

Quarterly Newsletter



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

Hinds County Board of Supervisors

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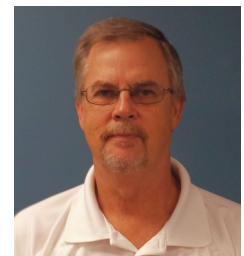
Brandy Martin
Administrative Assistant

From the Desk of the Director

Hopefully each of you enjoyed time with your family and friends during the Holiday Season. Here at the EOC we are ready to take on a new year and it looks as if the weather is going to help us get started on that journey. Recently, there has been a good bit of rain in our area which has caused rivers to rise and flash flooding in several areas. We would like to take this opportunity to provide some information to our readers regarding Flash Flooding.

Flash floods are defined as those flood events where the rise in water is either during or within a few hours of the rainfall that produces the rise. Therefore, flash floods occur within small drainage areas, where the response time of the drainage basin is short. In part contributing to the rapidly rising, fast-moving waters of a flash flood, the damage from them can be devastating. Many hydrological factors have relevance to the occurrence of a flash flood: terrain gradients, soil type, vegetative cover, human habitation, previous rainfall, etc. In steep, rocky terrain or within heavily urbanized regions, even a relatively small amount of rainfall can trigger flash flooding. These hydrological factors determine the response of the drainage area to the precipitation event. Thus, a flash flood is clearly the result of the integration of both meteorological and hydrological circumstances.

Most flash floods associated with rainfall are produced by thunderstorms; that is, deep, moist convection. A single thunderstorm cell is unlikely to produce enough rainfall to cause a flash flood, so the typical flash flood is the result of several thunderstorms moving successively over the same area, known as 'training' thunderstorms, because it resembles the passage of cars in a train. A succession of thunderstorms results when new thunderstorms pass repeatedly over the same place while the overall system of thunderstorms is very nearly stationary.



Ricky Moore, Director



3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR FLASH FLOOD SAFETY

During a flood, water levels and the rate the water is flowing can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television.

- 1 GET TO HIGHER GROUND
 Get out of the areas subject to Flooding
- 2 DO NOT DRIVE INTO WATER
 Do NOT drive or walk into flooded areas. It only takes 6" of water to knock you off your feet.
- 3 STAY INFORMED
 Monitor local radar, television, weather radio, internet or social media for updates.



## From the Desk of the Director (continued)

Occasionally, flash floods are created in conditions that are not favorable for thunderstorms but which still produce heavy rainfalls. A characteristic of flash floods is the localized nature of the heaviest rainfall.

The most intense rainfall is typically confined to a relatively small area. When large amounts of this localized precipitation fall within a small drainage basin, flash floods can occur. Sometimes, the location where flash flood damage occurs may actually receive little or no rainfall; that is, the rainfall that causes the problem falls upstream of areas susceptible to damage from the flash flood. This separation between the rainfall and the flood can cause confusion because it may not even be raining in an area for which flash flood warnings are issued. Another factor in the impact of flash floods is that the precipitation causing the event often falls during the night, when it can be difficult to give warnings to sleeping residents.

When a flash flood warning is issued for your area, or the moment you first realize that a flash flood is imminent, act quickly to save yourself. You may only have seconds.

- **Get out of areas subject to flooding.** This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.
- **Avoid already flooded and high velocity flow areas.** Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream on foot where the water is above your knees.
- **If driving, know the depth of water in a dip before crossing.** The road bed may not be intact under the water.
- **If the vehicle stalls, abandon it immediately;** seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants and sweep them away.
- **Be especially cautious at night** when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- **Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes,** particularly during threatening conditions

We sincerely hope you will pay attention to the above suggestions to keep you and your family safe during a flash flood event. When in doubt always err on the side of caution. **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN!**

Sincerely,

*Ricky J. Moore*



## 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.





MEET NEW PEOPLE | GET INVOLVED

# Volunteer

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



## Register for Code Red—Alert Notification System

Hinds County continues to be under contract with Code RED, which is a 911 notification system that sends emergency messages to landlines and cell phones. Citizens of Hinds County with a landline were automatically been enrolled through the 911 database. 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 through 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.

If you would like to register your cell phone to receive Code Red alerts go to [www.hindscountymys.com](http://www.hindscountymys.com). Click on the **Code Red Weather Warning Logo** (sample pictured to the right and below the red arrow). The link will take you directly to the registration page. If you need assistance with registration feel free to contact Robin Garrard at 601.968.6771.



## Winter Weather—Tips to Avoid Frostbite and/or Hypothermia

It actually felt like winter this morning. Therefore, let's talk about some things you can do to be safe and stay healthy during the cold weather season. It is extremely 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 when it does occur it is important to know the signs so that you are aware and can take action if needed.

- **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. Although 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 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 a 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.

## Components of a Family Disaster Plan

Your disaster plan should include annual safety drills at your home and place of business. It should prepare you for various types of emergencies such as, tornadoes, flooding, severe weather, etc. You should include escape routes, a family communications plan, plans for persons with special needs, safety skills (basic first aid and CPR) and family disaster kit for your home and vehicle.

Let's talk about just a few of these components. Begin with developing a Family Communications Plan, so if your family is not together when disaster strikes you will know how to contact each other. Create a plan where everyone knows how to contact each other via cell phone or email. Everyone should contact the same family member or relative in the event of an emergency. Another idea is to have an out of town person to contact in the event that local phone lines are out of service. All family members need to have the emergency family contact numbers as well as a working cell phone, prepaid phone calls or coins for a public phone and email addresses. There are times when you may not be able to make a call but might be able to send a text or email.

Family Disaster Kit is vitally important during a disaster. Assemble your kit NOW, evacuation may be necessary in a moment's notice and you may not have time to grab all the essentials, but if you have a kit prepared and stored near an exit you won't have to fret about what you are forgetting.

Here is a sample list of needed items (for an exhaustive list go to: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)): Water (1 gallon per day per person), non-perishable food, food/water for pets, paper goods, infant need, change of clothing, paper/pen, first aid kit, RX's and no prescription meds, toiletries, flashlight, batteries, cash and emergency credit card, and important documents.

Find us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/Hinds EOC](http://www.facebook.com/HindsEOC)



Follow us on Twitter at  
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<http://www.hindscountymississippi.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.*