

## Quarterly Newsletter



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

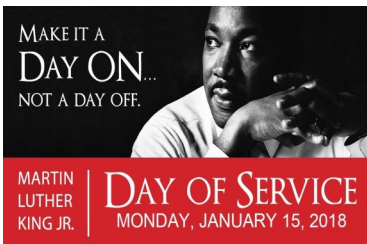
## Hinds County Board of Supervisors

~Robert Graham, District 1 ~ Darrel McQuirter, District 2, Vice President ~

~ Peggy Calhoun, District 3 ~ Mike Morgan, District 4, President ~ Bobby "Bobcat" McGowan, District 5 ~

## Table of Contents:

- From the Director pgs. 1–2
- Volunteer Fire pgs. 3-4
- Basic Academy pg. 5
- Winter Weather pg. 6



## EOC Staff

Ricky Moore  
Director/Fire Coordinator

Joey Perkins  
Assistant Director

Lavonne Berryhill  
Administrative Coordinator

Tracy Funches  
Operations Coordinator

Kyle Greer  
EMS Coordinator

Robin Garrard  
Planner Coordinator  
Newsletter Editor

Kenneth Smith  
911 Coordinator

Brandy Martin  
Administrative Assistant

## From the Desk of the Director

Hopefully you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Last year brought a lot of good and some not so great things. We as a nation witnessed a mass shooting in Las Vegas and a church shooting in Texas along with many other incidents across the world as a whole. Sadly, we are now living in a time of uncertainty and although we can't stop bad things from happening we can learn to be prepared for them.

As the Emergency Management Director the task of educating the public in regards to prevention, preparedness and situational awareness weighs heavily on my shoulders. Hinds County is taking the reality of possible threats in the future very seriously. To aid in this area we will begin to offer Basic Awareness Training to Places of Worship and businesses in the Hinds County area this year. If you are interested in hosting a presentation please contact us at 601.960.1476.

Now let's talk about some steps you can take to be ready for a frightening experience or an emergency. Preparedness is the first step in taking care of yourself and your family. The best way to accomplish that is to create a Family Emergency Plan (i.e., where to meet if separated, how will you exit your home in case of fire, communication plan, etc.) and to create and/or update your Disaster Kit. Make sure your kit is stocked with the items on the checklist below. Most of the items are inexpensive and easy to find, and any of them could save your life. After you cover the basic items, consider what unique needs your family might have, such as pet supplies or things for infants or seniors. You can find tips and answers to all of your questions at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

- ◆ Water: One gallon per person per day for at least 3 days, for drinking and sanitation
- ◆ Food : At least a 3 day supply of non-perishable food
- ◆ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and NOAA weather radio
- ◆ Flashlight
- ◆ First aid kit
- ◆ Extra batteries
- ◆ Whistle to signal for help
- ◆ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ◆ Wrench or pliers (non-sparking) to turn off utilities
- ◆ Manual can opener



Ricky Moore, Director



## From the Desk of the Director (continued)

- ◆ Local maps
- ◆ Cell phone with chargers
- ◆ Prescriptions medicines and non-prescriptions medicines
- ◆ Glasses/contacts lens solution
- ◆ Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, etc.
- ◆ Pet Supplies
- ◆ Money (cash or travelers checks)

Another vital step in personal safety is to be aware of your surroundings. Situational awareness is the capability to identify and process possible dangers in your environment. It is your ability to comprehend what is going on around you which gives you the opportunity to escape or even prevent the danger represented by a scenario or a person. Being more aware does not mean you are looking for trouble, it is actually the most effective way to avoid it all together.

