

Updated statewide damage reports to MEMA from April 18 tornado outbreak

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) continues to receive damage reports due to tornadoes and severe storms that impacted the state on April 18.

So far, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Jackson has confirmed 16 tornadoes statewide. There are three deaths related to this severe weather event.

These damage reports serve only as initial assessments from the county emergency management offices and will change (either higher or lower) as additional reports and assessments are sent to MEMA.

Initial damage reports by county (assessments ongoing):

- Adams: Power outages reported
- Amite: One storm-related fatality
- Chickasaw: Homes damaged
- Claiborne: Power outages reported

One EF-1 tornado that started in Jefferson County

- Clay: Multiple roads flooded, couple of trees down
- Copiah: Multiple power outages reported

A glance at tuition and fees at Mississippi universities

Associated Press

Tuition and fees will rise at Mississippi's eight public universities in fall 2019 under changes approved Thursday by the College Board. Here's a look at tuition and fees for two semesters (fall and spring), as well as the percentage change from the current academic year:

- Alcorn State University: \$7,327, up 3%; includes \$30 activities fee.
- Delta State University: \$7,671, up 5.9%; includes \$120 facilities fee and \$50 activities fee.
- Jackson State University: \$8,445, up 4.9%; includes \$105 facilities fee and \$70 activities fee.
- Mississippi State University: \$8,910, up 3%; includes \$100 facilities fee and \$10 activities fee.
- Mississippi University for Women: \$7,525, up 8.4%; includes \$100 facilities fee.
- Mississippi Valley State University: \$6,746, up 3%; includes \$20 activities fee.
- University of Mississippi: \$8,896, up 3.2%; includes \$100 facilities fee and \$10 activities fee.
- University of Mississippi Medical Center: \$8,728, up 3.5%.
- University of Southern Mississippi: \$8,896, up 3.2%; includes \$70 facilities fee and \$40 activities fee.

- Forrest: Trees down
- Hinds: Towns of Raymond, Utica, and Leland and have significant damage; Two EF-2 tornadoes; One EF-1 tornado; One EF-0 tornado that traveled to Madison County; 44 homes, two businesses, one road and six public buildings damaged
- Jefferson: Widespread power outages reported, trees down; One EF-1 tornado that traveled to Claiborne County
- Kemper: Unknown number of homes damaged
- Lamar: Trees down
- Leake: Houses damaged, damage reported in towns of Lena, Edinburg, Renfroe and Walnut Grove
- Lincoln: One storm-related fatality
- Lowndes: Trees down, homes damaged, power outages reported,
- Madison: Multiple power outages
- One EF-0 tornado that started in Hinds County

- Neshoba: One storm-related death, multiple homes damaged, power outages reported; Two EF-1 tornadoes in the city of Philadelphia.
- Noxubee: Multiple homes damaged, power outages reported, AT&T cell tower down in Shuqulak
- Oktibbeha: Several roads flooded, multiple homes damaged, trees down; Perry: Seven homes and one business damaged
- Rankin: 38 homes affected; 11 business damaged
- One EF-2 tornado that started in Simpson County; Three EF-1 tornadoes
- Scott: City of Morton reporting widespread damage; homes damaged throughout the county; One EF-2 tornado; Two EF-1 tornadoes; One EF-0 tornado that started in Smith County
- Simpson: 35 homes damaged, 2 businesses damaged
- One EF-2 tornado that traveled to Rankin County
- Smith: Widespread dam-

age in the Polkville area; One EF-1 tornado; One EF-0 tornado that traveled to Scott County

- Warren: One home damaged, power outages reported
 - Wayne: Power outages reported
 - Webster: Homes damaged
 - Winston: Power outages reported; multiple homes damaged.
- Shelters:
Smith County – Polkville Fire Station
State Assets/Resources Deployed:
MEMA's Mobile Command Center has been deployed to Scott County in the city of Morton.

MEMA has deployed tarps to affected areas;

MS Dept. of Public Safety has deployed law enforcement officers to assist with traffic flow and security.

MEMA has deployed bottled water to Neshoba County and Claiborne County to assist with temporary water outage.

MS Dept. of Transporta-

tion has deployed barricades to assist with traffic flow and detour signage in Oktibbeha County.

The State Emergency Operations Center is activated and monitoring any requests or unmet needs from the county emergency management offices.

