

Quarterly Newsletter



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

Hinds County Board of Supervisors

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From the Desk of the Director

It is the beginning of the Spring Severe Weather Season in Mississippi. Being prepared for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes is of the utmost importance. Hinds County is a recognized StormReady Community by the National Weather Service. StormReady communities/counties are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness.

Preparedness is of vital importance to your family. Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance: how you will get to a safe place; how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations. For information to help create a plan go to: www.ready.gov/make-a-plan

Being prepared includes creating/updating your family disaster kit. This kit should include these basic items (for an extensive list go to www.ready.gov/kit): one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation, three-day supply of non-perishable food, manual can opener, back up prescription medicines, battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio, flashlight, extra batteries, first aid kit, whistle, moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation, wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, spare cell phone/device chargers.

Knowing the difference between a watch and a warning is also important in knowing when to take cover during a storm. Below are the descriptions provided by the National Weather Service.

A severe thunderstorm/tornado watch means that conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms/tornadoes to develop. These are issued by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK, typically before severe weather develops. Watches tend to last several hours and cover many counties.

A severe thunderstorm/tornado warning means that a severe thunderstorm/tornado has either been indicated on radar or witnessed by storm spotters. Your local NWS Forecast Office issues severe thunderstorm warnings when severe weather is developing or occurring.



Ricky Moore, Director

Warning tends to be less than an hour and cover a smaller area than a watch (i.e., 1-2 counties or less).

Please take the time to make sure your family is prepared for severe weather.





Register for Code Red Notifications

Hinds County has renewed their contract with Code RED, which is a 911 notification system that sends emergency messages to landlines and cell phones. Citizens of Hinds County with a landline have automatically been enrolled through the 911 database. 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.

If you would like to register your cell phone to receive Code Red alerts go to www.hindscountymys.com and scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on the Code Red Weather Warning Logo (pictured to the left). The link will take you directly to the registration page. If you need assistance with registration feel free to contact Robin Garrard at 601.968.6771.



Hurricane Season 2015—Coming Soon

History teaches that a lack of preparation and awareness are the common thread of major hurricane disasters. You can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster by being aware of your vulnerability and what actions should be taken in the event of a hurricane. There are many forms of hazards that come from hurricanes, including heavy rainfall, high winds, tornadoes, inland flooding, rip currents and storm surge. Below are some tips for being prepared.

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?

Put together a basic disaster supplies kit and consider storage locations for different situations. Help community members do the same. Go to this site to find out how: <http://www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit>

Know if you live in an evacuation area. Review the FEMA Evacuation Guidelines to allow for enough time to pack and inform friends and family if you need to leave your home. FOLLOW instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered! Consider your protection options to decide whether to stay or evacuate your home if you are not ordered to evacuate.

Be familiar with the different types of watches and warnings that are issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). The NWS is responsible for protecting life and property by the issuance of timely watches and warnings. It is necessary that your family be prepared before the storm arrives.

Keep a list of contact information for reference.

- ◆ Local Emergency Management Office
- ◆ County Law Enforcement
- ◆ County Public Safety Fire/Rescue
- ◆ State, County and City/Town Government
- ◆ Local Hospitals
- ◆ Local Utilities
- ◆ Local American Red Cross
- ◆ Local TV Stations
- ◆ Local Radio Stations
- ◆ Your Property Insurance Agent

You can get further information by visiting FEMA's website (www.ready.gov/hurricanes).



Be Prepared



What's Happening in the Fire Services

MS Certified Volunteer Firefighter Level-I Class

On February 21, 2015, nine firefighters from Hinds County graduated the Certified Volunteer Firefighter Level-I course at the MS State Fire Academy. This is an 80 hour course that is taken over a three month period two nights a week. The firefighters represent the Byram, Terry, and Learned Volunteer Fire Departments. The training prepares the firefighters to conduct interior firefighting operations, search and rescue, and many other tasks. We are proud of these men and women that serve their communities.

MS Volunteer Firefighter Upgrade Class

In late December, eight firefighters from Hinds County completed the MS Volunteer Firefighter Upgrade Course. This is a 32 hour course that upgrades firefighters that were certified prior to 2009 to the new standard. The firefighters represent the Byram, Learned, and Pocahontas Volunteer Fire Departments.

Certified Rural Fire Apparatus Driver Operator Level-I Class

On February 24, 2015, nineteen firefighters from Hinds County completed the Certified Rural Fire Apparatus Driver Operator course. This is a 32 hour course that is taken over a three month period. The training prepares the firefighter to drive and operate fire apparatus in a safe and efficient manner. The firefighters represent the Byram, Terry, Raymond, Pocahontas, West Hinds, Brownsville and Firefox Volunteer Fire Departments.

Hale Fire Pump Rebuilding Course

In February, three mechanics from Central Repair; Thomas Brown, Arthur Adams, and Charles Jackson, attended the Hale Fire Pump Rebuilding course at the State Fire Academy. This is a 24 hour course that teaches you how to maintain and work on fire pumps that are found on our fire apparatus. We would like to thank Central Repair for the hard work that they do to keep our fire services fleet maintained and repaired so we can maintain a state of readiness to serve the citizens of Hinds County.

Ferrara Fire Aerial Maintenance and Electrical Class

Two mechanics from Central Repair, Arthur Adams and Charles Jackson, attended training at Ferrara Fire Apparatus on aerial maintenance and electrical components. These classes help Central Repair to maintain and repair our aerial ladder truck and other fire service fleet vehicles.



Hinds County Graduates Nine New Certified Volunteer Firefighters

Hinds Purchases Trucks and Reduces Fire Ratings



Hinds County Board of Supervisors has 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.



Bolton VFD taking delivery of their new 2000 gallon truck. ---->



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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.