

Quarterly Newsletter



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Hinds County Board of Supervisors

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From the Desk of Director Ricky Moore



It has come to my attention that most citizens do not comprehend what Emergency Management means. We receive many phone calls from people looking for emergency rooms, assistance with their medical situations and/or requesting funds (home repairs, food replacement, etc.). We do have an established network of local contacts so we are able to direct the majority of those in need to the correct agencies.

Today, I would like to take a few minutes to provide you some information including, the definition, vision, mission and principles of Emergency Management. I will also include basic information about the five mission areas that make up the field of Emergency Management, they are distinct critical elements needed to achieve the goal. (Source: FEMA)

Definition: Emergency Management is the managerial function charged with creating the framework within which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with disaster.

Vision: Emergency Management seeks to promote safer, less vulnerable communities with the capacity to be prepared for and deal with hazards and disasters.

Mission: Those in emergency management seek to protect the whole community 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 man-made disasters.

Principles:

Emergency Management must be:

- ◆ **Comprehensive** – emergency managers consider and take into account all hazards, all phases, all stakeholders and all impacts relevant to disasters.
- ◆ **Progressive** – emergency managers anticipate future disasters and take preventive and preparatory measures to build disaster-resistant and disaster-resilient communities.
- ◆ **Risk-Driven** – emergency managers use sound risk management principles (hazard identification, risk analysis and impact analysis) in assigning priorities and resources.
- ◆ **Integrated** – emergency managers ensure unity of effort among all levels of government and all elements of a community.



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- ◆ **Collaborative**— emergency managers create and sustain broad and sincere relationships among individuals and organizations to encourage trust, advocate a team atmosphere, build consensus and facilitate communication.
- ◆ **Coordinated**— emergency managers synchronize the activities of all relevant stakeholders to achieve a common purpose.
- ◆ **Flexible**— emergency managers use creative and innovative approaches in solving disaster challenges.
- ◆ **Professional**— emergency managers value a science and knowledge-based approach based on education, training, ethical practice, public stewardship and continuous improvement.

Mission Areas:

- ◆ **PREVENTION:** The prevention mission area comprised the capabilities necessary to avoid, prevent or stop a threatened or actual act of terrorism. It is focused on ensuring we are optimally prepared to prevent an imminent attack with the United States. . Core capabilities include—planning, public information and warning, operational coordination, forensics and attribution, intelligence and information sharing, interdictions and disruption and screening, sear and detection.
- ◆ **PROTECTION:** The protection framework houses “the capabilities necessary to secure the homeland against acts of terrorism and manmade or natural disasters.” Core capabilities include: Planning, public information and warning, operation coordination, access control and identity verification, cybersecurity, intelligence and information sharing, interdiction and disruption, physical protective measures, risk management for protection programs and activities, screening, sear and detection and supply chain integrity and security.
- ◆ **MITIGATION:** Mitigation comprises “the capabilities necessary to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters.” Core capabilities include: Planning, public information and warning, operational coordination, community resilience, long-term vulnerability reduction, risk and disaster resilience assessment, and threats and hazards identification.
- ◆ **RESPONSE:** Response comprises “the capabilities necessary to save lives, protect property and the environment and meet basic human needs after an incident has occurred.” Core capabilities include: Planning, public information and warning, operation coordination, critical transportation, environmental response/health and safety, fatality management services, fire management and suppression, logistics and supply chain management, infrastructure systems, mass care services, mass search and rescue operations, on-scene security, protection and law enforcement, operational communications, public health, healthcare and medical services and situational assessment.
- ◆ **RECOVERY:** Recovery comprises “the core capabilities necessary to assist communities affected by an incident to recover effectively.” Core capabilities include: Planning, public information and warning, operational coordination, economic recovery, health and social services, housing, infrastructure systems and natural and cultural resources.



Heat Safety Awareness

The leading weather related cause of death in the United States is heat, which results in hundreds of deaths each year. During times of extreme heat and humidity the ability for the body to cool itself is affected. When the body heats too quickly or loses too much salt or fluid thru sweat or dehydration, the body temperature rises and heat-related illnesses may occur.

Four types of heat disorders that occur and their symptoms include:

- ◆ Sunburn: Redness and pain. (also swelling, blisters, fever and headaches)
- ◆ Heat cramps: Painful spasms usually in legs and abdomen. (also heavy sweating)
- ◆ Heat exhaustion: Heavy sweating and weakness, along with cold, pale and clammy skin.
- ◆ Heat stroke: High body temperature, hot and dry skin, rapid and strong pulse and possible unconsciousness.

All illnesses brought on by heat require attention, but heat stroke can result in death and requires immediate medical attention.