The public is encouraged to report damage to homes or businesses to their county

emergency management office. A directory of all the offices can be found at <http://www.msema.org/county-ema/>

MEMA will provide updates as information becomes available. The best way to get up-to-date information during this event is to "Like" MEMA on Facebook, or "Follow" us on twitter @msema.



3 CEMETERY PLOTS in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Lexington, known as Lot No. 606 in the 1967 Addition. Includes a Trust Receipt, No. 376, held in trust by the City of Lexington with the interest

to be used for the upkeep and maintenance of Lot 606. Call Bruce Hill at 662-417-9944 to arrange for transfer of Trust Receipt and warranty deed for Lot 606. \$1500 total. 2-1ftfn

Spring rains trigger vocal, beneficial frogs

Dr. Leslie M. Burger
MSU Extension Service

Kermit the Frog hopped into stardom from the Mississippi Delta town of Leland. His real-world "relatives" are waking with spring rains and warmer weather, but there are not as many amphibians as there were when Kermit was a tadpole.

Frogs, toads and salamanders are fascinating members of our natural world. These amphibians start their lives in water, and most will later change (through metamorphosis) into land-based adults. They eat pest insects, which benefits agriculture and controls diseases such as malaria. They are food to bass and other popular sport-fish.

Many Southerners know that frog legs make for good eating. But fewer know that many amphibians can regrow limbs lost through accident or injury. Because of this special ability, medical scientists study these animals to learn about tissue regeneration. Amphibian skin is even used in some human medications.

Sadly, about 30% of known amphibian species are now threatened with extinction. It would be hard to imagine a spring night without the soft songs of frogs and toads. Their loss would also mean the loss of potential medical treatments and natural pest control.

Loss of habitat is a key contributing factor to amphibian population declines. Wetlands are homes to amphibians. These habitats are often altered or destroyed in urban or agricultural development.

Amphibians are also dying around the globe from



a rapidly spreading disease caused by a fungus. At this time, no cure for this disease has been found.

Amphibian declines should also serve as a warning to people. These animals -- like us -- have thin skin. They are easily harmed by chemicals and pollutants in the environment. If amphibians are being harmed by contaminants, people are also likely being impacted.

Biologists around the world are working hard to prevent the possible extinction of amphibians. Zoos and aquariums are breeding endangered species in captivity with the goal of reestablishing them in the wild. Field biologists are studying wild populations to learn more about their lives. Scientists are searching for a cure to the fungal disease.

Conservationists are working to save remaining wetlands from contamination or destruction.

Citizens can get involved in amphibian conservation, too. FrogWatch USA is a citizen science program in which people can learn about community wetlands and contribute data on local amphibians to a national dataset. The organization "iNaturalist" allows people to participate with scientists in mapping locations of amphibians. You can also protect your local water bodies by minimizing use of lawn chemicals and eliminating spills of oil, gasoline and other toxic substances that can end up in the water.

Every little bit will help Kermit's buddies continue to fill Mississippi spring nights with joyful songs.

SEEKING:
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HELP WANTED: Temporary Work – 1 Job Openings – Starting: 05/24/2019 and ending: 01/10/2020

We need a seasonal employee to operate farm equipment, tractors, sprayers, cotton pickers, planting equipment, bull dozer and other farm equipment. Employee will need to have mechanical and welding skills to do routine repairs and maintenance on equipment. Will need to build and repair fences. Do orchard and ground maintenance. Assist with livestock. Regular driver's license. Job requires extensive sitting, pushing, pulling and walking, repetitive movements, exposure to extreme outdoor temperatures and frequent stooping. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. May conduct post-hire random drug tests at no cost to employee since we operate a drug free workplace. Require 3 months experience. The employer, Tucker Farms from Uriah, AL will pay the adverse effect wage rate of \$11.13/hr. The employer guarantees 3/4 of the workdays in the work contract. The work tools, supplies and equipment are provided without cost to the worker, if applicable. Free housing is provided to workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of the workday. Transportation and subsistence expenses to the worksite will be provided or paid by the employer upon completion of 50% of the work contract or earlier. Workers interested in the job should contact the State Workforce at 2119 Hwy 21 Bypass, Suite 100, Monroeville, AL 36460. Phone number: 251-575-3894 or your nearest local State Workforce agency and mention job order number AL2618777.