

Quarterly Newsletter



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

Hinds County Board of Supervisors

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

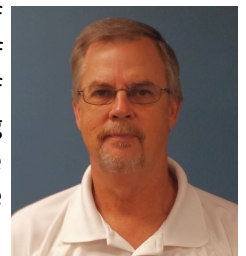
~ Peggy Calhoun, District 3 ~ Mike Morgan, District 4, President ~ Bobby "Bobcat" McGowan, District 5 ~

Table of Contents:

- From the Director .....1
- River Flooding .....2-3
- Carbon Monoxide Info .....4
- Carbon Monoxide Safety.....5
- Volunteers Needed.....6-7
- Winter Tips.....8

From the Desk of the Director

As a young man during the Great Easter Flood of 1979 I was part of the evacuation process in the City of Jackson. I have memories of the flood waters inundating a large part of the City and areas of Hinds County. Today, my staff and I are watching and preparing for the possibility of another flood event in Hinds County. As we prepare for the worst and hope for the best I would like to share some information with each of you regarding flood safety.



Ricky Moore, Director

Do you know the difference between a Flood Warning and a Flood Watch? A warning means "take action now" because flooding is imminent or already occurring. If you are advised to evacuate, do so right away, there is no time to waste once an evacuation has been put in place. A watch means to "be prepared" because flooding is possible in your area.

During a flood event of any type walking or driving into floodwaters is dangerous and could be the last decision you make. Always turn around don't drown! Most people underestimate the power of water. It only takes 6 inches of fast moving water to carry away an adult and just 12 inches to carry a car away. A large SUV, van or truck can be carried away with 18-24 inches of rapidly moving water. Remember that it is not possible to tell how deep water is by simply looking at it. That is why we strongly stress "TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN". Following this one rule could save your life. More than 50% of all flood fatalities are vehicle-related. The road may look safe but you can't tell if the road has been compromised or washed away beneath the water. Reaching your destination is not as important as living the rest of your life. It is also important to remember that when you put your life at risk you are also endangering the first responder who will be called to rescue you. Be aware, be smart and stay safe.

Sincerely,



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# BE PREPARED FOR A FLOOD

Failing to evacuate flooded areas, entering flood waters, or remaining after a flood has passed can result in injury or death.



**FEMA**  
FEMA V-1005/ March 2018

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. It is the most common natural disaster in the U.S.



Results from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surge, and overflows of dams and other water systems



Develops slowly or quickly. Flash floods can come with no warning



Causes outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings, create landslides

## IF YOU ARE UNDER A FLOOD WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.



Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.

Determine your best protection based on the type of flooding.



Evacuate if told to do so.



Move to higher ground or a higher floor.



Stay where you are.

# HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A FLOOD THREATENS



**Know your area's type of flood risk.** Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at <https://msc.fema.gov/> portal for information.

**Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

**If flash flooding is a risk in your location,** monitor potential signs such as heavy rain.

**Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans,** and flash flood response.

**Gather supplies in case you have to leave immediately or if services are cut off.** Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets. Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.

**Obtain flood insurance.** Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

**Keep important documents in a waterproof container.** Create password-protected digital copies.

**Protect your property.** Move valued items to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.



**Depending on where you are,** and the impact and the warning time of flooding, go to the safe location that you have identified.

**If told to evacuate, do so immediately.** Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.

**Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio,** or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.

**Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.** Turn Around. Don't Drown.® Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

**Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water.** Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.

**If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water,** stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.

**If trapped in a building, go to its highest level.** Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising floodwater. Go on the roof only if necessary. Signal for help.



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Catalog No. 17233-6



**Listen to authorities for information and instructions.**

**Avoid driving, except in emergencies.**

**Be aware that snakes and other animals** may be in your house. Wear heavy gloves and boots during clean up.

**Avoid wading in floodwater,** which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

**Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery ONLY** outdoors and away from windows.

**Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment** if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock.

## Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) and search for **flood**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **flood**. Find Emergency Safety Tips under Prepare.

## Carbon Monoxide Information

Carbon monoxide (**CO**) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas. A by-product of combustion, it can be produced by ordinary appliances, and is a common hazard in the home. Mild exposure can cause symptoms such as nausea, dizziness, or headaches; while severe poisoning can result in brain or heart damage or even death. The incomplete burning of any material containing carbon, such as gasoline, natural gas, oil, kerosene, propane, charcoal, or wood, produces the poisonous gas. One of the most common sources of exposure in the home is the gas or kerosene-powered heater. Gas-powered water heaters, stoves, and furnaces may also produce carbon monoxide.

