

Quarterly Newsletter



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

Hinds County Board of Supervisors

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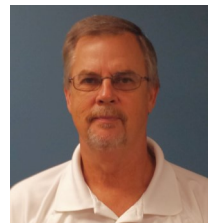
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From the Desk of the Director

Fireworks are synonymous with Independence Day! But, if you aren't careful they can also mean PAIN. On average 240 people visit the emergency room with firework related injuries during the weeks before and after the Fourth of July Holiday. Always remember that they can be dangerous causing serious burns or eye injuries.



Ricky Moore, Director

Follow these tips when using fireworks:

- **Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.**
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents beware: Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting the fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not fully ignited.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose hand in case of fire or other accident.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- After fireworks complete burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.

The Emergency Management Staff hopes that you enjoy your Fourth of July Holiday! Be smart! Be safe! Stay Hydrated and Use SUN-SCREEN!!



Earthquake Safety

All 50 states and 5 U.S. territories are at some risk for earthquakes, as some residents in the tri-county area have recently experienced. Earthquakes can happen at any time of the year. An earthquake is a sudden rolling or shaking event that is caused by movement under the earth's surface. Earthquakes happen along cracks in the earth's surface, called fault lines, and can be felt over large areas, although they usually last less than one minute. Earthquakes cannot be predicted — although scientists are working on it!

BEFORE: PREPARE

- Look around places where you spend time. Identify safe places such as under a sturdy piece of furniture or against an interior wall in your home, office or school so that when the shaking starts, you Drop to the ground, Cover your head and neck with your arms, and if a safer place is nearby, crawl to it and Hold On.
- Practice how to “**Drop, Cover, and Hold On!**”
- To react quickly you must practice often. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake.
- Before an earthquake occurs, secure items that could fall and cause injuries (e.g., bookshelves, mirrors, light fixtures).
- Store critical supplies (e.g., water, medication) and documents.
- Plan how you will communicate with family members, including multiple methods by making a family emergency communication plan.
- When choosing your home or business, check if the building is earthquake resistant per local building codes.

DURING: SURVIVE

If you are inside a building:

- Stay where you are until the shaking stops. Do not run outside. Do not get in a doorway as this does not provide protection from falling or flying objects, and you may not be able to remain standing.
- Drop down onto your hands and knees so the earthquake doesn't knock you down. Drop to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!)
- Cover your head and neck with your arms to protect yourself from falling debris.
- If you are in danger from falling objects, and you can move safely, crawl for additional cover under a sturdy desk or table.
- If there is low furniture or an interior wall or corner nearby, and the path is clear, these may also provide some additional cover.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as light fixtures or furniture.
- Hold on to any sturdy covering so you can move with it until the shaking stops. Stay where you are until the shaking stops.

If getting safely to the floor to take cover won't be possible:

Identify an inside corner of the room away from windows and objects that could fall on you. The Earthquake Country Alliance advises getting as low as possible to the floor. People who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices should lock their wheels and remain seated until the shaking stops. Protect your head and neck with your arms, a pillow, a book, or whatever is available.

Earthquake Safety Continued

If you are in bed when you feel the shaking:

If you are in bed: Stay there and Cover your head and neck with a pillow. At night, hazards and debris are difficult to see and avoid; attempts to move in the dark result in more injuries than remaining in bed.

If you are outside when you feel the shaking:

If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires. Once in the open, "Drop, Cover, and Hold On." Stay there until the shaking stops. This might not be possible in a city, so you may need to duck inside a building to avoid falling debris.

If you are in a moving vehicle when you feel the shaking:

If you are in a moving vehicle, stop as quickly and safely as possible and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires. Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped. Avoid roads, bridges, or ramps that the earthquake may have damaged.

AFTER: RECOVER

- When the shaking stops, look around. If there is a clear path to safety, leave the building and go to an open space away from damaged areas.
- If you are trapped, do not move about or kick up dust.
- If you have a cell phone with you, use it to call or text for help.
- Tap on a pipe or wall or use a whistle, if you have one, so that rescuers can locate you.
- Once safe, monitor local news reports via battery operated radio, TV, social media, and cell phone text alerts for emergency information and instructions.

Be prepared to "Drop, Cover, and Hold on" in the likely event of aftershocks.

For more information about Earthquake Safety & Preparedness you can go to:
<http://www.ready.gov/earthquakes>



2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season

Hurricane Season 2015

The 2015 Atlantic Hurricane season is officially here, and preparing for severe storms is an important part of ushering in the hot summer days. The season runs from June 1—November 30. A below normal season is expected this year, however it only takes one storm to make a bad season. Below is a list of tropical terms and a list of names that will be used during this season.

- **Tropical Depression:** Tropical cyclone with maximum sustained wind of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.
- **Tropical Storm:** Tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34 to 63 knots).
- **Hurricane:** Tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.
- **Major Hurricane:** A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 111 mph (96 knots) or higher, corresponding to a Category 3, 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

2015 Storm Names:

Ana—Bill—Claudette—Danny—Erika—Fred—Grace—Henri—Ida—Joaquin—Kate—Larry—Mindy—Nicholas—Odette—Peter—Rose—Sam—Teresa—Victor—Wanda

History teaches that not being prepared and aware are common denominators during and after a major hurricane disaster. There are many forms of hazards that come from hurricanes, including heavy rainfall, high winds, tornadoes, inland flooding, rip currents and storm surge.

