



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2010

MEMA ANNOUNCES DONATION, VOLUNTEER INFORMATION TO HELP TORNADO VICTIMS

Pearl – Phones have been ringing off the hook at the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency from individuals and non-profit organizations around the country wanting to know how they can help the victims of Saturday's devastating storm, which is now being classified as an EF-4 tornado.

Visit MEMA's website, www.msema.org and click on the donation and volunteer links listed under "NEWS" to find out more information and the most current storm updates.

United Way's Mississippi 211, a telephone information and referral line, opened its call center yesterday to assist individuals affected by the storm. Any individual looking for information or assistance to identify the services best suited to meet his or her needs is eligible to call. 2-1-1 Mississippi is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. However, it is not a crisis hotline.

A tornado relief effort has also been started at Brandon City Hall. Arrangements have been made for an 18-wheeler to be placed out front so that the city can accept toiletries, cleaning supplies, bottled water, drinks, money as well as other items in an effort to return some sense of normalcy back into the lives of those affected by the tornado. The city hall is located at 1000 Municipal Drive. Items will be collected between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more information, call 601-824-4579 or 601-955-1960.

Additionally, the Hinds County Sheriff's Department along with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and Church of Christ Disaster Relief team has set up an 18 wheeler truck at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds to accept non-perishable food, bottled water, clothing and bedding and other items to aid in relief efforts for storm victims. They will be at that location all week. All of the donated items are then transported to Yazoo City Church of Christ 1230 E. Broadway, Yazoo City for distribution each evening. The church is only open during daylight hours.

"Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property"
Visit us online at www.msema.org



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The Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service has asked that charities, businesses and individuals who would like to volunteer to register at www.volunteermississippi.org or call (888) 353-1793. MCVS has asked that volunteers stand by until they are contacted.

Media with questions can contact the State Emergency Joint Information Center at 601-933-6652.

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