CO prevents the body from using oxygen efficiently, causing asphyxiation. CO remains inside the body for hours. The effects depend on how much CO is in the air, how long it is breathed, and the health of an individual.

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

Low levels of CO poisoning can be confused with flu symptoms, food poisoning or other illnesses and can have a long-term health risk if left uncorrected. CO can also impair judgment. The longer a person breathes CO, the worse the effects can be. Symptoms of mild CO poisoning may include:

- Shortness of breath
- Mild nausea
- Mild headaches

Moderate levels of CO exposure can cause death if the following symptoms persist for a long measure of time:

- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Light-headedness
- Fatigue
- Confusion
- Disorientation
- Overall Weakness

High levels of CO can be fatal within minutes.

Treatment Options:

Immediate measures you can take to help those suffering from CO poisoning include:

- Place disoriented or unconscious victims in fresh air **IMMEDIATELY**.
- If you cannot get the people out of the home, then open all windows and doors. Any combustion appliances (gas stoves, water heaters, furnaces, boilers, etc.) should be turned off.
- Take those who were subjected to CO to a hospital emergency room as quickly as possible. A simple blood test will be able to determine if CO poisoning has occurred.

Source: Mississippi State Department of Health

## Carbon Monoxide Safety

Have furnaces and heaters inspected every year. Carbon monoxide is invisible, odorless and tasteless. Inspection helps protect yourself and your family.

Install a carbon monoxide detector in your house, and plan to check its battery every time you check your smoke detector batteries.

Precautions you can take to prevent carbon monoxide exposure:

- Never burn anything in a stove or fireplace that is not vented properly
- Never heat your house with a gas oven
- Never run a generator indoors, in an enclosed space such as a basement, or near a window
- Do not warm your car up in a closed garage
- If your garage is attached to your house, close the door to the house even while you warm up the car

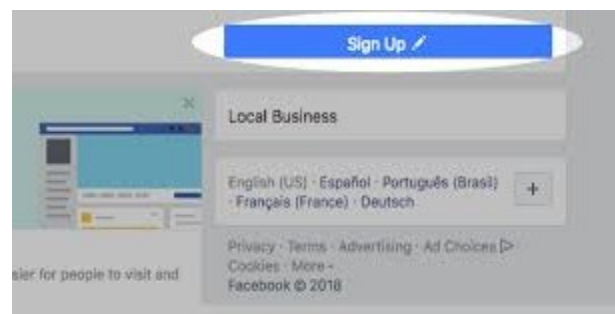


Sources: [www.ready.gov/winter-weather](http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather) & Mississippi State Department of Health

## Code Red Emergency Alert Notification System— SIGN UP!

Hinds County is under contract with Code Red, which is a 911 notification system that sends emergency messages to your landlines and cell phones. Citizens of Hinds County can “OPT IN” by signing up at the Hinds County website. Go to [www.hindscountymys.com](http://www.hindscountymys.com) and scroll and look for the Code Red banner (pictured bottom left). Click on the banner and follow the directions to enroll. You can also go to [www.facebook.com/HindsEOC](http://www.facebook.com/HindsEOC) and click on the “SIGN UP” button on the upper right side of the page (pictured bottom right).

Your contact information remains private. Notifications will only be used during emergencies such as severe weather alerts or evacuation notifications. If you miss the original call you may hear the last message delivered to your phone thru the Code Red system by simply dialing back the number on your Caller ID. The system is monitored 24/7 and alerts are generated automatically after warnings have been issued by the National Weather Service. Code Red Weather Warning is designed to rapidly alert citizens in the path of severe weather. The authorities of Hinds County believe this will improve the ability to keep the public safe.



## 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



## Winter in Mississippi

Winter is here according to the calendar but with all of the rain it does not really feel like winter. Let's talk about some things you can do to be safe and stay healthy if we do experience 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.



Warm clothes, loose layers



Avoid if you suspect you have frostbite or hypothermia



Vehicle Emergency Kit

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:**

- |   |   |
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*Prevention ~ Protection ~ Mitigation ~ Response ~ Recovery*

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Jackson, MS 39225-2568  
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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.*