

# DISABILITIES PLANNING

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- AT LEAST A WEEK-LONG SUPPLY OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES ALONG WITH A LIST OF ALL MEDICATIONS, DOSAGE AND ANY ALLERGIES
- DESCRIPTIONS OF REQUIRED ACCOMMODATIONS, MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND/OR FUNCTIONAL NEEDS.
- LIST OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED
- EXTRA EYEGLASSES AND/OR HEARING-AID BATTERIES
- EXTRA WHEELCHAIR BATTERIES AND/OR OXYGEN
- A LIST OF THE STYLE AND SERIAL NUMBER OF MEDICAL DEVICES. INCLUDE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPERATING YOUR EQUIPMENT IF NEEDED
- COPIES OF MEDICAL INSURANCE AND MEDICARE CARDS
- CONTACT INFORMATION FOR DOCTORS AS WELL AS RELATIVES OR FRIENDS WHO SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IF YOU ARE HURT
- IF YOU HAVE A SERVICE ANIMAL, YOU'LL NEED PET FOOD, EXTRA WATER, THE ANIMAL'S COLLAR WITH ID TAG, MEDICAL RECORDS AND ANY OTHER SUPPLIES.
- HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICES LOADED WITH MOVIES AND GAMES (AND SPARE CHARGERS), HEADPHONES TO DECREASE AUDITORY DISTRACTIONS AND COMFORT SNACKS AND TOYS THAT MEET NEEDS FOR STIMULATION.



# EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

- 3-DAY SUPPLY OF WATER (1 GALLON PER PERSON, PER DAY)
- 3-DAY SUPPLY OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
- FLASHLIGHT
- PORTABLE RADIO AND NOAA WEATHER RADIO
- EXTRA BATTERIES
- PHONE CHARGERS
- FIRST AID KIT WITH PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS
- MULTI-PURPOSE TOOL
- SANITATION AND PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS
- COPIES OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS
- EXTRA CASH

DEPENDING ON YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS, YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO INCLUDE: EXTRA MEDICAL ITEMS, BABY SUPPLIES AND PET SUPPLIES.



# AFTER THE STORM

- WAIT TO RETURN TO THE IMPACTED AREA UNTIL LOCAL AUTHORITIES DEEM IT SAFE.
- MAKE SURE THE MAIN ELECTRICAL SWITCH IS OFF BEFORE YOU RE-ENTER YOUR HOME.
- DO NOT DRINK OR USE TAP WATER UNTIL THERE IS CONFIRMATION THAT IT IS NOT CONTAMINATED.
- IF USING AN EMERGENCY GENERATOR, KEEP IT OUTSIDE. NEVER RUN THE GENERATOR IN THE HOUSE OR GARAGE.
- IF YOU COME ACROSS A FALLEN POWER LINE, STAY BACK AT LEAST 500 FEET AND NEVER TOUCH THE LINE.
- BEFORE THE CLEANUP PROCESS BEGINS, TAKE PICTURES TO DOCUMENT THE DAMAGE AND FILE AN INSURANCE CLAIM.



# IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION AND WEBSITES

- MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
1-866-519-MEMA (6362)  
[WWW.MSEMA.ORG](http://WWW.MSEMA.ORG)
- NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE JACKSON, MS  
601-936-2189  
[WWW.WEATHER.GOV/JAN](http://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/JAN)
- MOBILE, AL  
251-633-6443  
[WWW.WEATHER.GOV/MOB](http://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/MOB)
- NEW ORLEANS, LA  
504-522-7330  
[WWW.WEATHER.GOV/LIX](http://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/LIX)
- MEMPHIS, TN  
901-544-0399  
[WWW.WEATHER.GOV/MEG](http://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/MEG)
- MDOT TRAFFIC HOTLINE  
1-866-521-6368
- LOUISIANA DOT TRAFFIC HOTLINE  
1-877-452-3683
- ALABAMA DOT TRAFFIC HOTLINE  
1-888-588-2848
- TENNESSEE DOT TRAFFIC HOTLINE  
1-877-244-0065
- NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER  
[WWW.NHC.NOAA.GOV](http://WWW.NHC.NOAA.GOV)
- FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
[WWW.FEMA.GOV](http://WWW.FEMA.GOV)
- MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
[WWW.MDOTTRAFFIC.COM](http://WWW.MDOTTRAFFIC.COM)

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

# ARE YOU READY?

# PETS PLANNING

- COME UP WITH SHELTER ALTERNATIVES THAT WILL WORK FOR BOTH YOU AND YOUR PET
- HAVE YOUR PET WEAR HIS OR HER COLLAR WITH RABIES AND IDENTIFICATION TAGS
- MAKE COPIES OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS FROM YOUR PET'S VETERINARIAN TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT
- ADD PLASTIC TRASH BAGS AND CLEANING PRODUCTS TO YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT TO PROVIDE FOR YOUR PET'S SANITATION NEEDS
- HAVE A CRATE OR PET CARRIER AVAILABLE IN THE CASE OF EVACUATION



# CRISIS TRACK DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TOOL

One of the critical first steps taken by your local county officials after a hurricane (or any disaster) is to complete a comprehensive damage assessment of all structures within a county.

