

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Federal Assistance Granted for Lowndes County

(Jackson) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove and MEMA Director Robert Latham meet with FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh today in Columbus to tour the affected areas. After visiting with MUW campus officials, FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh called President George W. Bush recommending a Presidential Declaration of Disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act as a result of the direct affects of the tornado in Lowndes County. President Bush approved the request over the phone and FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh took the written request back with him to Washington

Preliminary damage cost estimates is expected to exceed \$2 million dollars for Individual Assistance and \$21 million dollars for Public Assistance for Lowndes County.

"MEMA is committed to assisting local governments and the citizens of our State as they struggle to rebuild their lives and homes," said Robert Latham, Director of MEMA. "Citizens can start applying for disaster assistance by calling FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)."

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