

## Quarterly Newsletter



<http://www.hindscountyms.com/departments/emergency-management>  
Hinds County Board of Supervisors

~Robert Graham, District 1 ~ Darrel McQuirter, District 2 ~ Peggy Calhoun, District 3, ~ Tony Greer, District 4 ~ George Smith, District 5 ~

### Table of Contents:

- From the Desk of the Director pg. 1
- CERT Conference pg. 2
- State Fair Safety Tips pg. 3
- Replace Batteries & Change Clock pg. 3
- Burn Ban pg. 4



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## From the Desk of the Director.....

The Mississippi Radiological Preparedness Program maintains state and county emergency response plans and procedures associated with preparation and response to an incident at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Port Gibson, MS. Hinds County serves as a Host County in the event of an emergency evacuation due to an incident at the plant. This involves setting up a reception center for evacuees entering Hinds County.

The Reception Center is located at the Hinds Community College in Utica, MS. A team of Hinds County employees and volunteers have been trained over the last few months to set up and participate in running the reception center. Each person that comes thru the center must be monitored for any amount of radiological contamination. If they are found to be clean then they proceed into the gym where Red Cross and Human Services will register them and start the process of making them comfortable until they can be released or moved to a shelter. Any person who is found to be contaminated must go thru a decontamination process. If they are able to remove all contamination then they are also processed thru the Red Cross and Human Services. If they are unable to be deemed clean then they will be transferred by ambulance to River Region Hospital for further medical treatment.

The Radiological Preparedness Program is so important that it is a Federal requirement that the county plans are tested and exercised every two years. It is about a 6 month process from beginning of training to the last segment of the exercise. It is vital that Hinds County has a team of dedicated and interested people to serve in this capacity. The team has already completed 2 parts of the exercise. The early feedback we have received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluators is that we did a great job demonstrating our plans and procedures.

We would like to thank the Hinds County Board of Supervisors for approving our request for a team of employees who would be committed to the training and the exercise. A huge thank you also goes out to those employees, all of the volunteers from various agencies within Hinds County, Volunteer Firefighters and the Red Cross. We could not have done it without you and look forward to working with each of you over the next two years as we prepare to do it all again in 2017.

Respectfully,

*Ricky Moore & The EOC Staff*



Ricky Moore, Director



## CERT Conference 2015

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.

Every year the Mississippi Citizen Corps Council, the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Public Safety sponsor a conference for CERT Teams across the State of Mississippi. Hinds County was honored to attend the conference this year with a group of ten CERT members. It was held at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond and accommodations and meals were provided.

The time was well spent by reviewing information that was taught during initial CERT training. In addition to refresher sessions the CERT members from across the state were provided additional training in Traffic & Crowd Control. These skills can be useful if a team is called upon to help during a motor vehicle accident or to assist during small town events such as parades, fairs, 5k walks, etc.

The final afternoon was filled with a drill exercise where the participants were afforded the opportunity to practice their skills in the areas of search and rescue, triage and treatment and incident command. It was a great learning experience and the teams all walked away with a new excitement to serve their community during the time of a disaster.

If you are a resident of Hinds County and interested in joining a Community Emergency Response Team you can call the Hinds County Emergency Management office and speak with Robin Garrard (601.960.1476) to have your name added to the waiting list for the next available CERT Training opportunity. Classes are limited to twenty-five (25) and we will apply for grant money once we have 15+ on the waiting list.



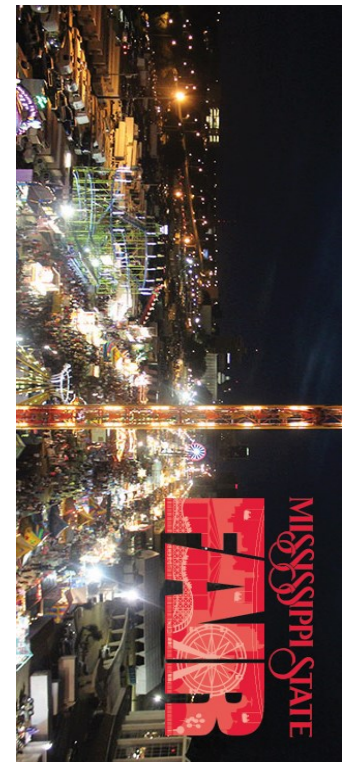
## Mississippi State Fair Safety Tips

The Mississippi State Fair is an annual tradition for many families in Mississippi. For some it's about the food, for others its 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 to many other things to possibly list. Last but not least they all come for the FREE biscuits. Enjoy your time at the 155th Mississippi State Fair (October 7—18, 2015) 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 your observations 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 heath 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!!



2015 MS State Fair  
Entertainment

Entertainer	Times	Dates of Event
Blood Sweat & Tears w/Bo Bice	7:30	Wednesday - October 7, 2015
Bell Biv DeVoe	7:30	Thursday - October 8, 2015
The Highwaymen Tribute Band	7:30	Friday - October 9, 2015
Krally Parker Elvis Impersonator	7:30	Saturday - October 10, 2015
Corey Smith	7:30	Monday - October 12, 2015
Theory of A Deadman	7:30	Tuesday - October 13, 2015
Shawn Mendes	7:30	Wednesday - October 14, 2015
Joe Nichols	7:30	Thursday - October 15, 2015

## Replace Your Batteries & Update Disaster Kit

Daylight Savings Time comes to an end on November 1, 2015 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 update your kit as your family's need change.



## Update Your Family Disaster Kit





## Hinds County Burn Ban Likely to be Extended

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors issued a burn ban on July 21, 2015 that has been extended twice. It is effective until October 16, 2015 **but** is likely to be extended a third time unless the majority of Hinds County receives a large amount of rain over the next few weeks.

The ban was put in place due to a lack of rain and an increase of grass/wild fires in the county. The burn ban includes all recreational fire and controlled burns with the exception of commercial contractors with heavy construction equipment, providing that said burn meets the State's DEQ regulations. MDEQ regulations regarding open burning of brush piles require a separation of distance of 1,500 feet from a residence without forced air assistance or 500 feet with forced air assistance.

Before burning in Hinds County in the foreseeable future, please contact the office of the Hinds County Fire Coordinator(601.968.6771) to check the status of the burn ban. Violators of the burn ban will be written a citation with a fine attached.



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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.*