MDOT first responders work to keep residents safe when a hurricane threatens

Press Release

As the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season reaches its third week, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) first responders are prepared to ensure everyone stays safe when a tropical storm threatens the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"When a tropical system threatens, MDOT first responders stand ready to act to ensure transportation returns to normal as quickly as possible," Commissioner Tom King, Southern Transportation District.

MDOT starts prepping for a tropical system days before it's predicted to make landfall by checking equipment and gassing up response vehicles. As a storm approaches the coast, depending on its strength, electrical crews will remove signal controllers in low lying areas, high mast lights and remove drawbridge arms to prepare the bridges for shutdown.

"Having a plan in place before a storm hits is just as important for MDOT as it is for residents," said King. "A hurricane can be unpredictable. By having a plan in place and taking the necessary steps to prepare for it, we are more equipped to handle the aftermath."

When a hurricane or tropical system hits a coastal area, serious hazards can come with it. They can produce strong winds, heavy rains, storm surge, and even tornadoes. As a storm moves inland, MDOT first responders monitor the roadways. If a road or bridge is deemed unsafe to travel on it will be closed until the storm passes and crews are able to evaluate the area.

Once the system moves inland, MDOT first responders survey affected areas, clearing roadways of debris or sand, while working diligently until highways are back open. MDOT's goal is to get traffic back to normal as soon as possible to ensure the roadways are safe for anyone in need of emergency travel.

During a hurricane or tropical system MDOT must reallocate its resources to ensure the equipment and manpower are ready to respond at any moment. This decreases the resources that could be used for maintenance or construction projects.

"In times of emergency MDOT's resources are mobilized to protect the safety of Mississippians and the preservation of infrastructure," said King. "That's why consistent funding is so vital. We have to be able to respond to areas in need while working to keep the highways open and traffic moving as normal."

Residents, businesses and community organizations should also have their own plans in place when a storm threatens. The 2020 MDOT Hurricane Evacuation Guide is an essential resource that allows people to see where their best evacuation route is located. The guide also features information to assist in developing a preparedness plan such as contraflow information, radio coverage areas through Mississippi Public Broadcasting and important contact information from the Mississippi Highway Patrol, American Red Cross, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and bordering state DOTs and highway patrols. Individuals and families will find vital resources on shelters, pet care, lodging and travel resources.

"The safety of every Mississippian is MDOT's top priority. We want to keep you safe and out of harm's way during a hurricane or tropical storm, but we need your help to do that," said King.

Order a free copy today at GoMDOT.com/maps. Guides are also available in Spanish and Vietnamese. Also available are children's hurricane activity book, state maps and more.

For more hurricane safety tips, visit GoMDOT.com/hurricanes.

During the storm, the public can stay updated on live travel and weather information 24/7 with MDOT's free travel resources. Visit MDOTtraffic.com or download the MDOT Traffic mobile app.

Follow @MississippiDOT on Facebook and Twitter along with the hashtag #HurricaneStrong this hurricane season.

Bridal Registry
Laura Beth Kolb
Taylor Burrell
August 1
Howell & Heggie Drug Co.
389 N. W. Depot St.
Durant
662-653-6441

CASH PLUS
TITLE PLUS
205 Tchula St., Lexington, MS
(across from Double Quick)
662-834-9045
Payday Loans up to $400.00
Title Loans up to $2,500.00
WE DO 30 DAY LOANS!!!
NO Credit Check
Refer a friend, earn a free $20.00!

Work of home and family

Peggy's Take

As I sit and listened to my husband calling in an order for fertilizer to nourish our hayfields, I listened as he told the co-op how much potash, lime and all the ingredients that made up this "green grow" mixture and I asked him, "How do you know how much of each thing you need?" He told me he had learned lots from older farmers, but he had acquired lots of the knowledge from taking agriculture during his high school years at Ethel.

He learned about farming, cattle breeding, crop rotation and he had even taken some classes in wood working. He learned how to raise cattle and has been successful at this for many years. I have been married to him for nearly 58 years and I guess I just never thought about that part of his education.

One of my grandsons has taken this same course for the past two years and he has not learned these particular skills. He has told me that they have studied cattle, not to the extent his pawpaw did and that one day they prepared the beds outside the ag building to plant shrubs.

I remember taking home economics for two years. I learned to cook the basics, to sew, to plan a menu and to actually run a household. This particular class and my grandmother's hands on classes were where I learned to be the seasoned cook I am today.

As we talked about our classes from years ago, I wondered what had happened to the diversity taught in the agriculture classes and why in the world home economics classes were discontinued.

As I thought about this, I realized that back during the late fifties and the sixties, most wives stayed at home taking care of the house, cooking and raising children while the husbands went out into the work field and made a living for his family. At that time, it seems as if we could do with less and still have that family time.

Now days things are so different. It is as if it takes both of the spouses to be in the work field just to be able to take care of their family's needs and sometimes their wants.

There are more married women who are more independent than I was, and they want a career outside of the home. I feel as if sometimes the wife and husband are in competition with each other. There is absolutely nothing wrong with a woman working and having a career outside the home, it was just not for me. I suppose am of the old school, I still hold on to the reasoning that our home is my job. I believe that I need to have supper ready every night by a certain time because he has worked for me all day. And, I believe it is my job to take care of him.

I realize I will annoy lots of women but hey, whatever you want is okay for you and I surely applaud you for holding down two jobs.

Pineapple Pie

1 unbaked pie shell
1 ½ cups of sugar
1 stick of butter
1 cup of crushed pineapple
3 T. flour
1 T. vanilla
2 eggs

Beat all ingredients together and fill pie crust. Bake 350* for 50 minutes.

** Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*

Lexington Primary Care is Permanently Closed

Due to the recent COVID-19 event and the financial effects, Lexington Primary Care Clinic will not be reopening. The decision to close the clinic was not an easy one, but we appreciate you allowing our provider to meet your medical needs. Thank you for being our loyal customer.

For medication refills:

Please contact Sabrina Matthews, NP at **662-453-1852** until **July 31, 2020**. After **July 31, 2020**, you will need to obtain medical care elsewhere.

For medical records:

Please call the Medical Records Department at **662-459-2609** to make arrangements to transfer your records.

Greenwood Leflore Hospital
The right care at the right time–glh.org

NEW WAVE By Mary Jersey

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