



SECTION 1: BASIC PLAN

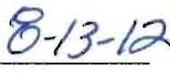
Promulgation Statement

Harrison County government shares a responsibility with State and municipal governments to be prepared in the event of a natural, technological, or man-made emergency or disaster that threatens life, property, or the environment. The Mississippi Emergency Management Law, MS Code Ann. § 33-15(1972) confers emergency powers on the Governor, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, executive heads of governing bodies of municipalities, and counties of the state to meet this responsibility.

In order to provide for an effective response to emergency situations, the federal, state, local and tribal governments must plan and prepare together. The concept and assignment of responsibilities outlined in this plan shall serve as the basis for the conduct of emergency operations by Harrison County. It shall be the responsibility of all county agencies and organizations herein referenced to perform their assigned functional tasks and to prepare and maintain standard operating procedures and/or guidelines. All responsible parties shall provide notice of revisions and improvements to this Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and support it through training and exercises.

This plan is in accordance with existing federal and state statutes, in coordination with the National Response Framework and is National Incident Management System compliant. It will be revised and updated at least biennially, or more frequently as warranted. This plan is written and will be updated in compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's *Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plan, Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101*, Version 2.0, November 2010.

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Board of Supervisors of Harrison County, I hereby promulgate the Harrison County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Furthermore, I charge the Director of the Harrison County Emergency Management Agency (HCEMA) with responsibility for the implementation of this plan under emergency conditions and its ongoing development, as experience and changing conditions require.

Kim Savant
President, County Board of Supervisors

Date

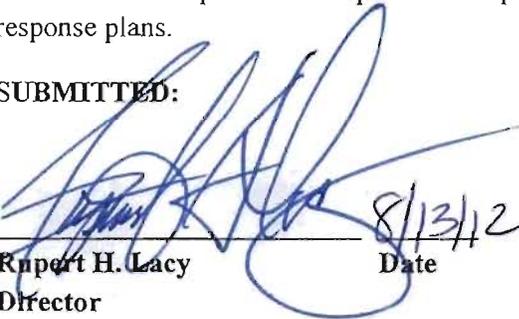
Approval and Implementation

This plan will be effective upon submission by the Harrison County Emergency Management Agency's Director and approval by the President of the Harrison County Board of Supervisors.

This plan will be executed upon order of the President of the Harrison County Board of Supervisors, or his authorized representative.

This document replaces and supersedes all previous versions of the Harrison County's emergency response plans.

SUBMITTED:



Rupert H. Lacy 8/13/12
Director Date
Harrison County Emergency Management Agency

APPROVED:



Kim Savant 8/13/12
President Date
Harrison County Board of Supervisors

Record of Distribution

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Personnel and organizations on the secondary distribution list are those identified as essential to knowing the framework of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), but with certain information excluded pursuant to MS Code Ann. § 33-15-11 (b) (12)(1972).

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I. PURPOSE, SCOPE, SITUATION, AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is to describe Harrison County's approach to response and recovery activities related to emergencies and major disasters. It establishes the policies and procedures by which the Harrison County shall coordinate local, state, and federal response to disasters that affect this county. Furthermore, it utilizes the emergency support function (ESF) concept to marshal and apply resources and describes the responsibilities of county agencies and departments in executing effective response and recovery operations.

This CEMP incorporates the concepts and requirements found in federal, state, and county laws, regulations, and guidelines. Furthermore, the CEMP provides the decision framework to enable county government to effectively respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters. The plan identifies the responsibilities and actions required to protect lives, property, and the environment from natural, man-made, and technological emergencies and disasters.

This document embraces the State of Mississippi CEMP, National Response Framework (NRF), the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101, Version 2.0, the Presidential Policy Directive PPD/8, the National Preparedness Goal, and the National Preparedness System as fundamental guidance for the county's emergency management program. To reflect evolving guidance and requirements of these documents, the CEMP is amended and updated every two years and rewritten every five years. The structure of this CEMP mirrors that outlined in the State CEMP, NRF and other relevant Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidance. The plan is developed under the concept of community-based planning. The premise is that all sectors of a community play a critical role and shared responsibility to protect life and property.