Below are some tips to help you in this area:

- ◆ **Assess Your Environment:** Assess your surroundings for threats. Be aware of what is normal in your situation. Identify and measure the danger of things you see around you. Imagine and consider how you would escape from different types of incidents. Look for ways out of your current location if you needed to leave quickly.
- ◆ **Control Your Focus and Attention:** Don't assume that odd behavior does not pose a threat. Approach each situation as though it could become dangerous. Don't be distracted by things like your phone or loud music. Wearing earphones while walking around in public might keep you from hearing/seeing a potential threat. Don't lose track of time, be sure you know how long it's been since you saw your child at the park or how long ago it was that your friend went to the restroom. Time is valuable in times of trouble. Fight against complacency, don't get too comfortable and most importantly if you **SEE SOMETHING** that makes you uncomfortable or is out of place then **SAY SOMETHING** to somebody of authority. Use your peripheral vision to identify threats, staring may draw unwanted attention to yourself causing a possible threat to become a real one.
- ◆ **Be Aware in Dangerous Situations:** Try to predict upcoming incidents around you, for example, you are driving behind a school bus, therefore you can reasonably predict that it may stop in front of you to let children on or off. Another scenario could be that you are in a crowd of people and notice that some of them are arguing, in this situation you can assume that it could turn into a fight, which may be a sign that you should leave the area. Trust your gut feelings, if you feel uneasy trust that feeling because it's always better to be safe than sorry. Position yourself to easily be able to identify threats. In crowds you should try to have your back up against a wall so you can see anybody approaching you. It's also a good idea to be near exits which make a quick escape easier if needed. If anybody comes into your personal space be quick to identify if they may pose any possible threat, such as carrying or concealing a weapon or hiding their hands or using them in an aggressive manner towards you.

We already mentioned the importance of "**SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING**" but we can't stress enough how important that may be for you, your family or others in the area. If you notice unusual items or situations, people asking questions that seem more than just curiosity, or you notice somebody paying extra attention to buildings or facilities then please **SAY SOMETHING**. Some of these things may be purely innocent, but let law enforcement determine whether it warrants investigating.

**How to Report Suspicious Activity:** Public safety is everybody's responsibility. If you see something suspicious, report it to your local law enforcement office or to a person of authority. Describe specifically what you observed, including: Who or what you saw; When you saw it; Where it occurred; and Why it's suspicious.

If you have questions or would like additional information regarding the Basic Awareness Training provided by the Hinds County Department of Emergency Management call 601.960.1476. I hope you have a happy, healthy and safe new year.

Sincerely,



## 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



## Emergency Management Institute (EMI) - Basic Academy

The National Emergency Management Basic Academy is a gateway for individuals pursuing a career in emergency management. Similar to basic academies operated by the fire service and law enforcement communities, the National Emergency Management Basic Academy will provide a foundational education in emergency management.

The goal of the Basic Academy is to support the early careers of emergency managers through a training experience combining knowledge of all fundamental systems, concepts, and practices of cutting-edge emergency management. The Academy provides shared classrooms of adult learners and skillful instructors resulting in a solid foundation upon which to build further studies and sound decisions.

The National Emergency Management Basic Academy is designed for newly appointed emergency managers with less than three years of experience, including members of State, local, tribal, and territorial homeland security or emergency services programs; Nongovernmental organizations, voluntary agencies, or professional organizations; Private sector emergency management offices; College or university emergency management staff; and FEMA, federal partners, military and emergency managers at other departments or agencies.

The Basic Academy consists of the following classroom courses. Attendance at each course is required. E/L0101, Foundations of Emergency Management, should be taken first but is not required.

- ◆ **E/L0101**, Foundations of Emergency Management (80 hours) 10 days
- ◆ **E/L0102**, Science of Disaster (approx. 24 hours) 3 days
- ◆ **E/L0103**, Planning: Emergency Operations (16 hours) 2 days
- ◆ **E/L0104**, Exercise Design (16 hours) 2 days
- ◆ **E/L0105**, Public Information and Warning (16 hours) 2 days
- ◆ **Total hours:** 152 hours

In 2017, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency hosted a state sponsored Basic Academy for local emergency management personnel across Mississippi. Approximately 30 people applied and were accepted into the Basic Academy. Robin Garrard, Planner Coordinator with Hinds County's Department of Emergency Management was among those who were accepted. Robin said "I look forward to continuing to grow in the field of emergency management by attending the Advanced Academy in 2018/2019 and I appreciate being given the opportunity by the powers that be in Hinds County." It was an honor for Hinds County to be represented among those who were part of the first graduating class in the Great State of Mississippi.

