action by preparing for relevant hazards through group discussions, drills, and innovative communications-related products. The campaign increases the number of individuals who understand which disasters could happen in their community, know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage, and help their community do the same.



Ricky Moore, Director

America's PrepareAthon! takes a Whole Community approach to disaster preparedness with registered preparedness actions at the grassroots level across the Nation. The campaign offers easy-to-implement resources to help individuals, organizations, and communities practice simple, effective actions. Preparedness actions can be scaled from individual actions to community-wide events." (<https://community.fema.gov>)

Here in Mississippi we have two severe weather seasons, one in the spring and another in the fall. Hinds County is partnering with FEMA, MEMA, National Weather Service, Midland Radio, Rankin County and Madison County to further our reach in educating the public in regards to preparedness in their homes, schools and offices. Severe Weather Awareness Week will be October 24 – 28, 2016. We invite you to participate in Hinds County's PrepareAthon! by following us on social media, going over your family/office emergency plans, participating in tornado drill and building or updating your disaster kit.

This newsletter is dedicated to assisting you in being ready before a disaster happens.

Respectfully,

Ricky Moore

HINDS COUNTY'S
PrepareAthon!
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Hinds County's Fact Sheet

JOIN US!

Here in the Jackson area, fall brings powerful tornadoes and flooding along with changing leaves and football.

Each day during this week-long event, we urge you to do one simple action to protect your household, business or organization, school and house of worship from some of Hinds County's greatest risks.



Monday, October 24 - Get weather alerts at home, work and on the go: Sign up for Code Red, download the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency's app and purchase and program a NOAA Weather Radio

Tuesday, October 25 – Prepare for a power outage by having an emergency charging option for your mobile devices. .

Wednesday, October 26 - Participate in the statewide tornado drill at 9:15 a.m. or conduct a group discussion on tornado preparedness

Thursday, October 27 – Visit floodsmart.gov to learn your flood risk in and around Hinds County. *(Also, back-up tornado drill day)*

Friday, October 28 – Create a Ready kit for your home and car.



SHARE!

Share information about your PrepareAthon! events by using #PrepareAthon in your social media postings.

BE COUNTED!

Email the number of people who completed each activity to the Hinds County Department of Emergency Management at rgarrard@co.hinds.ms.us.

Checklist *Circle what you have!*

ESSENTIALS	Water	First Aid kit	Flashlight
	Fire Extinguisher	Manual Can Opener	Food
	USEFUL	Warm Clothes and Sturdy Shoes	Radio (battery operated or hand crank)
Sleeping Bag or Blankets		Cellphone Charger	Tools
PERSONAL		Prescriptions	Treats
	Personal Documents	Children's toys	Pet Items



How to Participate in Tornado Drill

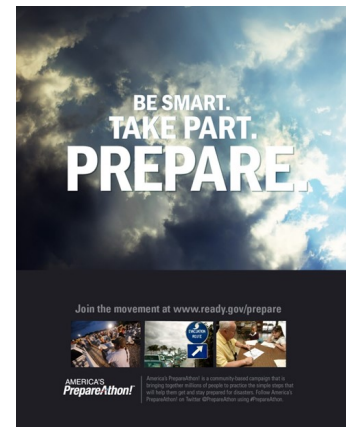
To help our residents and businesses prepare for a tornado, Hinds County will participate in the statewide tornado drill on **Wednesday, October 26, 2016** (*back-up day is Thursday, October 27, 2016*) as part of Hinds County's PrepareAthon! We encourage all residents and businesses to participate:

Before the Drill:

- Designate someone to take photos of the drill
- Review your severe weather emergency plan with staff and/or family, and encourage them to learn how to prepare for tornadoes
- Make sure everyone knows where tornado shelter areas are located. Basements and interior rooms or hallways on the lowest floor are safest
- Encourage your staff and/or family to stay weather-aware at home, work and on the go by signing up for Code Red and downloading the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency's app
- Install a NOAA Weather Radio, if you haven't already done so. Make sure it's programmed to receive alerts for Hinds County and check that it has a battery back-up.

Around 9:15 a.m. the Day of the Drill: (feel free to choose your own time)

- Listen for the tornado sirens or monitor your NOAA Weather Radio for the message from the National Weather Service. This is your cue to begin the drill.
- If you are conducting the drill at your workplace, announce the drill using your building's notification system
- Follow the steps in your emergency plan
- Everyone should proceed to their tornado shelter area
 - Use stairs instead of elevators
 - Crouch low, sitting or kneeling against a wall and covering head with hands



Replace Your Batteries & Update Disaster Kit

Daylight Savings Time comes to an end on November 6, 2016 at 2:00 a.m.. We all enjoy that extra hour of sleep when we fall backwards this time of year. Did you know that you should change the batteries in your smoke detectors and weather radio twice a year? If you make a habit of doing this when the time changes you will always remember. It is very important to have fresh batteries in these devices in case of a power outage when you would need them to work during a storm or a fire.

It is also a good time to refresh your family disaster kit. Change out stored food and water supplies every six months. Re-think your needs every year update your kit as your family's need change.

Change your clock,



CHANGE your batteries

How to Document Participation

- ★ Designate someone to distribute daily message
- ★ Participate in the tornado drill and other activities
- ★ Take photos to document activities
- ★ Share your photos! Email them to your county's PrepareAthon! coordinator and/or tweet using the #PrepareAthon hashtag
- ★ Email number of participants to your county's PrepareAthon! coordinator

AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!
BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.

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Website Address: <http://www.hindscountyms.com/departments/emergency-management>

Staff Email Addresses:

Lavonne Berryhill: lberryhill@co.hinds.ms.us

Kenneth Smith: ksmith@co.hinds.ms.us

Ricky Moore: rmoore@co.hinds.ms.us

Tracy Funches: tfunches@co.hinds.ms.us

Brandy Martin: bmartin@co.hinds.ms.us

Joey Perkins: jperkins@co.hinds.ms.us

Robin Garrard: rgarrard@co.hinds.ms.us

Kyle Greer: kgreer@co.hinds.ms.us



Mitigation ~ Preparedness ~ Response ~ Recovery

Physical: 300 N. State St.
Jackson, MS 39201
Mailing: P.O. Box 22568
Jackson, MS 39225-2568
Phone: 601.960.1476
Phone: 601.968.6771
Fax: 601.355.9943

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.