

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY



NEWS

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Mississippi's First Responders Gather to Strengthen Homeland Security Efforts

(Jackson, MS) — More than 400 law enforcement, fire, health, and emergency management and response professionals from across Mississippi will be in Philadelphia on Monday, March 17, 2003 participating in the Governor's First Responder Conference. The four-day conference at the Pearl River Resort will help emergency professionals and elected officials better understand and appropriately react to different types of emergencies in a variety of settings.

“We recognize that since September 11, 2001, our first responders have struggled to grasp the magnitude of responding to an event in this new environment,” said Robert Latham, Director, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and Mississippi Homeland Security. “The conference is designed to expand their base of knowledge, build on what we learned during our 10 regional bioterrorism exercises, and to solicit their feedback.”

Topics to be discussed include an update on the state's homeland security initiative and bioterrorism preparedness, agroterrorism and security for the farm and food supply, and a tabletop Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) exercise for all first responders participation. The conference is sponsored by Governor Ronnie Musgrove through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and a number of other state agencies and professional associations in both the private and public sectors.

The media is welcome to attend on Monday, March 17, 2003 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. and again on Wednesday, March 19, 2003 from 1:00 –5:00 p.m.

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