

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS



CONTACT: AMY BISSELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
MEMA Newsline

(601) 352-9100
1-800-441-6362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2001

8:30 P.M.

SUBJECT: SEVERE WEATHER UPDATE

(Jackson) – "We are working closely with local governments to meet the immediate needs of the citizens affected and to utilize available local and State resources to assist in the response effort," said Director Robert Latham regarding the affected counties.

The following is an update on Holmes, Oktibbeha, and Lowndes counties:

Holmes county Emergency Operation Center is located in the Durant Police Department building and the phone number is 662-653-6846. Emergency officials have requested generators from the State to provide power for shelters. The Salvation Army is on site to feed the local citizens and workers. Currently, the Red Cross is trying to set up shelters for the families that have received damages to their homes.

Oktibbeha County has suffered major damage to the areas of Starkville and Sturgis and to the campus of MSU. The local emergency management officials are continuing to gather preliminary damage assessments and to ensure the safety of the citizens in the affected areas. The Red Cross will be on site Saturday to provide shelters if needed for the affected families.

Lowndes County has suffered major damage to homes and buildings. The 4 County Power Association has reported 20,000 homes without power and 100 power poles down in the Starkville and Columbus areas. They estimate 3-5 days before power is completely restored. The Salvation Army is on site to provide meals for the distressed families.

The Natchez Trace is closed between Hwy 12/mile marker 165 and Hwy 82/mile marker 204 due to the amount of debris and fallen trees on the roadway.

###