

PSC temporarily suspends disconnection of utility services in response to COVID-19

Press Release

In a special meeting on Sunday, March 15, the Mississippi Public Service Commission voted to temporarily suspended disconnections of certain utility services. The restriction will be in place for 60 days and apply to all water, sewer, electricity and gas services.

This action is in response to Governor Tate Reeves’s Declaration of a State of Emergency on March 14, 2020 regarding the spread of COVID-19. In the Declaration, direction was given to examine any statutes, rules or regulations that may be temporarily suspended or modified if those regulations

would hinder or delay action necessary to cope with the outbreak.

The PSC coordinated with Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) throughout the weekend to implement protocols that ensure all Mississippians have access to essential utility services during the spread of COVID-19.

This is a temporary suspen-

for driver licenses and state issued identification cards. To make an address change, the user must either change his/her physical address during the time of the driver license/ID card renewal or purchase a duplicate DL or ID and complete an address change during the duplicate purchase process.

Online services can be made from any computer, tablet or mobile phone at www.dps.ms.gov or www.driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov.

“We will work to restore full services as it becomes safe to do so,” said Lieutenant Colonel Ken Brown, Director of the Driver Service Bureau. “Online services have greatly improved since they were first implemented in 2002. We encourage you to try this option.”

Federal REAL ID compliance requires that a customer renew in person every other renewal period and this may impact a customer’s ability to renew online.

Those customers affected will have to visit a driver’s license station upon reopening. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

The agency will continue to closely monitor this situation and will update accordingly.

someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, you are probably right to be suspicious. The FTC has a helpful website on how to donate wisely: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/how-donate-wisely-and-avoid-charity-scams>

• Not every instance of raised prices is truly price gouging, but if you think you see or experience price gouging, the best thing to do is take a photo, including a time and date stamp, of the price signs while you are at the business.

Governor Tate Reeves signed a State of Emergency on Saturday, March 14 in response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, following the President’s national emergency proclamation.

If you feel that you have been a victim of a scam during the Coronavirus outbreak, please contact the Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division at (601) 359-4230 or (800) 281-4418.

Only state licensed physicians can utilize telemedicine in MS says state board

Press Release

The Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure held an emergency telephonic meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2020, at 3 p.m. As an agency of the State of Mississippi, the Board wishes to comply with the State of Emergency Proclamation of Governor Tate Reeves and take the necessary steps to address access to needed medical care to the citizens of our state during this unprecedented time.

Part 2635, Chapter 5 Practice of Telemedicine, Rule 5.2, provides that the practice of medicine is deemed to occur in the location of the patient and therefore only physicians holding a valid MS medical license can practice telemedicine in MS. Because the Board knows many patients are required to travel long distances, both in state and out of state, to see their healthcare providers,

tion[1] and the Mississippi Department of Health[2] have outlined in order to prevent transmission of this virus like frequent hand-washing, sanitizing commonly touched surfaces, and the ability to remain at home should symptoms develop.

adherence to this policy may result in unnecessary patient travel which may increase possible risks to patients and healthcare providers in this state of emergency.

Until the State of Emergency in MS is lifted, the MS State Board of Medical Licensure encourages all physicians to utilize telemedicine to help avoid unnecessary patient travel. The Board will not enforce any statutes, rules or regulations that will require physicians to personally examine patients prior to issuing prescriptions or ordering the administration of medication, including controlled substances.

Also, any out-of-state physicians who wish to practice telemedicine for patients in MS must contact the MS State Board of Medical Licensure to secure authorization.

For more information, please contact Dr. Kenneth Cleveland, Executive Director of the MS State Board of Medical Licensure, at kcleveland@msbml.ms.gov.

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AG Fitch warns Mississippians to be vigilant

“There will be people who take advantage of this emergency”

Press Release

Attorney General Lynn Fitch, who is serving on the Governor’s committee for Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Planning, is urging all Mississippians to be particularly vigilant right now about scams and frauds that are emerging in the wake of the current emergency circumstances.

“Emergencies bring out the best in some people, but sometimes they bring out the worst, too. It is important to remember there are people who are looking to take advantage of this time of uncertainty,” said General Fitch. “If you suspect that someone is unfairly raising their prices to take advantage of the outbreak, you may be able to do something about it and our consumer protection team is

ready to assist you with your questions.”

Here are some tips on how you can better protect yourself from scams that may occur during the Coronavirus outbreak:

• Always use trusted and official sources when seeking the latest information on the virus. Watch out for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying that they have information about the virus. The best source for information about the virus is this CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

• Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Do not let anyone rush you into donating. If

NOTICE

Mississippi River Gas Company operates a distribution system in Holmes County, MS.

If you should smell gas, or see damaged metering equipment, please call our 24-hour emergency phone number 662-235-0988 or 601-437-4274.

Recognizing a Suspected Leak - Using your sense of sight, sound and smell will help you recognize a suspected leak. Here's what you should look for.

Sight - Natural gas is colorless, but vapor and "ground frosting" may be visible at high pressures. A gas leak may also be indicated by bubbles in wet or flooded areas, distinct patches of dead vegetation, dust blowing from a hole in the ground or flames if the leak is ignited.

Sound - A hissing or roaring noise along the right-of-way of a pipeline could also indicate a natural gas leak.

Smell - Transmission natural gas has a stale petroleum/hydrocarbon smell. Before it is delivered to your home, natural gas has mercaptan added which gives the gas a sulphur or "rotten egg" smell to help detect leaks. If the gas is from an underground leak, the odorant may be filtered out by the ground. If you should smell gas, or see damaged metering equipment, please call our 24-hour emergency phone number 601-786-3922 or 601-437-4274.

Every year people are injured or killed by accidentally striking a pipeline while using excavation equipment. In many cases, these tragedies could have been prevented by making a simple "FREE" telephone call to the state One-Call Center.

By State laws, anyone who plans to begin any excavation, trenching, boring or other ground disturbing projects, (such as building a fence, installing a pool, landscaping, installing a sprinkler system), is required to contact the One-Call Center no less than 48 hours before digging whether or not the caller believes the area is free of pipelines or other underground utilities. The One-Call Center will notify all utilities in the area and the utility companies will dispatch people to the proposed excavation site to locate and mark pipelines and other underground services.

Mississippi One-Call Center can be reached at - 1-800-227-6477 or 811

This message is from: Mississippi River Gas, LLC, P.O. Box 579, Tchula, MS 39169

To report an emergency on our pipeline call - 662-235-0988 or 601-437-4274