

## Quarterly Newsletter



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

## Hinds County Board of Supervisors

~Robert Graham, District 1 ~ Darrel McQuirter, District 2 ~

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Lavonne Berryhill  
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Tracy Funches  
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Robin Garrard  
Planner Coordinator  
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911 Coordinator

Brandy Martin  
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## From the Desk of the Director

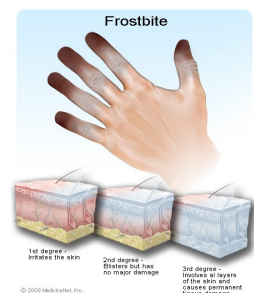
Although winter weather in Mississippi does not compare to the extreme cold and snow storms in other parts of the country, there are things you can do to be prepared for the occasional bouts of cold weather in the area. It is important to stay warm, if possible stay indoors and dress warmly. Close off unused rooms in your home and seal drafts from doors and windows.

Outdoor safety is also important. Wear loose-fitting, layered clothing for more warmth. Outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent. Mittens snug at the risk are better than gloves. Wear a hat, half of your body heat loss can be from the head. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extremely cold air.

When outside for long periods of time watch for signs of frostbite, such as feelings of “pins and needles” followed by numbness (no feeling). Skin may freeze hard and look white. When skin thaws out it is red and painful. Severe frostbite may cause blisters or gangrene (black, dead tissue). Another thing to watch for is signs of hypothermia which includes uncontrolled shivering, slow speech, memory loss, stumbling, sleepiness and extreme tiredness. If you think you have frostbite or hypothermia, don't eat or drink anything containing caffeine or alcohol—they can worsen your symptoms. Drink warm liquids that do not contain caffeine or alcohol (alcoholic drinks cause your body to lose heat more quickly). Do not eat snow! Snow can lower your body temperature and help bring on hypothermia.



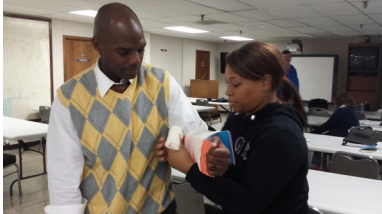
Ricky Moore, Director





## CERT Team Training

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.



The Hinds County Department of Emergency Management will be conducting several sixteen (16) hour courses to train volunteers who would like to become part of a **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**. These classes are open to all citizens of Hinds County. The course is broken down into three sessions. Participants **MUST** attend all three sessions of the course to complete the training.



Dates are as follows:

**January 22 (6-10), 23 (6-10) & 24 (9-5), 2015**

Hinds County EOC, 300 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39201

**February 16 (6-10), 20 (6-10) & 21 (9-5), 2015**

JPD Training Academy, 3000 St. Charles St., Jackson, MS 39209

**March 26 (6-10), 27 (6-10) & 28 (9-5), 2015**

Clinton Fire Station #2, 910 Old Vicksburg Rd, Clinton, MS 39056

Applications are available from Hinds County Emergency Management, the Hinds County Website ([www.hindscountymms.com](http://www.hindscountymms.com)) and from the offices of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors. Classes are **LIMITED** to 25 students and acceptance will be based on a first come first serve basis.

Submit your applications to:

**Email:** [rgarrard@co.hinds.ms.us](mailto:rgarrard@co.hinds.ms.us)

**Mail:** Hinds County EMA, P.O. Box 22568, Jackson, MS 39225

For additional information please contact the Hinds County Emergency Management Agency at 601-968-6771.



Support Your Community

Get Involved!



## What is an LEPC?

**The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)** is a federally mandated entity composed of state and local officials, business representatives and members of the press. Hinds County has created an LEPC and if you would like to be a part of this committee then we encourage you to attend the next meeting. It will be held on February 18, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hinds County Department of Emergency Management located at 300 N. State Street, Jackson, MS 39201 (in the basement of the Eudora Welty Library).

The role of the LEPC is to form a partnership with local governments and industries as a resource for enhancing hazardous materials preparedness. Local governments are responsible for the integration of hazmat planning and response within their jurisdiction. This includes ensuring the local hazard analysis adequately addresses hazmat incidents; incorporating planning for hazmat incidents into the local emergency management plan and annexes; assessing capabilities and developing hazmat response capability using local resources, mutual aid and contractors; training responders; and exercising the plan.

In the wake of the Bhopal disaster in India in the 1980's Congress passed the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), in 1986. EPCRA establishes requirements for businesses and for federal, state, and local governments regarding emergency planning and community right-to-know (CRTK) reporting for hazardous chemicals. The CRTK provision in EPCRA helped increase awareness about the presence of chemicals in their communities and releases of these chemicals into the environment. Many State legislatures also enacted CRTK laws that are consistent with federal law. As a result, States and communities, working with industry, are better able to protect public health and the environment.

It's necessary for industry to be a part of that planning process to ensure facility plans are compatible with local emergency plans. Every regulated facility is responsible for identifying a facility emergency coordinator; reporting hazmat inventories annually to the LEPC, SERC, and local fire department; providing material safety data sheets (MSDS) or a list of hazardous chemicals; allowing local fire departments to conduct on-site inspection of hazmat facilities; and providing annual report of toxic chemicals released to EPA and the State. LEPCs are crucial to local hazardous materials planning and community right-to-know programs.

The membership comes from the local area and should be familiar with factors that affect safety, the environment, and the economy of the community. That expertise is essential as the LEPC advises the writers of the local emergency management plan, so that the plan is tailored to the needs of the planning district. In addition to its formal duties, the LEPC can serve as a focal point in the community for information and discussion about hazardous substance emergency planning, and health and environmental risks. Citizens may expect the LEPC to reply to questions about chemical hazards and risk management actions.





## Hinds County to Purchase Five Fire Trucks



The Hinds County Board of Supervisors have approved the purchase of five 2015 model tanker/pumper trucks for the purpose of reducing the fire ratings for home owners in rural Hinds County. The purchase of these trucks will enhance the ability of the volunteer firefighters to reduce property loss throughout Hinds County and will help to reduce fire ratings from a Class 10 to a Class 8 in some areas. The trucks will be delivered mid to early summer and assigned to the Volunteer Fire Departments located in Terry, Bolton, Raymond, Utica and Brownsville.



This 1.3 million dollar purchase is the largest ever made by Hinds County officials. These funds are a combination of state and local monies designated for fire services. Hinds County officials will continue to diligently work towards reducing fire ratings in all rural areas of Hinds County.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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*Mitigation ~ Preparedness ~ Response ~ Recovery*

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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.*