

Quarterly Newsletter



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

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From the Desk of the Director....

Being ready for severe weather is not just for the spring season. Tornadoes and other forms of severe weather can happen year round, day or night. There is a surprising statistic, at least to the average person, that late autumn also has a surge of severe weather. This "second season" occurs mainly across the southeast section of the United States, with November being the focus of the highest number of fall severe weather incidents, including tornadoes. A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground, also known as a funnel cloud. Damages can range from light to catastrophic. Wind from tornadoes can cause structural damage, turn debris into deadly projectiles, move and destroy houses and roll cars. Emergency alerts are vital in the hours leading up to and during severe weather. It is also important to know the difference between the types of notifications put out by the National Weather Service (NWS).

- NWS issues a **tornado watch** when weather conditions in an area indicate an increased risk for severe weather that may be capable of producing a tornado.
- NWS issues a **tornado warning** when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. On average tornado warnings are issued 13 minutes prior to the event, but warning times vary greatly and may be much less.

When a tornado threatens, your immediate action can save your life. Below are some suggested actions:

- Put as many walls between you and the storm as possible.
- Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls. Protect your head.
- In homes and small buildings go to the basement or to an interior part of the lowest level – closets, bathroom or interior halls. Get under something sturdy.
- In schools, nursing homes, hospitals, factories or shopping centers, go to the pre-designated shelter area – interior hallways on the lowest floor are usually the best.
- In high-rise buildings, go to interior small rooms or hallways.
- In mobile homes or vehicles, leave them and go to a substantial structure. If there is no shelter nearby, lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine or culvert with your hands shielding your head.

For more information about being prepared for severe weather visit, www.ready.gov/prepare

Winterize Your Vehicle

Climate changes don't affect just you, they also affect your car. Don't expect your car to function properly without some attention to its winter needs. Here are some important tips for preparing your car for the winter weather. Check your tires for baldness. Be sure there is antifreeze in the radiator and not water. Check the battery, the cables and the terminals for any damage. Refill washer fluid with one that has antifreeze as an additive. Also, keep an emergency kit in the trunk in case you become stranded that includes a jacket, blanket, flares, flashlight, anti-freeze, battery operated radio, water and snack foods (crackers, peanut butter, etc.). This might seem unimportant at the moment but during a winter storm these things can save your life and the life of your car.



Hinds EMA Welcome New Employee

Brandy Martin, a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, is the Administrative Assistant for Emergency Management Agency of Hinds County. Prior to, she worked for the City of Jackson, Department of Human and Cultural Services where she assisted with the Mayor's Summer Youth Program. She currently resides in Terry with her husband and dog, Diego. Brandy Martin can be reached at 601-960-1476 or via email bmartin@co.hinds.ms.us



EMA Staff Training & Development

The Department of Emergency Management & Fire Service is aware of the importance of staying up to date with the most recent information in their respective fields of expertise. During the past few months the staff has been busy attending training, conferences and earning certifications.

EOC Staff:

- 25 Years of Service Pin (Kenneth)
- Active Shooter (all staff)
- Mississippi Civil Defense/Emergency Management Association Mid-Winter Conference (Ricky)
- Annual Emergency Services Administrative Professionals Association Conference (Lavonne/Robin)
- Incident Command System (ICS) Forms Training (Lavonne/Robin)
- Continuity of Operations Planner's Workshop (Lavonne)
- Hurrevac Training (Lavonne/Robin)
- Certified Emergency Manager Level 2, MCDEMA (Robin)
- Social Media for Natural Disaster Response & Recovery (Robin)
- 911 Administrator Training (Lavonne/Robin/Brandy)
- ICS 100 (Brandy)
- Incident Management Team Training (Joey)
- ICS 402— Incident Command System Overview for Executives/Senior Officials (all staff)
- Disaster 101 (all staff)



Hinds County Awarded CERT Training Grant

Hinds County was awarded a \$10,000 Homeland Security Grant. The grant money will be used for five Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training sessions. Each class is limited to twenty-five people. All Hinds County citizens are eligible to apply by downloading the application from the county website at www.hindscountymms.com. Applications will be accepted on a first come first serve basis for each session. Every class is a total of 16 hours split up over several sessions. Dates will be released by press release thru the media prior to the training. The first training is scheduled for October 27, 2014 (6-10pm), October 30, 2014 (6-10pm) & November 1, 2014 (8-5pm). Participants must attend all three sessions to complete the training.

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.





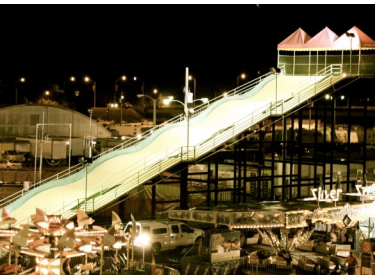
Mississippi State Fair Safety Tips

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 1—12, 2014) and follow these tips to keep you and your loved ones safe during your visit to the fairgrounds.

General Safety Tips:



- Pay attention to weather forecasts and prepare appropriately.
- Be sure to use sunscreen and sunglasses to protect you from harmful UV rays.
- 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 form unexpected weather.
- Wash your hands after petting animals and before eating.
- 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!



Safety Tips for Kids and Caregivers:

- Teach kids to stay calm and stay put if separated from parents or caregivers.
- Keep watchful eye on children. It is easy for them to become separated in large crowds.
- Have an established plan of a location where you will meet if separated.
- If you do become separated from your child, notify fair personnel & deputies immediately.

Amusement Ride Safety Tips:



- Read all posted rules and listen to instructions given by ride operators.
- Watch the ride with children before boarding. Point out the operator and entrance and exit locations prior to riding. Make sure they fully understand the instructions and warnings.
- Keep all body party (hands, arms, legs, long hair, etc.) inside the ride at all times. If you have long hair, keep it pulled up with a hat or hair tie.
- If you can't count on a child to stay seated with hands and feet inside, don't let them ride.
- Always use the safety equipment provided (seat belt, shoulder harness, lap bar, etc.).
- 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!!



Trick-or-Treat?

It's finally fall and the first holiday of the season is coming up at the end of this month. Trick or treating can be fun but not everybody in our society is out to have a good time. Some people simply like to prey upon others and wreak havoc in this world we live in. Below is a list of safety tips for you and your children to practice on this holiday that can be fun and scary all at the same time.

Walk Safely

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with the drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

Trick or Treat with an Adult

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision.
- Kids that are mature enough to be without supervisions should stick to familiar area that are well lit and trick or treat in groups.

Keep Costumes Both Creative and Safe

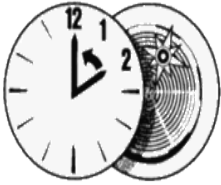
- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers, If possible choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick or treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours.



Change Your Clock



Change Your Battery

Replace Your Batteries & Update Disaster Kit

Daylight Savings Time comes to an end on November 2, 2014 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.



What's Happening in Fire Services

The Volunteer Firefighters in Hinds County are dedicated to their work and their training. Below is a list of some things they have been working on over the past few months.

- Certified Firefighter Level 1 (15 students)
- Certified Volunteer Firefighter Upgrade Class (8 students)
- Certified Volunteer Firefighter Level 1 (Firefox— team of inmate trustees)
- CPR Training at Brownsville Volunteer Fire Department

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Hinds EOC



Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Hinds EOC

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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.