The CEMP consists of four components: (1) Basic Plan, (2) Emergency Support Function Annexes, (3) Support Annexes, and (4) Incident Annexes for Specific Incidents.

Basic Plan -Establishes fundamental policies and assumptions for countywide emergency management, outlines the county's vulnerabilities to potential hazards, establishes a comprehensive emergency management concept of operations, and outlines federal, state, and local relationships and responsibilities. The basic plan includes planning assumptions, roles and responsibilities, a concept of operations, incident management actions, and plan maintenance instructions. The incident management actions incorporate the updated requirements of the NIMS.

Emergency Support Function Annexes -Identifies the specific activities required to support each numbered function and specifies the agencies, departments, and organizations that are responsible for performing those activities. While the ESFs name and describe the specific tasks, they do not

describe the detailed procedures to perform them. The detailed procedures shall be developed by the coordinating ESF and support agencies in the form of Interagency Coordination Procedures, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and Standard Operating Guides (SOGs).

Emergency Support Functions include:

ESF #1	Transportation
ESF #2	Communications
ESF #3	Public Works and Engineering
ESF #4	Firefighting
ESF #5	Emergency Management
ESF #6	Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services
ESF #7	Logistics and Resource Support
ESF #8	Public Health and Medical Services
ESF #9	Search and Rescue
ESF #10	Oil and Hazardous Materials Response
ESF #11	Animals, Agriculture, and Natural Resources
ESF #12	Energy
ESF #13	Public Safety and Security
ESF #14	Long-Term Community Recovery
ESF #15	External Affairs
ESF #16	County Coroner/Examiner

Support Annexes – Describes the framework through which Harrison County and municipalities entities, along with volunteer and non-governmental organizations coordinate and execute the common functional processes and administrative requirements necessary for efficient and effective incident management.

Incident Annexes – Deals with specific catastrophic and unique hazards. These annexes address special considerations and priorities generated by particular hazards affecting Harrison County and the corresponding actions required to cope with them.

B. Scope

This document provides structures for implementing Harrison County-level policy and operational coordination for incident response. It can be partially or fully implemented in the context of a threat, in anticipation of a significant event, or in response to an incident. Selective implementation allows for a scaled response, delivery of the exact resources needed, and a level of coordination appropriate to each incident.

This CEMP is intended to accelerate and make more disciplined the county’s capacity to rapidly assess and respond to incidents that require state assistance. In practice, many incidents require virtually spontaneous activation of interagency coordination protocols to prevent the incident from becoming worse or to surge more aggressively to contain it. A Harrison County department

or agency acting on independent authority may be the initial and the primary county responder, but incidents that require more systematic county response efforts are now actively coordinated through the appropriate mechanisms described in this document and in its supporting annexes.

Initial coordination of Harrison County incident assessment and response efforts is intended to occur seamlessly, without need for any formal trigger mechanism such as a written declaration by the Governor. This will support a more nimble, scalable, and coordinated response by the entire emergency management community.

Major components of this plan include disaster information and situational awareness, concept of operations, and direction and control, supported by automatic activation.

C. Situation Overview

Harrison County is exposed to many hazards, all which have the potential of causing casualties, damaging or destroying public or private property, and disrupting the county's economy. In any crisis or emergency, Harrison County's foremost concern is for the protection of human life and property.

The Harrison County Emergency Management Agency has taken great care in identifying these hazards and developing and executing plans that fully serve its citizens. The county has worked with numerous state agencies, organizations, and concerned citizens to ensure that Harrison County is prepared to mitigate, prevent, protect, prepare for, respond to, and recover from these threats. By researching historical records and learning from past hazardous events, vulnerabilities have been identified and estimated future losses projected. In addition, Harrison County capabilities have been identified and assessments have been made concerning current effectiveness.