The data gathered during this comprehensive damage assessment not only is used by County Emergency Management to assist them in determining the scope and extent of the hurricane impacts; but is also used by MEMA to help determine whether or not to request Federal Disaster Assistance and if a request is made, it is used to support the Governor's request for FEMA assistance.

MEMA is working with Crisis Track to provide every county in Mississippi with the Crisis Track Disaster Management Application. The Crisis Track application will be used to conduct post hurricane damage assessments; as well as assist with the planning, conduct, and documentation of other critical disaster related response and recovery operations.

The Crisis Track application allows County Emergency Managers and other county staff to quickly conduct, report, and document the extent and level of damage to every structure within an affected county. All information collected at the county level is automatically shared in real-time with MEMA's Emergency Operations Center in Jackson.

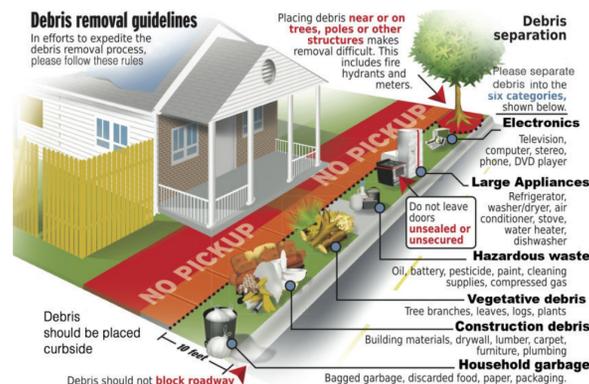
This tool will allow MEMA to be better prepared to respond to affected counties with state resources when needed and ultimately, it will speed up the delivery of Federal Disaster Assistance to the state and our residents when it is most needed.

One of the key features provided by the MEMA contract with Crisis Track is the Resident Self-Reporting Page, which is used by residents and businesses to report damage to their property. **THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY REPORTING SYSTEM, PLEASE USE 911 TO REPORT SERIOUS INJURIES OR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**

Each County in Mississippi has a dedicated webpage that residents can utilize to report Hurricane (or other disaster) damage to their property. We encourage Mississippians to take advantage of this tool during disasters. For more information and to find the self-reporting links by county, visit our website: [www.msema.org](http://www.msema.org)

# DEBRIS SORTING

After the storm passes, the recovery phase begins, which often includes major cleanup. It's important to know the proper way to sort damaged household items and debris to help in disposal efforts. The debris sorting process is also crucial when trying to obtain a disaster declaration.



DisasterAssistance.gov  
ACCESS TO DISASTER HELP AND RESOURCES

DisasterAssistance.gov MSEMA.org  
1-800-621-3362 or hearing impaired 1-800-462-7485  
Smartphone mfema.gov



FEMA



# ATLANTIC TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMES

2020	2021
ARTHUR	ANA
BERTHA	BILL
CRISTOBAL	CLAUDETTE
DOLLY	DANNY
EDOUARD	ELSA
FAY	FRED
GONZALO	GRACE
HANNA	HENRI
ISAIAS	IDA
JOSEPHINE	JULIAN
KYLE	KATE
LAURA	LARRY
MARCO	MINDY
NANA	NICHOLAS
OMAR	ODETTE
PAULETTE	PETER
RENE	ROSE
SALLY	SAM
TEDDY	TERESA
VICKY	VICTOR
WILFRED	WANDA

**FUN FACT:** If there are more than 21 storms in one season then the Greek alphabet is used to name additional storms. The only time this has happened was in 2005 when there were 28 named storms.

# MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR TATE REEVES

The Mississippi Gulf Coast is no stranger to hurricane season. After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina over 14 years ago, we still have vivid memories bearing the scars of that storm and its aftermath. Hurricane Katrina taught us that our responsibility is to plan for the worst, pray for the best, and expect somewhere in between. As our first responders and law enforcement work together to ensure storm readiness, the most important factor in surviving a disaster is personal preparedness. Please take advantage of the vital information in this guide and take the necessary steps to protect your family and your property. There is no substitute for having a plan and being prepared.



