

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
FEMA-MISSISSIPPI DISASTER NEWS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS OPEN MONDAY  
IN BROOKHAVEN AND MERIDIAN**

**JACKSON, Miss.** – State and federal disaster management officials will open Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) in Brookhaven and Meridian on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, to assist Mississippians who suffered losses during the April 6<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> severe storms, tornadoes and flooding. The centers will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., every day.

Application for disaster aid must be made first by telephone. The number to call to apply for assistance is **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**, or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the hearing or speech impaired.

The DRC locations are:

Families First Resource Center	Central Fire Station
511 North Church Street	2500 14 <sup>th</sup> Street
Brookhaven, MS	Meridian, MS

The DRCs are open to assist those who have already applied for assistance through the FEMA toll-free application number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**, or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the hearing or speech impaired.

Representatives from both the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be on hand to answer questions and provide guidance to applicants seeking various forms of disaster aid. Representatives of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will also be available to assist with disaster loan applications. The SBA disaster loan program provides low interest loans to homeowners and renters, as well as businesses.

The centers are open to help applicants who have questions about what types of assistance are available, or have questions about the status of their applications. This will provide an opportunity to meet face-to-face with disaster officials and receive first-hand, current and accurate information on the spot.

Anyone throughout the declared disaster area who suffered damage during the early April severe weather can visit either DRC to obtain assistance.

The 28 Mississippi counties declared eligible for federal and state disaster assistance are Amite, Attala, Claiborne, Clarke, Copiah, Franklin, Hinds, Holmes, Issaquena, Jasper, Jefferson, Kemper, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Lincoln, Madison, Neshoba, Newton, Pike, Rankin, Scott, Simpson, Smith, Walthall, Warren, Wayne and Yazoo.

A third DRC will be opened in the metropolitan Jackson area later. Information regarding that opening will be announced as soon as arrangements are completed.

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