

## Quarterly Newsletter



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

## Hinds County Board of Supervisors

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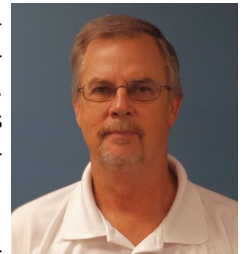
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## From the Desk of the Director

Today I want to discuss something very important to our daily lives. Cybersecurity involves preventing, detecting and responding to cyber incidents that can have wide ranging effects for individuals, organizations, communities and even on our nation. There are ways to protect ourselves and increase our chance of avoiding risks. Below is a list of ways to safeguard yourself, your family, your property and/or your business.



Ricky Moore, Director

- Only connect to the internet over secure, password protected networks.
- Do not click on links or pop-ups, open attachments or respond to email from strangers.
- Always enter a URL by hand instead of following links if you are unsure of the sender.
- Do not respond to online request for personal identifiable information (PII), most organizations will not ask for your information over the internet.
- Limit who you share information with by reviewing privacy setting on social media.
- Trust your gut, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Password protect all devices that connect to the internet and user accounts.
- Do not use the same password twice; choose one that means something to you and you only; change passwords on a regular basis.
- If you see something suspicious, report it to the proper authorities.

If you believe your personal identifiable information has been compromised you should immediately change all passwords (financial ones first) and don't use those passwords again. Contact companies, including banks, where you have accounts as well as credit reporting companies. Close any affected accounts and watch for any unexplainable or unauthorized charges.

If you are the victim of a cyber incident always file an official report with your local police. Identity theft should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission. If your driver's license or social security number was compromised also contact the Social Security Administration and Department of Motor Vehicles. If you would like additional information regarding cyber security you can visit [www.ready.gov/cybersecurity](http://www.ready.gov/cybersecurity)

Sincerely,

# Home Fires — Be Informed

## Learn About Fires

- **Fire is FAST!** In less than 30 seconds a small flame can turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house or for it to be engulfed in flames.
  - **Fire is HOT!** Heat is more threatening than flames. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. Inhaling this super-hot air will scorch your lungs and melt clothes to your skin.
  - **Fire is DARK!** Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness.
- Fire is DEADLY!** Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire produces poisonous gases that make you disoriented and drowsy. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by a three-to-one ratio.

## Before a Fire — Create and Practice a Fire Escape Plan

In the event of a fire, remember that every second counts, so you and your family must always be prepared. Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. Twice each year, practice your fire escape plan. Some tips to include when preparing this plan include:

- Find two ways to get out of each room in the event the primary way is blocked by fire or smoke.
- A secondary route might be a window onto a neighboring roof or a collapsible ladder for escape from upper story windows.
- Make sure that windows are not stuck, screens can be taken out quickly, and that security bars can be properly opened.
- Practice feeling your way out of the house in the dark or with your eyes closed.
- Teach children not to hide from firefighters.

## Smoke Alarms

A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

- Install both ionization AND photoelectric smoke alarms, OR dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.
- Test batteries monthly.
- Replace batteries in battery-powered and hard-wired smoke alarms at least once a year (except non-replaceable 10-year lithium batteries).
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement, both inside and outside of sleeping areas. Replace the entire smoke alarm unit every 8-10 years or according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Never disable a smoke alarm while cooking—it can be a deadly mistake.

## During a Fire

- Crawl low under any smoke to your exit - heavy smoke and poisonous gases collect first along the ceiling.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and door. If either is hot, or if there is smoke coming around the door, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- If you open a door, open it slowly. Be ready to shut it quickly if heavy smoke or fire is present.
- If you can't get to someone needing assistance, leave the home and call 9-1-1 or the fire department. Tell the emergency operator where the person is located.
- If pets are trapped inside your home, tell firefighters right away.
- If you can't get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around doors with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1 or your fire department. Say where you are and signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.

## Home Fires (continued)

If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll – stop immediately, drop to the ground, and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out. If you or someone else cannot stop, drop, and roll, smother the flames with a blanket or towel. Use cool water to treat the burn immediately for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help right away by calling 9-1-1 or the fire department.