*Tate Reeves*

Governor Tate Reeves  
State of Mississippi

# HURRICANE GUIDE OVERVIEW:

The official Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1st and runs through November 30th, however activity typically peaks from mid-August through October. States along the Gulf Coast, including Mississippi, are particularly vulnerable to all hazards associated with tropical cyclones.

**FOR THIS REASON, GOVERNOR TATE REEVES, THE MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY MICHEL AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE URGE MISSISSIPPIANS TO PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING HURRICANE SEASON BY CREATING AN ACTION PLAN FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.**

Personal hurricane plans should be designed in a way that allows you to take quick action when a storm is approaching. The key is to build a plan based on your level of vulnerability, which is determined by factors such as proximity to the coast and your area's flood risk. Ultimately, your plan will help answer questions like: Where will I go in the case of an evacuation? What will I need to take with me? How will I protect my home from the storm?

This guide contains important information about tropical systems and their hazards, ways to prepare for this type of natural disaster and how to respond when the threat of a hurricane or tropical storm is imminent.

# MESSAGE FROM THE MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



MEMA's first priority is, and always will be, the safety of Mississippians. Though we have been fortunate enough for the last two years to avoid a devastating hurricane season, Mississippi has endured some of the longest duration flood events and a record number of tornadoes during 2019. For that reason, we always stress preparedness!

We urge you to make sure your family has an action plan. As a coastal state, Mississippi must be prepared for hurricanes beginning on or around June and lasting well into the holiday season. However, as Mississippians, we have become all too familiar with tornado strikes and flash flooding. Between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2019, MEMA responded to 115 confirmed tornadoes across the state as well as experiencing the longest federally declared weather event, Backwater Flood, in the history of FEMA.

As Executive Director, MEMA, I hope this guide will help you prepare for those dark and stormy days. Know where you will go and what supplies you will need to take with you. Prepare for days, perhaps weeks, without electricity after a storm passes. Be sure to discuss your evacuation plan with loved ones and have multiple ways to receive emergency alerts and warnings. We urge homeowners and renters to carry insurance, including flood insurance, on your homes and belongings. MEMA will be there to assist you should a disaster affect you, but carrying the proper insurance is the only way to guarantee a full recovery.

We live in a beautiful state and I am proud to serve Mississippians in this role as Director of MEMA. I continue to always be prepared and stay alert to your local and state officials when severe weather threatens our state. I'm proud to serve!

*Greg Michel*

Greg Michel  
MEMA Executive Director

# MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Landfalling hurricanes and tropical storms provide a wide variety of hazards. Hurricanes can cause catastrophic storm surge, widespread wind damage, tornadoes and significant flooding. Even tropical storms can cause significant flooding and tornadoes. The tornado and flooding risk can extend well inland and last for several days after landfall. No two storms have exactly the same impact, but all are capable of causing substantial damage and injury.

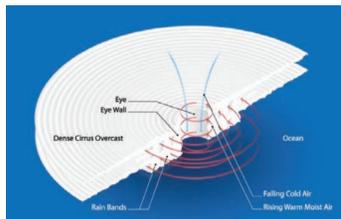


We also encourage you to track any tropical system that forms on our website. You can access all the regional National Weather Service web pages listed in this guide.

**STAYING INFORMED AND BEING PREPARED IS KEY TO STAYING SAFE.**

# INTRODUCTION TO HURRICANES

Hurricanes are strong tropical cyclones that form over warm, tropical waters such as the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. These large systems rotate in a counterclockwise motion around a center of low pressure known as the 'eye'. Hurricanes can have wind speeds ranging from 74 mph to over 150 mph and on average, these storms are about 300 miles wide! Multiple hazards, such as storm surge, flooding, high winds and tornadoes are all associated with hurricanes during landfall.



# WIND

High wind is always associated with tropical cyclones and is one of the top hazards of these large storm systems. The strongest winds are located within the eyewall, which is the area surrounding the center of the storm. High winds from a tropical storm or hurricane can result in substantial structural damage to homes and buildings.

Hurricanes are classified into five categories, which are based off of sustained wind speed. This scale is known as the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. The scale ranges from a category 1 with sustained winds from 74-95 mph resulting in some damage to a category 5 with winds greater than 157 mph causing catastrophic damage.



# FLOODING

While locations further inland may not be as susceptible to extreme storm surge as those along the coast, these areas must deal with something just as dangerous, inland flooding. Based on a recent study by the National Hurricane Center, rain-induced flooding accounted for over 25% of deaths associated with tropical cyclones.

Flooding is a unique hazard, because heavy rainfall is not directly related to the strength and wind speed of a tropical cyclone. Historically, tropical systems that produce the greatest amount of rain are often weaker storms that are slow to move or stall over an area.

