



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEMA URGES RESIDENTS TO DEVELOP A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

Pearl – To increase your chances of safely surviving a disaster, develop and familiarize yourself and your family with a disaster plan.

As part of Mississippi's Hurricane Preparedness week, MEMA Director Mike Womack urges individuals and families to develop and review their Family Disaster Plans before the start of Hurricane Season on June 1. The plan should include an evacuation method and route, a communications plan and a disaster supply kit.

"A family disaster plan can save lives," Womack said. "A disaster plan is something every family should have even if they don't live in an area with a high at risk of experiencing a hurricane, tornado, earthquake or hazardous spill."

Mississippians should contact their local emergency management directors to learn about their communities' emergency plans, locations of shelters and evacuation routes. Residents should identify ahead of time the places they will go in the event of an evacuation.

Following an evacuation, a communications plan can help residents locate family members and friends who also evacuated. During and after a storm, telephone service will likely be limited. It is often easier to call long distance, outside the disaster area. Ask an out-of-state friend or relative to serve as the family contact person. Make sure all family members know the name, address and telephone number for this contact person.

Develop and maintain a Family Disaster Supply Kit with life sustaining items such as non-perishable food and water for at least three to five days, a first aid kit with prescription medications, a battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries, cash and traveler's checks and specialty items such as baby formula and pet-care items.

For more information on how to prepare yourself and your family for disasters go to www.msema.org.

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"Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property"
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