



Press Release Hinds County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hurricane Preparedness Information

Hinds County, MS – Thursday, June 5, 2014: Hurricane season is officially here, and preparing for severe storms is an important part of ushering in the hot summer days. The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 – November 30.

History teaches that not being prepared and aware are common denominators before, during and after a major hurricane disaster. There are many forms of hazards that come from hurricanes, including heavy rainfall, high winds, tornadoes, inland flooding, rip currents and storm surge.

Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected. Your friends and family may not be together when disaster strikes. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children or parents are safe? You may have to evacuate or be confined to your home. What will you do if water, gas, electricity or phone services are shut off?

Always have a family disaster kit and plan ready. Disasters can strike at any time, and response could be delayed as much as 72 hours after the disaster, depending on the type. Plan beforehand what your family should do and be sure each family member knows. Be prepared for any disaster before it strikes: you won't have time afterwards.

- **Water:** Store at least one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation/sanitation).
- **Food:** Store at least a three day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, cooking and preparation.
- **First Aid Kit:** You should have two first aid kits - one for your home and one for your car. Check with the American Red Cross or your pharmacist about what to include in your kits. Be sure to include nonprescription drugs like aspirin, laxative, emetic, antacid, hydrogen peroxide, etc.

- **Clothing and Bedding:** Include at least one complete changing of clothes and footwear for everyone. Include rain gear, blankets or sleeping bags, sunglasses, cold weather gear, sturdy shoes or work boots.
- **Tools and Supplies:** Miscellaneous items are needed in your disaster kit also. These would include but are not limited to: mess kits or paper plates and cups, plastic utensils, radio and fresh batteries, flashlights and fresh batteries, can-opener, fire extinguisher (ABC type), tent, pliers and a shut off wrench, matches (in waterproof container), garbage bags, compass, aluminum foil, sanitation items, soap, household chlorine bleach, small shovel.
- **Special Items:** Family members with special needs - such as infants, disabled individuals, or the elderly - will need certain items that you might not normally consider. Be sure that cash, medications, glasses, diapers, formula and bottles are included. Have some type of entertainment for children and adults. Keep important family documents or copies of such in waterproof, portable containers, such as wills, insurance papers, passports, immunization records, household inventories, birth\death certificates, bank\credit card information.

For more detailed information regarding Hurricane Preparedness go to: www.ready.gov/Hurricanes

For more detailed information regarding Family Disaster Kits go to:
<http://www.hindscountymys.com/departments/emergency-management#disasterkit>

For additional information about this press release, please contact the Hinds County Department of Emergency Management at 601-968-6771.

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