## FLOOD FACTS:

- 6 inches of fast-moving water can knock you off your feet
- 12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car
- More than 50% of all flood fatalities are vehicle-related



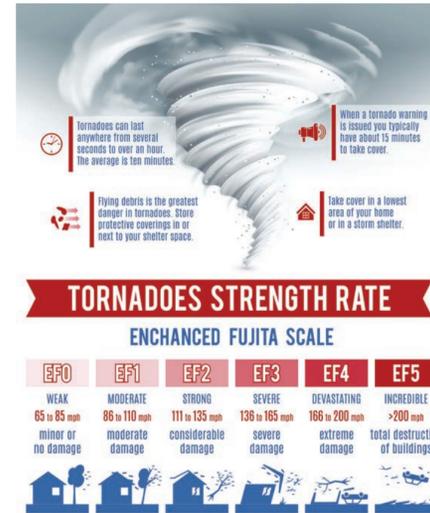
## STAY SAFE DURING FLOODING:

- 'Turn Around Don't Drown'
- If you can't see the road, DO NOT drive through the water
- NEVER drive around barricades into floodwaters
- Move to higher ground
- Don't underestimate the power of water!
- Stay up to date with the latest weather forecast

# TORNADOES

When tropical systems make landfall, there is also the threat for tornadoes. Most often, tornadoes associated with tropical cyclones occur in thunderstorms embedded in the rain bands away from the center of the system. If the tropical cyclone is moving north then you're most likely to see tornadoes develop within the rain bands that are northeast of the cyclone's center, also known as the 'right-front quadrant'.

Tornadoes that develop as a result of a landfalling tropical system are usually short-lived and not nearly as strong as the tornadoes that develop during our severe weather season within supercell thunderstorms, but nonetheless they are still a serious threat. Typically, tornadoes associated with tropical systems have a strength rating of EF-0 to EF-2 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.



# STORM SURGE

Storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, which is over and above the predicted astronomical tides. It occurs when winds within the tropical system push ocean water onshore. Along the coast, this specific hazard associated with tropical systems is the greatest threat to life and property.

Unfortunately, the Mississippi coast is no stranger to the devastating impacts of storm surge. In fact, the largest storm surge ever recorded in the U.S. was along the Mississippi coast in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina made landfall, producing a 28-foot storm surge.

The height and strength of the storm surge is dependent on many factors, such as the storm's size and wind speed, the forward speed of the system, the storm's angle of approach to the coast and the shape of the coastline.



# WATCH VS. WARNING

**WATCH:** Tropical Storm or Hurricane conditions are POSSIBLE

*Issued 48 hours in advance*

**WHAT TO DO:**

- o Prepare your home for impact
- o Review your evacuation and communication plan
- o Fuel vehicles and go through your emergency supply kit
- o Monitor weather forecast and instructions from local officials

**WARNING:** Tropical Storm or Hurricane conditions are EXPECTED

*Issued 36 hours in advance*

**WHAT TO DO:**

- o Finalize storm preparations to your home
- o Leave warned area immediately if directed by local officials
- o Continue to monitor weather forecast and updates from officials



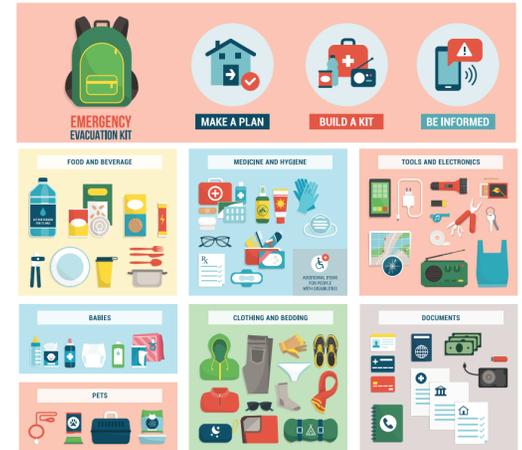
# EMERGENCY PLANNING

**DEVELOP AN EVACUATION PLAN:**

- Plan your primary evacuation route well ahead of time
- Establish an alternative evacuation route just in case
- Determine where your family will stay during the disaster
- Create a list of essential belongings you intend to bring
- Have a plan for your pets

**DEVELOP A COMMUNICATION PLAN:**

- Establish a way to get in touch with loved ones
- Designate an emergency meeting place in the case your family becomes separated
- Appoint a friend or family member who is not affected by the storm to be a point of contact
- Have a way to receive the latest weather updates.



# EVACUATION MAP:

When developing your hurricane evacuation plan, use this map as reference to determine the most effective evacuation route for you and your family. Major interstates and highways, such as Interstate 55, Interstate 59 and Highway 49 are shown in blue and are primary evacuation routes. There are also alternate evacuation routes highlighted in green, which can also be incorporated into your plan.