Harrison County conducts emergency preparedness awareness campaigns through the year. Awareness campaigns include but not limited to: awareness, severe weather awareness, flood awareness, hurricane awareness, heat emergencies, cold weather and tornado awareness. Harrison County utilizes a variety of social networking venues, translators, and broadcasting methods, such as radio, television, and newspaper, to ensure that diverse populations are appropriately advised.

D. Hazard and Threat Analysis Summary

Harrison County is vulnerable to the effects of natural, man-made, and technological hazards.

Hazard Categories

Natural Hazards - Natural incidents related to environmental conditions including dam and levee failure, drought and extreme heat, earthquakes, flooding, major fires (including grass, timber, and urban), hurricanes, tornadoes, and winter/ice storms.

Further information related to these hazards is found under separate cover in *The Harrison County Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan* and as incident annexes of this document.

Man-made Hazards - Intentional acts including civil disorder, enemy attack, sabotage, terrorism, or other incidents involving the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Technological Hazards - Technological failures or accidents including, but not limited to: industrial hazards, structural collapse, power outages, fires, explosions, transportation accidents, water supply failure, and hazardous materials such as: chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear.

Natural Hazards

Hurricane/Tropical Storm

Harrison County, the middle of three counties that comprise the Mississippi Gulf Coast, is part of the Gulfport-Biloxi metropolitan statistical area. Hurricane watches and/or warnings during the Atlantic hurricane season, run from June 1 to November 30. According to NOAA historical storm track records, 71 hurricane or tropical tracks have passed within 75 miles of Harrison County since 1850. This includes: one (1) Category 5 hurricane; three (3) Category 4 hurricanes; eight (8) Category 3 hurricanes; three (3) Category 2 hurricanes; twenty two (22) Category 1 hurricanes; thirty-four (34) tropical storms. Harrison County has been impacted with high winds, rain damage, severe storms, and flooding which has caused billions of dollars in damage.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, more than 187,105 residents reside in Harrison County.

Not only is Harrison County densely populated with residents, but in recent years this area has experienced significant growth of the gaming industry which has increased planning requirements for the local population and tourists during hurricane warnings and evacuations. Furthermore, Harrison County is home to Gulfport, the major site for import commodities such as bananas for the nation, limonite ore and limestone, hardwood lumber, and other agricultural products.

Over the years, both residents and industry along the Mississippi Gulf Coast have felt significant and damaging impacts from hurricanes and tropical storms. Two historical hurricanes which have had the most impact were Hurricane Camille in 1969 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Combined these hurricanes resulted in the loss of approximately 387 lives and more than \$80 billion in property and crop damage. The impact was so great during Hurricane Katrina that a total of 49 counties were declared eligible for Individual Assistance; all 82 counties were eligible for Public Assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act yielding a total of almost \$4.9 billion in federal disaster funding.

Earthquake

Due to Mississippi's location to the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ), recent studies indicate that the state has the potential of experiencing significant damage from an earthquake. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), "In 1811 and 1812, a series of great earthquakes near the New Madrid, Missouri area was felt in Mississippi as far south as the Gulf Coast. The New Madrid series caused the banks of the Mississippi River to cave in as far as Vicksburg, more than 300 miles from the epicentral region." However, the earliest and strongest earthquake reported within Mississippi occurred on December 16, 1931, at about 9:36 p.m. Using the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale the average intensity was VI – VII which is a magnitude 5.0 - 5.9. Several chimneys in Belzoni (Humphreys County) and Tillatoba (Yalobusha County) were damaged. Although damage was minimal from this episode, if the same magnitude occurred today, due to increased area population and infrastructure, it is likely significant damage would result. Although the NMSZ is the primary seismic activity source for the Southeastern United States, there are other potential earthquake sources in Mississippi. The USGS has recorded more than 40 earthquakes originating within the boundaries of Mississippi since 1911. Although none of these caused significant damage, they should not be disregarded.

