

Quarterly Newsletter



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

Hinds County Board of Supervisors

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

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From the Desk of Director Ricky Moore



In 2015, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors approved joining the state radio system, better known as the Mississippi Wireless Information Network (MSWIN). The investment of the new \$9 million dollar E911 radio communications system will support the Hinds County Sheriff's Department, Hinds County Department of Emergency Management, police and fire personnel in the cities of Clinton and Jackson, and the towns of Terry, Bolton, Raymond, Utica and Edwards. The new state of the art radio system will provide Hinds County's first responders with interoperable communication with neighboring counties, as well as statewide. The new radio system will replace the 15 year old existing system, which has reached its life span. The new MSWIN system has more reliability and redundancy than any radio system that's on the market. By joining MSWIN, Hinds County will save on recurring costs at County owned tower sites. The most important aspect of this new radio project is the opportunity to save lives for all citizens in this great State.

The MSWIN system promotes an all-inclusive approach to emergency communications and interoperability that allows for multi-jurisdictional communications among responder communities before, during and after emergency disasters. The system has the capacity to support 128,000 users and is monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by the Mississippi Wireless Communication Commission (WCC). The WCC is the entity responsible for overseeing and maintaining effective public safety emergency communications in the state of Mississippi. The current MSWIN users include over 400 local entities, 40 state agencies and 20 federal entities, totaling over 24,000 users.

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## Mississippi State Fair—Safety Tips

The Mississippi State Fair is an annual tradition for many families in Mississippi. For some it's about the food, for others it's about the rides. Many come strictly for the entertainment that comes in many forms, such as music, people watching, pig races, square dancing, games and way too many other things to possibly list. Last but not least they all come for the FREE biscuits. Enjoy your time at the Mississippi State Fair (October 4—15, 2017) and follow these tips to keep you and your loved ones safe during your visit to the fairgrounds.

### Safety Tips:

- Pay attention to weather forecasts and prepare appropriately. Use sunscreen.
- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Wear closed toes shoes, not flip flops, to protect your feet.
- Be aware of your surroundings and know where to go if you need to seek shelter from unexpected weather.
- Read all instructions when viewing animals. Some should not be touched.
- Remember "If you see something, say something." If you see people or activities that seem suspicious, report it to the Hinds County Sheriff's Department Command Center located on the fairgrounds. If danger is imminent, dial 911!
- Teach kids to stay calm and stay put if separated from parents or caregivers.
- Have an established plan of a location where you will meet if separated.
- If you can't count on a child to stay seated with hands and feet inside, don't let them ride.
- Obey minimum height, age and weight restrictions. Never sneak children onto rides if they are too small or too young. A smaller/younger child may not be physically or developmentally able to stay safely seated.
- Remain in the ride until it comes to a complete stop at the unloading point. If a ride stops temporarily due to mechanical failure or other reasons, stay seated and wait for an operator to give you further instructions.
- Know your physical conditions and limitations. If you suspect that your health could be at risk for any reason, or you could aggravate a pre-existing condition of any kind, do not ride.

Have a safe and memorable time at the Mississippi State Fair and always keep safety as your #1 priority!!



## Change Batteries in Smoke Detectors & Update Disaster Kit

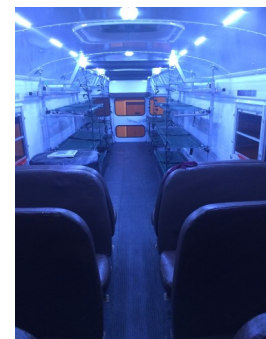
Daylight Savings Time comes to an end on November 5, 2017 at 2:00 a.m. We all enjoy that extra hour of sleep when we fall backwards this time of year. Did you know that you should change the batteries in your smoke detectors and weather radio twice a year? If you make a habit of doing this when the time 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 and update your kit as your family's need change.



## From School Bus to Ambulance Bus (AMBUS)

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors is excited to present the first fully-functional Ambulance Bus (AmBus) in Hinds County. The bus was donated by the Hinds County School District. The State Department of Health provided a kit to make it possible to retrofit the donated school bus, and Hinds County's Central Repair provided the skills and labor to transform the bus into the AmBus. The AmBus is equipped to provide emergency medical care and transportation for up to twelve patients on backboards and several other ambulatory patients with non-life threatening injuries in a mass casualty situation.



## Emergency Preparedness Information

The fall months usher in Mississippi's severe weather season. Severe Weather Awareness week will be during the week of October 23—27, 2017 and there will be a statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, October 25th at 9:15 a.m. Our goal during this time is to educate the public about how to prepare for natural disasters that occur during severe weather. Below are some tips to help you be ready. If you need additional ideas you can always go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

### Build an Emergency Kit

If disaster strikes your community, you might not have access to food, water, or electricity for some time. By taking time now to prepare you can provide for your entire family to be taken care of for at least 72 hours. Review the items recommended for a disaster supply kit at <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

### Make an Emergency Plan

Make plans with your family and friends in case you're not together during an emergency. Discuss how you'll contact each other, where you'll meet, and what you'll do in different situations. Read how to develop a family disaster plan at <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>

Ask about planning at your workplace and your child's school or daycare center. The US Department of Education gives guidelines for school preparedness. Workers at small, medium, and large businesses should practice for emergencies of all kinds.



