

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY



NEWS

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PRESIDENT REVIEWING DISASTER DECLARATION REQUEST

(Jackson, Miss.) — The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has received confirmation that the Governor’s request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration has been received and is being reviewed. Governor Musgrove on Monday, April 14 sent a letter to President Bush requesting Individual Assistance, Crisis Counseling, and Small Business Administration disaster loans for eight primary counties and 21 contiguous counties.

“We are hopeful the President will recognize the impact these storms had on the state and its citizens and grant the assistance requested by the Governor,” said MEMA Director Robert Latham.

MEMA continues to work with local, state and federal officials to determine the extent of damage to public facilities and infrastructure. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment Teams are conducting first-hand, on-the-scene surveys in municipalities and counties affected by the severe storms on April 6th. The teams are comprised of MEMA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (DHS EP&R), and local officials to conduct preliminary damage assessments (PDA’s).

These assessments will be used to confirm the initial damage to roads, bridges, public buildings and some private, non-profit entities. The PDA’s will determine if the state meets the criteria for federal assistance.

“Once these damage assessment teams complete their survey, we will review the information and make a recommendation to the Governor for a formal request to the President for public assistance,” said Latham.

The teams will not be accepting requests for interviews. All media inquiries should continue to come through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

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