

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS



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SPECIAL TO THE LT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

NOV. 6, 2000

SUBJECT: CHEMICAL FIRE PROMPTS STATE OF EMERGENCY

(Jackson) – Lt. Governor Amy Tuck on Friday night signed a State of Emergency Proclamation as a result of a chemical fire in the Port of Helena (Ark.). Smoke from the fire had drifted into Mississippi prompting the evacuation of the Isle of Capri casino on Friday.

MEMA Director Robert Latham requested Lt. Gov. Tuck issue the proclamation after an emergency declaration by the Coahoma County Board of Supervisors, and when state agencies began responding to the incident.

Coahoma County officials ordered a two-mile evacuation zone on the Mississippi-side of the port. The Mississippi Department of Transportation and the Mississippi Highway Patrol were instrumental in closing down both the U.S. Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge and portions of Hwy. 49 where it intersected with U.S. 1 and with U.S. 61.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Pollution Control responded to the incident and provided technical support to Coahoma County, MEMA and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV.

The Mississippi Gaming Commission responded to the casino shut-down with officials from MGC's Tunica County office, and conducted state law-required audits prior to the Casino's reopening on Saturday.

The incident, which was a zinc-oxide fire at the Global Materials Service warehouse, was concluded by about midnight on Nov. 3.

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