Following simple safety tips can assist in prevention of heat related issues:

- ◆ Slow down. Reduce, eliminate or reschedule strenuous activities until the coolest time of the day.
- ◆ Dress for summer. Wear lightweight, light colored clothing to reflect the heat and sunlight.
- ◆ Put less fuel on your inner fires. Foods, like meat and other proteins that increase metabolic heat production also increase water loss.
- ◆ Drink plenty of water. The body needs water to keep cool. Drink even if you don't feel thirsty. People with epilepsy, heart, kidney or liver disease that are on fluid restrictive diets or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a physician before increasing their consumption of fluids. Do not drink alcoholic beverages and limit caffeinated beverages.
- ◆ During excessive heat periods, spend more time in air-conditioned places. Air conditioning in homes and other buildings markedly reduces the danger from the heat. If you can not afford an air conditioner, go to a library, store or other location with air conditioning for part of the day.
- ◆ Don't get too much sun. Sunburn reduces the body's ability to dissipate heat.
- ◆ Do not take salt tablets unless specified by a physician.

Hyperthermia is an acute condition that takes place when the body absorbs more heat than it can handle. It can occur even on a mild day. Studies show that the inside temperature of a parked vehicle can rapidly rise to a dangerous level for children, pets and even adults. Slightly open windows do not decrease the heating rate enough to make a difference. The effects can be more severe in children because their bodies warm faster than adults. Every year, many children and pets left in parked vehicles die from hyperthermia therefore, never leave anybody in a parked vehicle.

Safety Tips Concerning Children

- ◆ Make sure your child's safety seat and buckles aren't too hot before securing child in seat.
- ◆ Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even with the windows down.
- ◆ Teach children not to play in, on or around cars.
- ◆ Always lock car doors and trunks, even at home. Keep keys out of children's reach.
- ◆ Always make sure ALL children have left the vehicle upon reaching destination.

The content for this article was obtained from the National Weather Service's website. If you would like more information concerning heat safety you can visit www.nws.noaa.gov

Extreme Heat Safety

What It's Like to Volunteer in Fire Service

"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 contact our office at 601.960.1476 for an application. After you return your completed application we will provide your information to the appropriate volunteer fire chief.

Sincerely,

Ricky Moore


We need volunteers.

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	Raymond Volunteer Fire Department 109 Court St. Raymond, MS 39154
Bolton Volunteer Fire Department 117 W. Madison St. Bolton, MS 39041	Learned Volunteer Fire Department 323 Front St. Raymond, MS 39154	Terry Volunteer Fire Department 2515 Old Hwy 51, Terry, MS 39170/ 2001 Tank Rd., Terry, MS 39170
Brownsville Volunteer Fire Department 8057 Bolton Brownsville Rd. Bolton, MS 39041	Maclean Volunteer Fire Department 1367 Ross Circle Jackson, MS 39209	Utica Volunteer Fire Department 105 Depot St., Utica, MS 39175; 111 School St., Utica, MS 39175
Byram Volunteer Fire Department 2517 Davis Rd. Terry, MS 39170	Pocahontas Volunteer Fire Department 1140 FOA Road, Jackson, MS 39209/ 1106 Pocahontas Rd., Pocahontas, MS 39072	West Hinds Volunteer Fire Department 203 Main St. Edwards, MS 39066



Caution: Snakes are on the Move

Summer is here in Hinds County and along with the hot humid days, pop-up thunderstorms and the threat of hurricanes comes another aspect of nature, snakes are on the move. In the winter months they are very inactive and eat very little due to expending very little energy. As the temperatures begin to warm up they begin to venture out and bask in the sun. During the spring months they leave their winter habitat in search of foraging areas, to mate and to give birth. The males move extensively in late summer to find females for mating. Snakes are attracted to cover, water and prey (rodents). Removing these things is the best answer to encouraging them to pass on by and not stay around your yard.

Many snake-human interactions take place during the spring and fall when they are relocating from one seasonal habitat to another. If you encounter one in the wild or in your yard it is best to avoid it. If left alone most snakes are docile and will try to flee or remain still and blend into its surroundings. Most snakes will not chase you. Seventy-five percent of bites occur when humans harass, move or attempt to kill a snake.

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 have a 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.

If you are unsure if they are poisonous always err on the side of caution and avoid contact with the snake.





Importance of **HYDRATION**

SYMPTOMS OF DEHYDRATION:

- THIRST
- DIZZINESS
- CONFUSION
- FATIGUE
- DRY SKIN/MOUTH
- LESS-FREQUENT URINATION
- INCREASED HEART RATE

Tips to hydrate

- DRINK AT LEAST 64 OUNCES OF FLUID PER DAY
- MINIMIZE THE CAFFEINE
- AVOID ALCOHOL AND SUGARY BEVERAGES
- WHETHER YOU ARE THIRSTY OR NOT, DRINK WATER BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER EXERCISING



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