



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
State Emergency Operations Center
NEWS RELEASE
CONTACT: (866) 920-MEMA

Governor Barbour Declares May 26-30 Hurricane Preparedness Week

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2008

Pearl –Governor Haley Barbour and MEMA Director Mike Womack announced today that May 26 - 30 will be Mississippi's Hurricane Preparedness Week.

"As we continue to rebuild from Hurricane Katrina, the worst natural disaster in American history, it is important that we remember to make preparations for this year's storm season," Governor Barbour said. "Hurricane preparedness can save lives, and I urge Mississippians to take precautionary steps now to prevent future loss of life or property during severe weather."

Mississippi's Hurricane Preparedness Week is held in conjunction with the National Hurricane Preparedness Week. This hurricane season the National Hurricane Center in Miami is predicting 12-16 named storms, with 2-5 of those becoming major hurricanes which are classified as a category 3 or higher.

But residents are urged to be prepared no matter what the seasonal hurricane predictions call for.

"As all of us in Mississippi have learned it only takes one storm to change our lives," said MEMA Director Mike Womack. "Don't wait for a storm to enter the Gulf to get prepared, now is the best time to get ready for this year's hurricane season."

Here are some items you and your family should have in a disaster kit before tropical weather threatens.

- Flashlight and battery-powered radio with extra batteries.
- Canned and non-perishable food.
- Bottled water.
- Toiletry items.
- Pet food and pet supplies.
- Medicine and prescription medication.
- Copies of important family papers and documents.

For more information on National Hurricane Preparedness Week go to The National Hurricane Center's Web site at www.nhc.noaa.gov.

MEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, other state agencies and non-profit organizations will provide information and preparedness tips all week to help residents prepare for the upcoming season. For more information go to www.msema.org.

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