(Source: <https://training.fema.gov/empp/basic.aspx>)



Left to Right: Tony Russell - EMI Superintendent, Robin Garrard, Planner Coordinator, Lee Smithson MEMA Executive Director



Presenting Mississippi's 1st Graduating Class from the National Emergency Management Institute's Basic Academy on October 13, 2017.

## Winter in Mississippi



Surprisingly, it actually feels like winter in Mississippi right now. Let's talk about some things you should do to be safe and stay healthy during this unusually cold weather. It is vitally important to stay warm, if possible stay indoors, dress warmly and seal drafts from doors and windows. If you have to be outdoors there are things you can do to reduce health risks, such as wear loose-fitting layered clothes for more warmth, wear mittens rather than gloves—mittens are warmer, and cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extremely cold air. Rarely in Mississippi do we see conditions that warrant concern of frostbite or hypothermia but we are currently experiencing one of those times. It is a good idea to know the signs to watch for.

- Frostbite: Feelings of "pins & needles" followed by numbness. Skin may freeze hard and look white. When thawed out, skin is red and painful. Very bad frostbite may cause blisters or gangrene (black, dead tissue).
- Hypothermia: Uncontrolled shivering, slow speech, memory loss, stumbling, sleepiness and extreme tiredness.



If you think you have frostbite or hypothermia, do not eat or drink anything containing caffeine or alcohol—they can worsen your symptoms. Drink warm liquids. And though we don't see much snow around here, do not eat snow! It can lower your body temperature and help bring on hypothermia.

Vehicle maintenance is also very important during winter weather. You should check the antifreeze and oil levels and be sure your brakes, battery, lights, heater/defroster and tires are all in good working order especially prior to a road trip. It is also a good idea to have preparedness kit in your car including: windshield scraper, flashlight, battery powered radio, extra batteries, water, snacks, matches, first aid kit, pocket knife, blanket, booster cables, flares, hats, socks, mittens, medications and rope or tow chain.

Find us on Facebook at [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.hindscountymississippi.com/departments/emergency-management>

**Staff Email Addresses:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Lavonne Berryhill: <a href="mailto:lberryhill@co.hinds.ms.us">lberryhill@co.hinds.ms.us</a> | Kenneth Smith: <a href="mailto:ksmith@co.hinds.ms.us">ksmith@co.hinds.ms.us</a>     |
| Ricky Moore: <a href="mailto:rmoore@co.hinds.ms.us">rmoore@co.hinds.ms.us</a>               | Tracy Funches: <a href="mailto:tfunches@co.hinds.ms.us">tfunches@co.hinds.ms.us</a> |
| Brandy Martin: <a href="mailto:bmartin@co.hinds.ms.us">bmartin@co.hinds.ms.us</a>           |   |
| Joey Perkins: <a href="mailto:jperkins@co.hinds.ms.us">jperkins@co.hinds.ms.us</a>          | Robin Garrard: <a href="mailto:rgarrard@co.hinds.ms.us">rgarrard@co.hinds.ms.us</a> |
| Kyle Greer: <a href="mailto:kgreer@co.hinds.ms.us">kgreer@co.hinds.ms.us</a>                |   |



**Prevention ~ Protection~ Mitigation ~ Response ~ Recovery**

Physical: 300 N. State St.  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Mailing: P.O. Box 22568  
Jackson, MS 39225-2568  
Phone: 601.960.1476  
Phone: 601.968.6771  
Fax: 601.355.9943

*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.*