

Quarterly Newsletter



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

A Tribute to Larry Jack Fisher

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On the morning of March 9, 2013, something about Hinds County changed forever as retired EOC Director Larry J. Fisher left this world to spend eternity in heaven with His Lord and Savior. His love for his family and the citizens of Hinds County was evident by his mission to serve and protect both his Country and the County that he loved. During any incident, whether natural or manmade, his voice was one of reassurance and surety to those of us who worked for him and others who worked with him. Regardless of the situation, we

knew that Mr. Fisher would always know what comes next. He trained us well and his legacy will speak for itself for years to come. The citizens and first responders of Hinds County and the surrounding areas will certainly miss the wisdom and knowledge that this great man took with him. He might be gone from this earth, but he will never be forgotten.



Larry Jack Fisher
 Husband, Father, Friend
 & Public Servant
 October 3, 1937 – March 9, 2013



EOC Staff

Mark Young,
 Director

Joey Perkins, Asst. Director
 Fire Coordinator

Rosilind Longino,
 Administrative
 Deputy Director

Tracy Funches,
 Field Services
 Deputy Director

Lavonne Berryhill,
 Emergency Management
 Specialist III

Robin Garrard,
 Emergency Management
 Specialist I

Kenneth Smith,
 911 Coordinator

911 Notification System – Code Red

Hinds County has recently signed a contract with Code RED, which is a 911 notification system that sends emergency messages to landlines and cell phones. The system will be up and running in the next few weeks. Once staff training is complete, information will be made available to the public about the program and how to “opt in” (for cell phones) by signing up on the EOC website. Citizens of Hinds County with a landline will automatically be enrolled through the 911 data-

base. Your contact information remains private. Notifications will only be used during emergencies such as severe weather alerts or evacuation notifications. If you miss the original call you may hear the last message delivered to your phone through the Code RED system by simply dialing back the number on your Caller ID. The system is monitored 24/7 and alerts are generated automatically after warnings have been issued by the National Weather Service. Code RED Weather Warning is designed to rapidly alert citizens in



the path of severe weather. The authorities of Hinds County believe this will improve the ability to keep the public safe.



National Hurricane Conference 2013

In March, EOC Director Mark Young attended the 2013 National Hurricane Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. The primary goal of the conference was to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. In addition, the conference serves as a national forum for federal, state and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve Emergency Management.

During the conference there was a review of the 2012 Hurricane Season including panel discussions regarding hazards and response to both Hurricane Isaac and Hurricane Sandy. A vast amount of information in reference to mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery was shared with the participants. This conference facilitated several Emergency Management Institute Courses to registered participants including, Hurricane Readiness for Inland Communities, Hurri-

cane Readiness for Coastal Communities, Debris Management and Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Project Implementation & Programmatic Closeout. They also provided FEMA Training sessions titled "Intro to HURREVAC 2010" & "Applying HURREVAC 2010". More information is available at: www.hurricanemeeting.com



Radar Image of Hurricane Isaac

Disaster Training for Local Agencies

On February 20, 2013 the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) conducted Damage Assessment and Disaster 101 training for the staff at the Hinds County EOC, local volunteer fire chiefs, Emergency Management personnel from municipalities & several institutes of higher learning, along with personnel from the Hinds County Public Works department. This training provided information in reference to performing damage assess-

ments accurately and efficiently immediately following a disaster within Hinds County. Attendees were taught the difference between the four categories of damage (affected, minor, major, destroyed) and about the importance of documentation during the assessment.

Disaster 101 covered a large span of information in regards to the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Emergency Management Law, Disaster Response, Recovery and the correct forms to use during the event.

This training is vital to every area of the jurisdiction affected by a disaster. Every form, every number, every loss of life, home, livelihood, and business is of great importance when it comes to requesting a Federal Declaration from the President.



EOC Hosted Spotter Class

The National Weather Service Jackson Office conducted a Weather Spotter Class at the Hinds EOC on February 13, 2013. This class was open to the public and approximately 45 people attended.

The National Weather Service developed the SKYWARN program in the 1960's. It is made up of a large variety of volunteers from concerned citizens, ham radio operators, public safety officials, truck drivers,

pilots, emergency management personnel, etc., who have become trained weather spotters who provide vital ground truth information to the NWS during and after an incident. Their reports have an impact on when and where a warning is issued. Radar and satellite are great tools but technology is unable to report hail, wind damage, flooding, or tornadoes. Spotters fill in the gap by reporting how storms

are impacting their specific area.

