

Quarterly Newsletter



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

Hinds County Issues Burn Ban

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The Hinds County Board of Supervisors issued a burn ban on September 18, 2013 that will be effective until October 18, 2013. The ban was put in place due to a lack of rain and an increase of grass/wild fires in the county. This ban will expire on the stated end date at midnight if no further action is needed. 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.

For questions regarding this burn ban, contact the Hinds County Fire Coordinator, Joey Perkins at (601)968-6771.

Burn Ban In Effect



Grand Gulf Nuclear Station Exercises

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The Department of Emergency Management participated in two Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS) exercises in the past few months.

The first exercise was held on July 29, 2013, tested the knowledge and capabilities of the Emergency Management staff and volunteers from the Utica Volunteer Fire Department. The task was to set up the evacuee reception center at the Hinds Community College Utica Campus. The exercise was observed and graded by a team of evaluators from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The second exercise was held on September 10, 2013. The exercise took place at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and was also observed and graded by a team of evaluators from FEMA. The drill exercised the skillset of the staff in regard to activating the EOC upon notification from MEMA about an incident at GGNS. After the initial call from MEMA beginning the exercise, participating agencies were notified and asked to report to the EOC. Each level of the drill was completed and the exercise was terminated at approximately 1:30 p.m.

On September 12, 2013 there was a public meeting & critique of the exercise in Port Gibson. Hinds County received all good marks and no areas of improvement were needed.



September is National Preparedness Month



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September 2013 marks the tenth annual National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the US Department of Homeland Security. One goal of Homeland Security is to educate the public about how to prepare for emergencies, including natural disasters, mass casualties, biological and chemical threats, radiation emergencies, and terrorist attacks.

Get an Emergency Kit

If disaster strikes your community, you might not have access to food, water, or electricity for some time. By taking time now to prepare emergency water supplies, food supplies and a disaster supplies kit, you can provide for your entire family. Review the items recommended for a disaster supplies kit or print the Homeland Security Emergency Supply checklist.



Make an Emergency Plan

Make plans with your family and friends in case you're not together during an emergency. Discuss how you'll contact each other, where you'll meet, and what you'll do in different situations. Read how to develop a family disaster plan or fill out the Homeland Security Family Emergency Plan.

Ask about planning at your workplace and your child's school or daycare center. The US Department of Education gives guidelines for school preparedness. Workers at small, medium, and large businesses should practice for emergencies of all kinds.

Be Informed

Being prepared means staying informed. Check all types of media – Web sites, newspapers, radio, TV, mobile and land phones – for global, national and local information. During an emergency, your local Emergency Management or Emergency Services office will give you information on such things as open shelters and evacuation orders. Check Ready America community and state information to learn about resources in your community.



Get Involved

Look into taking first aid and emergency response training, participating in community exercises, and volunteering to support local first responders. Contact Citizens Corps, which coordinates activities to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to an emergency situation. Contact the Medical Reserve Corps, (MRC). MRC are community-based units and function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers who want to donate their time and expertise to prepare for and respond to emergencies and promote healthy living throughout the year. Source: www.cdc.gov/features/beready

Make Your Pets a Part of Disaster Plan



If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. Unfortunately, animals are also affected by disaster. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Pets most likely cannot survive on their own and if by some remote chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return. If you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets; consider loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area who would be willing to host you and your pets in an emergency.



Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer. Source: www.ready.gov/caring-animals

MEMA Mobile Application

MEMA's mobile phone app allows the public to find emergency information, preparedness tools, weather radar, along with several other options like statewide highway information. The app is free to download, and available to iPhone and Android phone users by searching for MEMA in the iPhone or Android app store.

The following is a description of each button within the app:

- MEMA News – This button leads the user to MEMA's news releases. During a disaster, this is where the user can get critical information in real-time.
- Contact Us – This button offers the user contact information for all of MEMA's executive staff members and each office within MEMA.
- Weather Alerts – This button shows current weather alerts for a specific county chosen by the user, updated in real-time. Statewide alerts can also be selected to see alerts from around the state.
- Weather Radar – This button displays a nationwide weather radar, in real-time.
- Facebook – This button shows the user MEMA's Facebook page, even if the user does not have a Facebook account. This button is also in real-time.
- Twitter – This button shows the user MEMA's Twitter feed, even if the user does not have a Twitter account. This button is also in real-time.
- YouTube – Takes the user to MEMA's YouTube page. The videos within this button are also updated in real-time.
- Other News – This button leaves the app and links to the Associated Press' mobile app or a link in Safari.
- Be Prepared – This button features preparedness information on every disaster that Mississippi faces, like Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Radiological, Flooding and Winter Weather. There is also an interactive Disaster Kit checklist, and a link to Coastal Retrofit Mississippi.
- Local Info – This button brings up an information screen for a specific county chosen by the user. It includes weather alerts and County EOC information.
- County EMA – This button gives the user contact information and some websites for all 82 county Emergency Management Agencies and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.
- MDOT – This button shows the Mississippi Department of Transportation's active traffic alerts and message signs from around the state.
- Shelters – This button links to American Red Cross' shelter view app. This will give the user the ability to find open shelters in their area during a time of emergency.
- FEMA Help – This button links to DisasterAssistance.gov. This will assist the user with applying for federal assistance when disaster strikes and Mississippi is declared a disaster area by the President.

Source: www.msema.org



**Download the MEMA
Mobile App
Apple or Android
From Itunes or Google Play Store**



Brownsville VFD Gets New Fire Truck

The Brownsville VFD received a new 2013 International Fire Tanker Truck. The new truck carries 2000 gallons of water and has a 500 gallon per minute pump. The main purpose of the truck is to shuttle or carry water in large amounts to a fire. The truck carries other firefighting equipment and can be used for fire suppression also. The new truck has some state of the art features and is a great addition to our firefighting fleet. It will be assigned to Station #2 on Farr Road. The truck was purchased from Ferrara Fire Apparatus at the cost of \$216,000.00.

The West Hinds VFD in Edwards, will also be receiving a new fire pumper truck in the next few weeks.

Equipment for Volunteer Fire Departments

County Fire Services upgraded the chief's vehicles for Learned, Crossroads, Utica and Brownsville Fire Departments. Several of the Hinds County Volunteer Fire Departments received equipment from the Forestry Commission in the past few months at no cost to the county.



Equipment listed below:

- Brush truck for Crossroads VFD.
- Tanker trucks for Raymond VFD and Crossroads VFD.
- Standby generators
- Light sets
- Portable pump for use by county fire services.

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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.