## What It's Like to Volunteer in Fire Service

*"The fire and rescue service is one of the most diverse and challenging professions today. It is the diversity that inspires most men and women to enter the service -both as volunteers and career employees. Imagine having to train to prepare yourself to cope with situations which range from building fires to childbirth to hazardous chemical spills to heart attacks, and almost any imaginable emergency situation in between. This diversity is coupled with the fact that these skills may be needed at any time of the day, seven days a week, in any kind of weather and very often under potentially stressful and emotional circumstances. These challenges contribute to our profession being personally rewarding.*

*As volunteers, we are here for two basic purposes. The first is to prevent fires or medical emergencies from occurring. This is achieved through fire prevention, health maintenance education, inspections, fire safety education, and code enforcement programs. Secondly, we are here to prepare ourselves to control fire or medical emergencies, should prevention fail. This is done through education, training, pre-incident planning, more training, state-of-the-art equipment, and more training. We are a paramilitary profession working in a "hurry up and wait" environment.*

*This business is not for everyone. You need more than just a desire to help people. You need courage and dedication, assertiveness, and a willingness to learn new skills and face new challenges. And you need to have the time for training sessions, meetings, emergency calls, maintenance of equipment, and other duties. The fire and rescue service is not for the meek or timid or for those who lose control during times of crises. Our service is one which calls on its members to perform hot, sweaty, dirty, and strenuous work, often in uncertain and hazardous environments.*

*The personal rewards and satisfaction received from the fire and rescue service are often beyond description. There is a sense of accomplishment after controlling a building fire, joy and elation when a child is born, compassion for accident victims, and fulfillment in teaching fire safety. This list goes on and on. The bottom line in our business is measured by the loss of life, pain and suffering and property damage we have prevented or reduced. We are here and prepared for one reason, and that is to provide service to the people." Passage was taken from FEMA's Retention and Recruitment manual titled "The Nature of the Business – A Picture of What It's Like to Volunteer in the Fire Service.*

There are twelve volunteer fire departments within Hinds County which ensures that there is one near you. Maybe you have a desire to leave a legacy of service for your children and grandchildren. Maybe you are the grandchild of somebody who has served in fire service for their entire life and you want to be a part of that legacy. Maybe you have had a medical emergency or a fire at your home and volunteer fire personnel responded and you are so thankful that you want to give back to your community in the same way. Then this article was written just for you.

There are many roles to fill within Hinds County Fire Services. Everybody has a skill that can be used in one of our departments. Whether you are a nurse, EMT, paramedic or would like to fight fires there is a place for you. If you have administrative skills, are comfortable with maintenance, checking equipment regularly or cleaning up around the station there is a place for you.

If you believe you have what it takes to become a member of the Hinds County Volunteer Fire Services contact our office at 601.960.1476 for an application. After you return your completed application we will provide your information to the appropriate volunteer fire chief.

Sincerely,



**APPLY ONLINE AT [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HINDSEOC](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HINDSEOC)**

Below is a list of departments looking for dedicated volunteers to join their ranks:

Bench Volunteer Fire Department  
7460 Old Port Gibson Rd.  
Utica, MS 39175

Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department  
3660 Dry Grove Rd.  
Terry, MS 39170

Raymond Volunteer Fire Department  
109 Court St.  
Raymond, MS 39154

Bolton Volunteer Fire Department  
117 W. Madison St.  
Bolton, MS 39041

Learned Volunteer Fire Department  
323 Front St.  
Raymond, MS 39154

Terry Volunteer Fire Department  
2515 Old Hwy 51, Terry, MS 39170/  
2001 Tank Rd., Terry, MS 39170

Brownsville Volunteer Fire Department  
8057 Bolton Brownsville Rd.  
Bolton, MS 39041

Maclean Volunteer Fire Department  
1367 Ross Circle  
Jackson, MS 39209

Utica Volunteer Fire Department  
105 Depot St., Utica, MS 39175/  
111 School St., Utica, MS 39175

Byram Volunteer Fire Department  
2517 Davis Rd.  
Terry, MS 39170

Pocahontas Volunteer Fire Department  
1140 FOA Road, Jackson, MS 39209/  
1106 Pocahontas Rd.,  
Pocahontas, MS 39072

West Hinds Volunteer Fire Department  
203 Main St..  
Edwards, MS 39066



## “First Hands” Training Course

The Hinds County Department of Emergency Management in conjunction with the University Medical Center training division, conducted two classes for the Hinds County Sherriff’s Department, the Clinton Police Department, the Clinton Fire Department, and all of the Volunteer Fire Departments in the county. This class was to instruct the participants on proper procedures and techniques for applying tourniquets, proper radio procedures for contacting MEDCOM and the helicopter and other helicopter operations during responses. Between the two classes, we had approximately 65 participants. There will be at least one more opportunity to attend this training. The date has not been confirmed yet. An announcement will be sent out once it is scheduled.



# Get Ready to Shake Out.



Register at [www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org)

Federal, state, and local emergency management experts and other official preparedness organizations all agree that "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" is the appropriate action to reduce injury and death during earthquakes. The ShakeOut is our opportunity to practice how to protect ourselves during earthquakes.

**DROP** where you are, onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and also allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter if nearby.

**COVER** your head and neck with one arm and hand.

- If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath it for shelter.
- If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows). Stay on your knees; bend over to protect vital organs.

**HOLD ON** until shaking stops.

- Under shelter: hold on to it with one hand, be ready to move with your shelter if it shifts.
- No shelter: hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands

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Follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Hinds EOC](http://www.twitter.com/HindsEOC)

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

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*Prevent ~ Protect~ Mitigate ~ Respond ~ Recover*

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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.*