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? First step for being prepared is to write a Family Emergency Plan. Before an emergency happens, sit down with your family and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan with your emergency supplies kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster. Below is a list of items you should have in your family disaster kit.

- **Water:** Store at least 2 gallons of water per person per day (one for drinking, one for sanitation)
- **Food:** Three day supply of non-perishable foods that require no refrigeration, cooking or preparation.
- **First Aid Kit:** You should have two first aid kits. One for your home and one for your car.
- **Clothing and Bedding:** One complete change of clothing/footwear per person. Rain gear, blankets, sleeping bags, cold weather gear, sturdy shoes, sunglasses.
- **Tools and Supplies:** Miscellaneous items are needed in your disaster kit also. These would include but are not limited to: mess kits or paper plates and cups, plastic utensils, radio and fresh batteries, flashlights and fresh batteries, can-opener, fire extin-

Hurricane Season Continued

guisher (ABC type), tent, pliers and a shut off wrench, matches (in waterproof container), garbage bags, compass, aluminum foil, sanitation items, soap, household chlorine bleach, small shovel.

- **Special Items:** Family members with special needs—such as infants, disabled individuals, or the elderly—will need certain items that you might not normally consider. Be sure that cash, medications, glasses, diapers, formula and bottles are included. Have some type of entertainment for children and adults. Keep important family document or copies of such in waterproof portable containers, such as will, insurance papers, passports, immunization records, household inventories, birth/death certificates and bank credit card information.

HURRICANE SEASON

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO BE PREPARED. HURRICANE SEASON LASTS THROUGH NOVEMBER 30TH.

Beware of Snakes

Summer is here in Hinds County and along with the hot humid days, pop-up thunderstorms and the threat of hurricanes comes another aspect of nature, snakes are on the move. In the winter months they are very inactive and eat very little due to expending very little energy. As the temperatures begin to warm up they begin to venture out and bask in the sun. During the spring months they leave their winter habitat in search of foraging areas, to mate and to give birth. The males move extensively in late summer to find females for mating. Snakes are attracted to cover, water and prey (rodents). Removing these things is the best answer to encouraging them to pass on by and not stay around your yard.

Many snake-human interactions take place during the spring and fall when they are relocating from one seasonal habitat to another. If you encounter one in the wild or in your yard it is best to avoid it. If left alone most snakes are docile and will try to flee or remain still and blend into its surroundings. Most snakes will not chase you. Seventy-five percent of bites occur when humans harass, move or attempt to kill a snake.

It is important to learn to identify the snakes in your area. Identification will help doctors determine the treatment that is needed. If a bite occurs remain calm & seek medical attention. Remove restrictive clothing and/or jewelry near the bite and keep the area of the bite below the heart. Never cut the wound and attempt to suck the venom out, apply ice or cold packs or use a tourniquet or give the person alcohol or caffeinated drinks.

Venomous snakes: Triangular head, often multi-colored, some will have a rattle at end of tail and when swimming the whole body will float.

Non-venomous snakes: Spoon shaped head, mostly one color and when swimming just the head shows.

If you are unsure if they are poisonous always err on the side of caution and avoid contact with the snake.



LIGHTNING KILLS
Play It Safe !

Lightning Facts...

- ✓ No place outside is safe during a thunderstorm.
- ✓ Lightning kills more people annually than tornadoes or hurricanes.
- ✓ If you hear thunder, you're likely within striking distance of the storm.

Indoors...

- ✓ Avoid contact with any equipment connected to electrical power, such as computers or appliances.
- ✓ Avoid contact with water or plumbing.
- ✓ Stay off corded phones.
- ✓ Stay away from windows and doors.
- ✓ Remain inside for 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder is heard.

Outdoors...

- ✓ Plan outdoor activities to avoid thunderstorms.
- ✓ Monitor weather conditions. If you hear thunder, get inside a substantial building immediately.
- ✓ If a substantial building is not available, get inside a hard-topped metal vehicle.
- ✓ Avoid open areas and stay away from isolated tall objects.

If Someone Is Struck...

- ✓ Victims do not carry an electrical charge and may need immediate medical attention.
- ✓ Call 911 for help.
- ✓ Monitor the victim and begin CPR or AED, if necessary.

For more information, visit:
www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

Logos: NOAA, Lightning Injury Research (LIC) - Emergency Medicine, National Lightning Safety Institute

Certified Fireground Resource Technician

The ladies on staff at the Hinds County Department of Emergency Management took on some “out of the box” training this past spring. They attended the 32 hour Certified Fireground Resource Technician training offered by the Mississippi State Fire Academy and hosted by the City of Byram Fire Department.

This course included classroom presentations, practical activities, and a written/skills test. Core subjects for this program include fire behavior, tools and equipment, Incident Command System (ICS), personal protective equipment, ground ladders, protecting evidence at the fire scene, public information, incident safety accountability systems, driving emergency vehicles, operating fire pumps, and referencing Emergency Response Guides (ERG). This course references the NFPA Standard 1001, 1021, and 1521.

All three ladies learned a lot of good information and passed both the written and skills test and are now Certified Fireground Resource Technicians. Now they are more aware of what is happening when they are involved in communications between the fire departments and field officers on scene at a fire in Hinds County.



New Truck for Terry Volunteer Fire Department

Earlier this year the Hinds County Board of Supervisors 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. On June 1, 2015, this new truck was presented to the Terry Volunteer Fire Department.

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.

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.



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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.