



State Emergency Operations Center

Joint Information Center

CONTACT: (866) 920-MEMA (6362)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

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March 24, 2023, Severe Weather Update #12

Pearl – The State of Mississippi, local officials, hundreds of volunteers, faith-based organizations, and private sector partners continue to respond to the deadly tornadoes that swept through the state on March 24, 2023.

Key Messages

- MEMA in conjunction with the American Red Cross and FEMA, will be participating in a series of Townhall Meetings to provide residents with up to date information on federal recovery resources.
- MEMA has partnered with the American Red Cross for temporary lodging shelter.
- Some volunteer and donation sites have changed locations and hours.
- School districts resume classes in impacted counties and some state test deadlines have extended.
- FEMA applicants may be referred to SBA after initially applying for FEMA disaster assistance. Those referred to the SBA must complete an SBA disaster loan application on the SBA website or a Disaster Recovery Center. Approved applicants are not obligated to accept the loan.
- The Mississippi Department of Public Safety Driver Service Bureau is setting up a temporary location to help survivors with identification and licenses.
- Those out of work because of the disasters resulting from recent tornadoes, you may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI) Assistance. Visit a Disaster Recovery Center to apply.

Townhall Meeting locations, dates and times:

Silver City

Wednesday, April 12th (5:30 p.m.)

White Star Church

609 George Lee Avenue

Belzoni, MS 39038

Winona

Thursday, April 13th (5:30 p.m.)

Zion District Association Building

213 Justy Street

Winona, MS 38967

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The American Red Cross Information:

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is entering into an agreement with the American Red Cross to assist in temporarily lodging displaced residents from the March 24, 2023, deadly tornadoes. Under this agreement, the American Red Cross will place eligible disaster survivors into hotel or motel rooms, and provide meals for those individuals and families for up to six months based on need.

To qualify for this program, **survivors must register first with FEMA at DisasterAssistance.gov** or call **800-621-3362**.

Displaced storm survivors who need temporary lodging under this program should call: **1-800-RedCross. (1-800-733-2767)**

Disaster Recovery Center Locations:

Carroll County: J.Z. George High School, 900 George St. North Carrollton, MS, 38947

Humphreys County: Humphreys County Library, 105 Hayden Street, Belzoni, MS 39038

Monroe County: Justice Court Building, 1619 Highway 25, Amory, MS 38821

Montgomery County: Montgomery County Coliseum, 200 Recreation Dr., Winona, MS 38967

Panola County: MS State University Extension Center, 245 Eureka St. Suite C, Batesville, MS 38606

Sharkey County: Heritage Manor, 431 West Race Street, Rolling Fork, MS 39159

Center hours are 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday; 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Sunday.

To find a nearby center, visit fema.gov/drc.

Mississippi Department of Education Information:

The Amory School District returned to class April 11, with 85% attendance.

The South Delta School District has established back-to-school reopening plans with a soft start for all K-12 students on April 14, at the South Delta Middle School in Anguilla.

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All faculty and staff will be housed at South Delta Middle School. All safety checks and repairs are completed at the operating site.

School start time for all students will be 7:40 a.m. and dismissal time will be 3:15 p.m. Students do not have to wear school uniforms.

Transportation will be provided for bus riders. All students will be picked up at the original bus stops and any stops where students are standing. Routes will be updated as needed. Students who live in Anguilla will walk to school or have parents or guardians bring them.

To provide maximum flexibility for administering statewide assessments, the Mississippi Department of Education is extending the statewide testing window for all districts for the following assessments:

Assessment	New Closing Date
ELPT	4/21/23
Kindergarten Readiness Post-Test	5/5/23
MAAP-A	5/12/23
MAAP* ELA, Math, Science & U.S. History	5/19/23

*Excluding 3rd grade ELA and early graduates/senior retesters

The MDE will work with the tornado-affected districts to extend the window, if needed, for the 3rd Grade Reading Assessment (MAAP ELA Reading) and high school seniors who need to retest on high school end-of-course assessments (Algebra I, English II, Biology and U.S. History).

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Extending the assessment window for 3rd Grade Reading and senior retesters to **all districts** would adversely impact district receipt of test scores. This would delay 3rd grade retesting opportunities and impact timelines for seniors to meet graduation requirements. Therefore, the MDE is not extending the assessment window for these tests to **all districts**.

Small Business Administration Information:

The disaster declaration covers Carroll, Humphreys, Montgomery, Monroe, Panola and Sharkey counties in Mississippi, which are eligible for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs): Attala, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, Grenada, Holmes, Issaquena, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, Leflore, Lowndes, Quitman, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Washington, Webster, Yalobusha and Yazoo in Mississippi.

SBA Portable Loan Outreach Center (PLOC)

Sharkey County

South Delta High School (parking lot)

[303 Parkway St.](#)

Rolling Fork, MS 39159

Hours: Monday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Business Recovery Center (BRC)

Monroe County

Monroe County Courthouse – Annex Building

301 S. Chestnut St.

Aberdeen, MS 39730

Opening: Wednesday, April 5, noon to 6 p.m.

Hours: Monday to Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed: Sunday

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The Mississippi Department of Public Safety:

The Driver Service Bureau is setting up a temporary location at 19881 US-61, Rolling Fork, Mississippi this Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., appointments are strongly encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome.

This location will serve all victims who possessed a valid regular license or identification card that has been lost as a result of the storms that occurred on March 24th, 2023. **Duplicates and renewals will be the only services provided at this location.** For those seeking additional services in the Rolling Fork area, please visit our Vicksburg or Greenville locations. For a list of all of our driver services locations, please click [here](#).

For more information or assistance in schedule your appointment, please call Becky Pierson at 601-540-0631, or you can visit our website at <https://www.driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov/>. To book your appointment visit, [Home - TeleGov](#).

Donation Information and Needs:

Location	Address	Point of Contact	Hours of Operation
Humphreys County	237 Main Street Silver City, MS	Pastor Childress 601-327-9613	8:00a- 5:00p
Old Amory Garment	902 Main Street South Amory, MS	Patty Parker 662-257-2474	M-F 10:00a-4:00p
Amory Regional Museum	801 3rd Street South Amory, MS	Wayne Knox 662-315-1849, 662-256-276	M-F 10:00a-4:00p
North Carrollton City Hall (**Preferred location for donations delivery)	114 East Main Street North Carrollton, MS 38947	Lynedra Williams 662-237-9268	By Appointment
South Delta High School	303 Parkway Street Rolling Fork, MS		8:00a-6:00p
South Delta Middle School (Collecting School Supplies)	86 Middle School St. Anguilla, MS	Erra Kelly 662-907-0422	By appointment

- Non-perishable food and drinks (especially caffeinated and sports drinks)
- Hygiene products
- Laundry Detergent
- Baby Items (formula/diapers)
- Paper Products

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