The NMSZ has the potential of producing an earthquake greater than magnitude 7.0 on the Richter scale. In recent years the USGS, in conjunction with the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), released data related to Mississippi based on a New Madrid magnitude 7.7 scenario. Counties that have a high liquefaction hazard and are closest to the NMSZ would experience considerable losses. Based on the New Madrid Seismic Zone Catastrophic Event Planning Project II Model, Harrison County is listed as an area at high risk for liquefaction.

Lateral spreading, (ground failure due to liquefaction), could lead to impassable roadways, ruptured utility lines, and damaged port facilities. Bridge damage could be significant, potentially isolating some communities. Overall, the potential impact could result in approximately \$3 billion in building and income losses, with overall economic losses approximating \$3.9 billion. More than 25 percent of the total number of buildings in the state could be at least moderately damaged. Fifteen percent of the building and income losses would most likely be related to business interruption.

Tornado

Each year the state conducts an annual Tornado Awareness Week in an effort to increase community awareness and education. Harrison County participates in state and local weather service public education programs to continuously promote the danger of water spouts and tornado dangers.

According to the National Climatic Data Center, there have been a total of 53 recorded tornado events in Harrison County since 1953 (HCMJMP 2008). Of these, 19 events were recorded to

touchdown in unincorporated areas. Two deaths, 15 injuries, and over \$8.1 million in property damages (2008 dollars) resulted from these events. The magnitude of these tornadoes ranges from F0 to F2 in intensity. The probability of future tornado occurrences affecting Harrison County is high. According to historical records, Harrison County experiences an average of nearly one confirmed tornado touchdown every year. While the majority of these events are small in term of size, intensity and duration, they do pose a significant threat should Harrison County experience a direct tornado strike.

The most tornados recorded in one year in Mississippi occurred in 2005 with a total of 120 tornados. This large number was directly contributed to both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita of that year.

Flooding

Harrison County has three major rivers through the county that have the potential to flood with slow moving tropical systems and or large rain fall events. Historically flooding has occurred in Harrison County from two sources:

Coastal flooding from strong Southeasterly winds, tropical storms, hurricanes or other low pressures.

Freshwater flooding from rainfall generated by storm systems that pass over the county again from items mentioned above and large rainfall showers.

The Tchoutabouffa River is located in the northeast and east Harrison County. Flood stage for this river is 8 feet. At this point low areas near the river would see water standing on roads and could start to become impassable. A manual flood gauge is located on the west side of the Lamey Bridge on the bridge. Bench mark for top of east rail in center of bridge elevation: 23.67 feet.

The Biloxi River is located north and central Harrison County. Flood stage for this river is 12 feet. At this point low areas near the river would see standing water on roads and could start to become impassable. A manual reading of the river is conducted by responders using a linear tape to the current river reading ($29.7 - \text{reading} = \text{current level}$). Bench mark for top of east rail red painted square elevation: 29.7 feet.

The Wolf River is located northwest and west Harrison County. Flood stage for this river is 8 feet. At this point low areas near the river could see standing waters on roads and could become impassable. A manual flood gauge is located on the southeast end of the bridge of the Wolf River bridge. Bench mark for the Wolf River bridge is north rail center of bridge elevation is 30.64 feet.

Floods occur seasonally with general or torrential rains associated with tropical storms that later drain into river basins and fill them with an abundance of water. Rivers, lakes, and other water bodies have always overflowed their normal beds to inundate nearby land. The land adjacent to these bodies of water is called the floodplain.

Since 1984, under provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988 (PL 93 –288 as amended) and its predecessor, the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 (PL 91-606), 19 floods have resulted in being federally declared “Major Disasters”.