If you would like additional information regarding the SKYWARN program follow this link where you can download and read the full "Weather Spotter's Field Guide"

www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf



Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in the Board meeting held on November 5, 2012 to authorize the Emergency Management Director, Mark Young to provide mandatory CPR training to all County employees. Representatives from American Medical Response began training in January and will continue sessions until all employees are prepared and certified to perform CPR.

In years past, CPR was performed mostly by healthcare

professionals. Now it's a life-saving skill that anybody can learn in less than a day. There have been factors over the years that have kept bystanders from taking action when an emergency happens, including fear of legal liability, fear of not performing CPR correctly and the fear of performing mouth-to-mouth and becoming infected. Through research, the American Heart Association (AHA) has been able to not only create specialized training for professionals, but lead the way in develop-

ments like Hands-Only CPR™ for bystanders, so that more victims have a chance at survival. AHA is spreading the message that anyone can and should learn the simple skills that can save a life.

The AHA has a vast amount of information and training available on their website at: www.heart.org



Weather Awareness

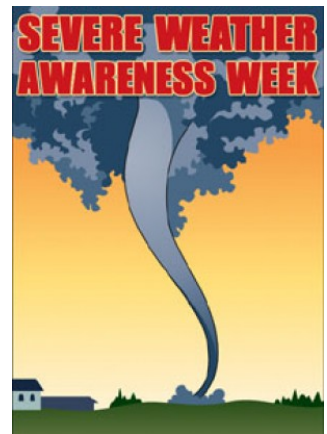
Severe Weather Awareness Week was February 4–8. The Jackson Weather Service provided tips and advice about being prepared for severe thunderstorms, flash flooding, tornado safety, lightning and ways to receive weather warnings. There was also a statewide tornado drill for citizens and agencies alike to practice their tornado plans in case of a real event. You can get more information by visiting the National Weather Service in Jackson's website at :

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/>

You can also view preparedness information on the EOC website posted on the front page of this newsletter.

March 18-22 was Flood Safety Awareness Week. During this week the Weather Service provided information to the public in reference to types of floods & flash flooding, with an emphasis on "Turn Around Don't Drown", the National Flood Insurance

Program, the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service which is their front line solution to provide improved river and flood forecasting and water information to the public across the United States.



Hail Storm Affects Hinds County

The morning of Monday, March 18, 2013 began much like any other morning. The Weather Service in Jackson was keeping us informed of expected thunderstorms during the afternoon & evening. Around 3:30 p.m. the EOC received the first report of marble size hail in the Brownsville area. For the next hour there were steady reports

of hail from pea to tennis ball size, throughout Hinds County. There have been numerous reports of damaged vehicles, homes and buildings. The hail was so strong that the EOC staff was able to hear it hitting the rooftop of the Eudora Welty Library from the basement.



Picture borrowed from the Raymond VFD Facebook page



Picture borrowed from the State Fire Academy Facebook page



Raymond Volunteer Fire Station
Pre Renovation



Raymond Volunteer Fire Station
Post Renovation

Grand Re-Opening of Raymond VFD

The Raymond Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate their grand re-opening on April 6, 2013 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. There will be a ribbon cutting and open house for the public and all former members of the department. Refreshments will be served. With the use of State Fire Rebate Money and a grant that the City of Raymond obtained from the Mississippi Development Authority, the department was able to renovate the existing building and build an additional structure. The new building houses bathrooms, a meeting room and additional space for storage. If you are interested in attending the open house, the station is located at 109 Court St., Raymond, MS, 39154.

“Calling the Mayday” Training at National Fire Academy

On March 4-5, Twenty seven (27) volunteer firefighters from Byram, Bolton, Terry, Learned and Firefox took part in Mayday training provided by the National Fire Academy and MS State Fire Academy. This training provided classroom and hands on tests that required the firefighter to demonstrate the ability to call a Mayday, or in other words “for help”, if they become trapped or injured while performing duties inside a burning structure. These firefighters were required to perform these written and skills test at 100 percent mastery, because they must have the confidence to be able to do it 100 percent correct the first time, because they may not get a second chance.



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

Staff Email Addresses:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Rosilind Longino: rlongino@co.hinds.ms.us | Robin Garrard: rgarrard@co.hinds.ms.us |
| Mark Young: myoung@co.hinds.ms.us | Lavonne Berryhill: lberryhill@co.hinds.ms.us |
| Joey Perkins: jperkins@co.hinds.ms.us | Kenneth Smith: ksmith@co.hinds.ms.us |
| | Tracy Funches: tfunches@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.