

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Asks President Bush for Disaster Declaration

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has requested President George Bush to declare a major disaster in the State of Mississippi as a result of last week’s severe storms. Musgrove declared a state of emergency on April 7 for Grenada, Hinds, Lauderdale, Lincoln, Madison, Rankin, Warren and Yazoo Counties, as well as any other counties affected by the storms.

“Our focus is on getting the people of Mississippi the relief they need from the impact of these storms and the help they need to get their lives back to normal,” Musgrove said. “I hope and expect President Bush will respond favorably to our request.”

Musgrove sent a letter to President Bush today.

During the period of time from April 6 – 8, 2003, the National Weather Service confirmed six different tornado tracks ranging from F0 to F2 on the Fajita Scale that caused damage across the State. Rainfall in the Capital Area exceeded 7.5 inches in a 24-hour period breaking a record set on April 16, 1921.

Governor Musgrove’s letter specifically requests Individual Assistance, Crisis Counseling, and Small Business Administration disaster loans for eight primary counties, including Hinds, Warren, Madison, Scott, Rankin, Lincoln, Lauderdale and Clark counties. The letter requests the same federal assistance for 21 contiguous counties, including Holmes, Attala, Issaquena, Sharkey, Yazoo, Leake, Neshoba, Kemper, Newton, Claiborne, Jefferson, Copiah, Simpson, Smith, Jasper, Franklin, Lawrence, Wayne, Amite, Pike and Walthall Counties.

“At the peak of the storm outbreak, over 14,000 customers were without electricity causing disruption to water, sewer services, home climate control, food preparation and commercial enterprises,” wrote Musgrove. “Public, private and volunteer organizations continue providing shelter, food, water and other vital life support services to affected citizens.”

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