### After a Fire

The following checklist serves as a quick reference and guide for you to follow after a fire strikes.

- Contact your local disaster relief service, such as The Red Cross, if you need temporary housing, food and medicines.
- If you are insured, contact your insurance company for detailed instructions on protecting the property, conducting inventory and contacting fire damage restoration companies. If you are not insured, try contacting private organizations for aid and assistance.
- Check with the fire department to make sure your residence is safe to enter. Be watchful of any structural damage caused by the fire.
- The fire department should see that utilities are either safe to use or are disconnected before they leave the site. DO NOT attempt to reconnect utilities yourself.
- Conduct an inventory of damaged property and items. Do not throw away any damaged goods until after an inventory is made.
- Try to locate valuable documents and records. Refer to information on contacts and the replacement process inside this brochure.
- Begin saving receipts for any money you spend related to fire loss. The receipts may be needed later by the insurance company and for verifying losses claimed on income tax.
- Notify your mortgage company of the fire.

### More Prevention Tips

- Never use stove range or oven to heat your home.
- Keep combustible and flammable liquids away from heat sources.
- Portable generators should NEVER be used indoors and should only be refueled outdoors or in well ventilated areas.

(Source: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov))



## Volunteers NEEDED for Hinds County Fire Services

*The fire and rescue service is one of the most diverse and challenging professions today. It is the diversity that inspires most men and women to enter the service -both as volunteers and career employees. Imagine having to train to prepare yourself to cope with situations which range from building fires to childbirth to hazardous chemical spills to heart attacks, and almost any imaginable emergency situation in between. This diversity is coupled with the fact that these skills may be needed at any time of the day, seven days a week, in any kind of weather and very often under potentially stressful and emotional circumstances. These challenges contribute to our profession being personally rewarding.*

*As volunteers, we are here for two basic purposes. The first is to prevent fires or medical emergencies from occurring. This is achieved through fire prevention, health maintenance education, inspections, fire safety education, and code enforcement programs. Secondly, we are here to prepare ourselves to control fire or medical emergencies, should prevention fail. This is done through education, training, pre-incident planning, more training, state-of-the-art equipment, and more training. We are a paramilitary profession working in a "hurry up and wait" environment.*

*This business is not for everyone. You need more than just a desire to help people. You need courage and dedication, assertiveness, and a willingness to learn new skills and face new challenges. And you need to have the time for training sessions, meetings, emergency calls, maintenance of equipment, and other duties. The fire and rescue service is not for the meek or timid or for those who lose control during times of crises. Our service is one which calls on its members to perform hot, sweaty, dirty, and strenuous work, often in uncertain and hazardous environments.*

*The personal rewards and satisfaction received from the fire and rescue service are often beyond description. There is a sense of accomplishment after controlling a building fire, joy and elation when a child is born, compassion for accident victims, and fulfillment in teaching fire safety. This list goes on and on. The bottom line in our business is measured by the loss of life, pain and suffering and property damage we have prevented or reduced. We are here and prepared for one reason, and that is to provide service to the people." Passage was taken from FEMA's Retention and Recruitment manual titled "The Nature of the Business – A Picture of What It's Like to Volunteer in the Fire Service".*

There are twelve volunteer fire departments within Hinds County which ensures that there is one near you. Maybe you have a desire to leave a legacy of service for your children and grandchildren. Maybe you are the grandchild of somebody who has served in fire service for their entire life and you want to be a part of that legacy. Maybe you have had a medical emergency or a fire at your home and volunteer fire personnel responded and you are so thankful that you want to give back to your community in the same way. Then this article was written just for you.

There are many roles to fill within Hinds County Fire Services. Everybody has a skill that can be used in one of our departments. Whether you are a nurse, EMT, paramedic or would like to fight fires there is a place for you. If you have administrative skills, are comfortable with maintenance, checking equipment regularly or cleaning up around the station there is a place for you.

