

Quarterly Newsletter



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

**Hinds County Board of Supervisors**

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**From the Desk of the Director**

Spring has arrived and with that comes Severe Weather Season in Mississippi. Being prepared for tornadoes and severe thunderstorms is vitally important. First things first let's talk about the difference between a "watch" and a "warning". They are often confused and we want you to know what is happening when you hear that one of the two has been issued for your area. A "watch" means that conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms/tornadoes to develop. A "warning" means that a severe thunderstorm/tornado has been either indicated by radar or witnessed by a trained weather spotter.

The next thing we want to address is a simple question. Can you and your family survive for up to 72 hours after an incident in your area? Sometimes, depending on the type of emergency it may take hours or even days before response personnel are able to reach you and your family. You may NEED to survive on your own. We highly recommend that every family have a disaster supply kit in their home and in their car.

Try to assemble your kit well before an emergency. Evacuation may be necessary in a moment's notice and you may only have time to grab essentials, but if you have a kit prepared and near an exit you won't have to fret about what you might be forgetting.

Below is a list of things to include in your Family Disaster Kit:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| • Water, 1 gallon per day per person   | • Books/games for kids                        | • Cash (small bills) and emergency credit card  |
| • Non-perishable food  | • Paper/pen for notetaking                    | • Battery operated radio  |
| • Food & water for pets  | • First aid kit                               | • Flashlight  |
| • Paper goods (plate, forks, napkins, cups, manual can opener, trash bags, etc.) | • Prescription meds                           | • Batteries   |
| • Infant formula, diapers, wipes   | • Non-prescription meds                       | • Phones/tablets/chargers   |
| • Change of clothing for all family members                                      | • Eyeglasses, contacts, contact case/solution | • Important Documents (insurance {medical, car, home}, copies of birth certificates, marriage licenses, etc.) |
|  | • Sheets/pillows/towels                       |   |
|  | • Toiletries (including feminine hygiene)     |   |



Ricky Moore, Director



## Hurricane Names

Arlene  
Bret  
Cindy  
Don  
Emily  
Franklin  
Gert  
Harvey  
Irma  
Jose  
Katia  
Lee  
Maria  
Nate  
Ophelia  
Phillipe  
Rina  
Sean  
Tammy  
Vince  
Whitney

## 2017 Hurricane Season

It is that time of year again, time to create or update your family disaster kits, family emergency plans and to get prepared for another hurricane season in Mississippi. Preparation and awareness are key to getting thru a hurricane or other type of natural disaster in the best way possible. You can reduce the effects by being aware of your vulnerabilities and what actions should be taken to keep your family safe.

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? Do you have a family disaster plan? Do you have out of state family or friends who can serve as a point of contact if your family becomes separated during a disaster? Sometimes local phone lines may go down and you can't contact family members locally but you can contact somebody in another state. Be sure everybody has the number programmed in their phone and is aware that they must call them to check-in. It will save a lot of stress during an already stressful situation.

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.

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



## WIPP Shipments to Resume in April 2017

Shipments of transuranic (TRU) waste destined for the U.S Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, NM, are scheduled to resume in April 2017. These will be the first shipments received at the facility since the February 2014 incidents.



In preparation for the resumption of shipping, the DOE Carlsbad Field Office will be supporting state-sponsored road shows along the active transportation routes. The road shows give local officials and members of the public the chance to see the actual shipping package for TRU waste – the TRUPACT-II – and to understand the WIPP transportation protocols and requirements, including driver standards, package design and testing requirements, inspection procedures, and emergency response plans and equipment.

Those attending the state-sponsored event will have an opportunity to speak about WIPP and its TRU waste shipping program with TRU truck drivers, local transportation inspectors, local emergency responders and representatives from WIPP. Road shows will be presented during the month of March along transportation corridors covering New Mexico and Texas; the Southern Route (Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina) and the Western States Route (Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming) to WIPP.



The WIPP Roadshow took place in Mississippi on March 15, 2017 at the State Fire Academy in Pearl, Mississippi. Hinds County Emergency Management staff members and many other local first responders and officials attended the Roadshow. It was very informative and will be useful if the event that an incident were to occur along I-20 in the State of Mississippi. We are thankful for the Office of Radiological Emergency Preparedness at MEMA for putting together this event.

Source: <http://www.wipp.energy.gov/wipprecovery/recovery.html>

## 2017 Grand Gulf Exercise Cycle is Complete

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.



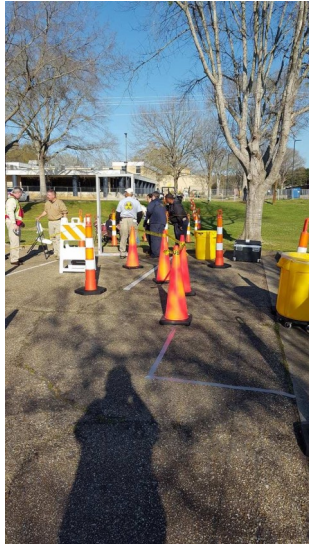
The Reception Center is located at the Hinds Community College in Utica, MS. A team of Hinds County employees and volunteers have been trained over the past few years to set up and participate in running the reception center. Each person that comes thru the center must be monitored for any amount of 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, after three attempts to decontaminate an evacuee, they are unable to be deemed clean then they will be transferred to River Region Hospital for further medical treatment.

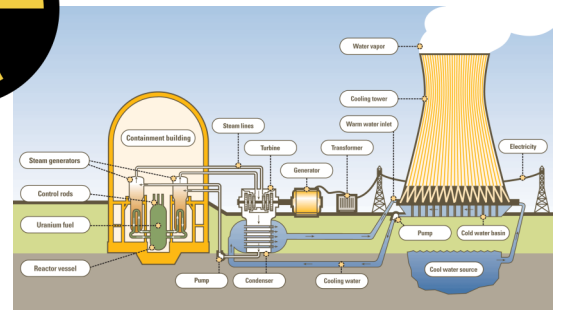
The Radiological Preparedness Program is so important that it is a Federal requirement that the county plans are tested and exercised every two years. It is about a 6 month process from beginning of training to the last segment of the exercise. It is vital that Hinds County has a team of dedicated and interested people to serve in this capacity. Hinds County EMA and the REP team have successfully completed the exercise cycle for 2017. The feedback received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluators is that we did a great job demonstrating our plans and procedures. There was even a mention that they might be interested in using our team to shoot a promotional video.

The EOC staff and the REP Team members participated in several training sessions in the first part of the year. Those classes included a Radiological Refresher Course which covered basic information regarding radiological material, ways to protect yourself from contamination and how to decontaminate people or things that have been contaminated. There was an additional course that taught the old and new members of the team how to set up and run a Reception Center.

Once again we would like to thank the Hinds County Board of Supervisors for approving our request for a team of employees who would have the freedom to commit to the training and the exercise. We are very grateful to those Hinds County employees, multiple volunteer firefighters, the State Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, American Medical Response 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 over again in 2019.



Grand Gulf Nuclear Station 1985



How a nuclear power plant works.

## Beware of Snakes—They Are On the Move

Spring is here and snakes are on the move. As the temperatures warm up they venture out to bask in the sun. They retreat again in the evening when the temperatures are cooler. As summer approaches they will leave their winter habitat in search of foraging areas, to mate and to give birth. 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.

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.

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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.*