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

Press Release

gas services.

In a special meeting on to Governor Tate Reeves's necessary to cope with the Sunday, March 15, the Mis- Declaration of a State of outbreak. sissippi Public Service Com- Emergency on March 14, mission voted to temporarily 2020 regarding the spread of Mississippi State Departsuspended disconnections of COVID-19. In the Declaracertain utility services. The tion, direction was given to and Mississippi Emergenrestriction will be in place examine any statutes, rules cy for 60 days and apply to all or regulations that may be (MEMA) throughout the water, sewer, electricity and temporarily suspended or weekend to implement promodified if those regulations tocols that ensure all Missis-

Driver license stations closed in state through March 31

Press Release

The Mississippi Department of Public Safety has announced changes to the daily operations of the agency's Driver Service Bureau.

All driver license stations are officially closed to the public except for the nine al MHP District Troop Stations across the state until March 31, 2020 at which time a reassessment will be made for reopening.

The nine MHP District Troop Stations will only provide the following services: • Sex offender registry

transactions: Commercial driver license (CDL) card renewals only no testing;

 Commercial driver license (CDL) medical card updates.

This decision has been made out of an abundance of caution to protect the elderly and citizens who may have underlying health issues. We appreciate the public's cooperation and understanding as we try to work through this unprecedented time.

AG Fitch warns Mississippians to be vigilant

"There will be people who take advantage of this emergency"

Press Release

Attorney General Lynn questions." Fitch, who is serving on the Here are some tips on how Governor's committee for you can better protect your-Coronavirus Preparedness self from scams that may oc-

Online transactions will still be available for the following services:

• Regular driver's license renewal

· Purchase a duplicate driver's license

· Identification card renew-

• Purchase a duplicate identification card

• Address changes for regular driver's license and identification cards

• Visit www.dps.ms.gov for additional services

"We encourage you to use online services available for driver license and state issued identification card renewals, duplicates and address changes," stated Colonel Chris Gillard, Assistant Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety and Director of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol. 'By utilizing these online services available, you will still be able to obtain a driver's license or identification card." A new online address change feature is available

This action is in response would hinder or delay action

The PSC coordinated with ment of Health (MSDH) Management Agency sippians 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-wiselyand-avoid-charity-scams

• Not every instance of raised prices is truly price

sion of disconnection. Utility customers should continue to pay outstanding bills and pay for services provided during the 60 days.

"We are trying to be as proactive as we can and do our part to not only help prevent the spread of the virus, but to not put any additional stress on utility customers and our workforce," Chairman Dane Maxwell said. "It's very important to us at the PSC to keep our customers and utility partners' welfare a top priority during this time."

"This emergency order will keep vital services connected for our people and protect public health and welfare," Commissioner Brandon Presley for the Northern District said. "We've taken this action at the recommendation of the Health Department and MEMA and we will continue to coordinate any further action with them."

"As we enter uncharted waters, we must sometimes take extraordinary steps to protect consumers, especially our most vulnerable ones, continue commerce and serve the public interest," Commissioner Brent Bailey for the Central District said. "We don't take the execution of today's action lightly, but the Commission felt that it needed to issue this Order to protect public health and welfare."

The PSC will continue to monitor the outbreak of CO-VID-19 and encourages the washing, sanitizing compublic to participate in the monly touched surfaces, and measures The Centers for the ability to remain at home

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

Press Release

The Board of Medical Licensure travel which may increase held an emergency telephon- possible risks to patients and ic meeting on Sunday, March healthcare providers in this 15, 2020, at 3 p.m. As an state of emergency. precedented time.

tice of Telemedicine, Rule prior to issuing prescriptions 5.2, provides that the prac- or ordering the administratice of medicine is deemed tion of medication, including to occur in the location of the controlled substances. patient and therefore only physicians holding a valid sicians who wish to practice MS medical license can telemedicine for patients in practice telemedicine in MS. MS must contact the MS Because the Board knows State Board of Medical Limany patients are required to censure to secure authorizatravel long distances, both in tion. state and out of state, to see their healthcare providers, please contact Dr. Kenneth

tion[1] and the Mississippi tor of the MS State Board Department of Health[2] of Medical Licensure, at kchave outlined in order to leveland@msbml.ms.gov. prevent transmission of this virus like frequent hand-Disease Control and Preven- should symptoms develop.

adherence to this policy may Mississippi State result in unnecessary patient

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agency of the State of Mis- Until the State of Emersissippi, the Board wishes gency in MS is lifted, the to comply with the State of MS State Board of Medical Emergency Proclamation of Licensure encourages all Governor Tate Reeves and physicians to utilize teletake the necessary steps to medicine to help avoid unaddress access to needed necessary patient travel. The medical care to the citizens Board will not enforce any of our state during this un- statutes, rules or regulations that will require physicians to Part 2635, Chapter 5 Prac- personally examine patients

Also, any out-of-state phy-

For more information Cleveland, Executive Direc-

Jorcity.com Jorcity Store Jorcitytv.com **Sports & Entertainment** Holmes County, MS

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-

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 break, you may be able to do

cur 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

ready to assist you with your

• Do your homework when to take advantage of the out- it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdsomething about it and our funding sites. Do not let anyconsumer protection team is one rush you into donating. If

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.

3922 or 601-437-4274.

Every year people are injured or killed by accidently 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

Tchula, MS 2020