If you believe you have what it takes to become a member of the Hinds County Volunteer Fire Services and you live in the rural areas of Hinds County contact our office at 601.960.1476 for an application. You may also apply on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/HindsEOC](http://www.facebook.com/HindsEOC)

After you return your completed application we will provide your information to the appropriate volunteer fire chief.





Below is a list of departments looking for dedicated volunteers to join their ranks:

Bench Volunteer Fire Department  
7460 Old Port Gibson Rd.  
Utica, Ms 39175

Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department  
3660 Dry Grove Rd.  
Terry, MS 39170

Terry Volunteer Fire Department  
Station 1: 2001 Tank Rd.  
Terry, MS 39170

Bolton Volunteer Fire Department  
117 W. Madison St.  
Bolton, MS 39041

Learned Volunteer Fire Department  
323 Front St.  
Raymond, MS 39154

Station 2: 129 Railroad Ave.  
Terry, MS 39170

Brownsville Volunteer Fire Department  
Station 1: 8057 Bolton Brownsville Rd.  
Bolton, MS 39041

Maclean Volunteer Fire Department  
1367 Ross Circle  
Jackson, MS 39209

Utica Volunteer Fire Department  
Station 1: 105 Depot St.  
Utica, MS 39175

Station 2: 4675 Farr Rd.  
Edwards, MS 39066

Pocahontas Volunteer Fire Department  
1140 FOA Road, Jackson, MS 39209

Station 2: 111 School St.  
Utica, MS 39175

Byram Volunteer Fire Department  
2571 Davis Rd.  
Terry, MS 39170

Raymond Volunteer Fire Department  
109 Court St.  
Raymond, MS 39154

West Hinds Volunteer Fire Department  
203 Main St..  
Edwards, MS 39066



**VOLUNTEER  
FIREFIGHTERS  
DO IT FOR FREE**

## Spring Brings.....Severe Weather Season

It is Severe Weather Season in Mississippi again. 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. In recent weeks, Hinds County also became a NOAA Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador. The Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador initiative is an effort to formally recognize NOAA partners who are improving the nation's readiness against extreme weather, water, and climate events. As a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador, our organization is committed to work with NOAA and other Ambassadors to strengthen national resilience against extreme weather.

Being prepared for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes is of the utmost importance. 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](http://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](http://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. Your kit should be kept in a portable container near the door that will most likely be used during an evacuation. **DON'T FORGET TO PLAN FOR YOUR PETS!**

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.

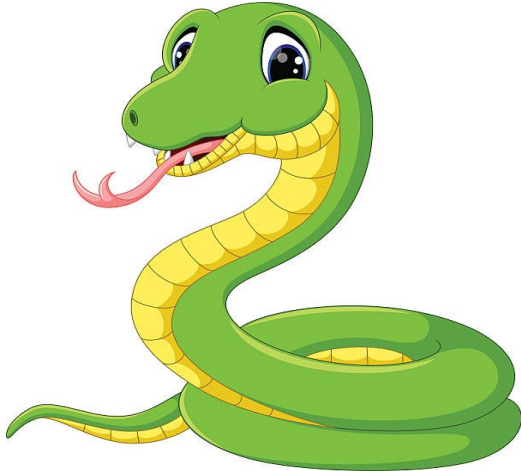
### Watch

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.

### Warning

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.





## Tips to Prevent Snake Bites

1. Wear boots and long pants when hiking to help block snake venom.
2. Stay on trails when hiking, away from underbrush and tall weeds.
3. Do not touch or disturb a snake, even if it appears dead.
4. Always look for concealed snakes before picking up rocks, sticks or firewood.
5. Never hike alone in remote areas. Always have someone with you who can assist in an emergency.
6. Teach children to respect snakes and to leave them alone.

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.

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[www.facebook.com/Hinds EOC](http://www.facebook.com/HindsEOC)



Follow us on Twitter at  
[www.twitter.com/Hinds EOC](http://www.twitter.com/HindsEOC)

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

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*Prevention ~ Protection ~ Mitigation ~ 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 prepare for, protect against, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other manmade disasters.*