Wild Fire

Harrison County has had numerous years in which wild fires have caused loss of timber and some property in the county. Fire Wise Training is promoted in the county to prevent large loss of property and good growth and protection.

According to the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Harrison County experiences an average of 127.5 wildfires annually. These fires have occurred in all parts of the county, particularly in the unincorporated areas. Most of these fires are rather small in size with approximately 70 percent being contained to less than 10 acres. The Harrison County Wildfire Protection Plan shows that approximately 47 percent of fires in the county are ascribed to arson; other causes of wildfire are lightning, campfires, smoking, debris burning, and equipment use.

Mississippi traditionally has two wild land fire seasons each year. The first season usually begins in late October with the first frost and hardwood leaf drop and runs through December. The second season usually begins in February and runs to mid-April or until spring green-up. These seasons vary from year to year, depending on rainfall, wind, and other weather factors. The southern one-third of the state generally tends to have the most wild land fire activity.

Winter Weather

Harrison County is potentially vulnerable to winter weather events which are categorized as heavy snow, ice storm, or winter storm (combination of ice, snow, and freezing rain).

Winter weather has the potential to disrupt the day-to-day operations of county and municipal government. Meeting schedules for schools, businesses and community events may be disrupted by severe winter weather.

Due to new infrastructure built in the past 8 years the county monitors winter weather closely.

Elevated bridges such as the county’s major east west bridges on US Highway 90, the Interstate I-110 bridge, and MS Highway 605 bridges are elevated to the point that icy conditions may exist which may present traffic hazards.”

Harrison County is active with numerous non-profit organizations and civic agencies that operate Cold Weather Shelters when the temperatures drop below freezing for the at-risk population.

Man-made and Technological Hazards

Harrison County is home to significant infrastructure, populations, and government functions that place it at risk for unintentional or intentional acts which could cause physical damage, casualties,

or operational disruptions. Over the years, the frequency of man-made and technological hazards has increased mainly due to the number and availability of hazardous substances and the potential for human error. The vast network of interstate highways and railways result in vulnerabilities to hazardous material releases from both stationary and transportation sources.

Specific man-made or technological hazards which could occur include:

- A virulent strain of pandemic influenza. This type of hazard has the potential to cause casualties in the hundreds of thousands and result in economic loss. Additional human and animal infectious diseases, including those previously undiscovered, may present significant risk.
- Dam failures or chemical substance spills or releases. This type of hazard may have the potential to cause extensive fatalities and severe economic impacts, and the likelihood of occurrence may increase due to aging infrastructure.
- Terrorist organizations or affiliates. These organizations may seek to acquire, build, and use weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Conventional terrorist attacks, including those by “lone actors” employing explosives and armed attacks, present a continued risk to the state.
- Cyber-attacks. Attacks such as this can have their own catastrophic consequences and can also initiate other hazards, such as power grid failures or financial system failures, which magnify the potential impact of cyber incidents.

For further information regarding Harrison County’s hazards, vulnerabilities, and how the Harrison County expects to receive (or provide) assistance within its regional response structures refer to the *Harrison County Multi Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan*, the Emergency Support Functions, and Support and Incident Annexes of this county CEMP.

E. Capability Assessment

With preparedness as the foundation, the Harrison County CEMP utilizes the mission areas of protection, prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation to implement three core capabilities that span all five mission areas: Planning, Public Information and Warning, and Operational Coordination (Refer to Table 1, pg. 11).

Preparedness – Refers to the actions taken to plan, organize, equip, train, and exercise to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from those threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of the state.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility of our whole community. Every member contributes, including individuals, communities, the private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, and federal, state, and local governments. Preparedness also includes children, individuals with

disabilities and others with access and functional needs, diverse communities, and people with limited English proficiency.

Mission Areas

Protection - Refers to those capabilities necessary to secure the homeland against acts of terrorism and man-made or natural disasters. Protection capabilities include, but are not limited to, defense against WMD threats, defense of agriculture and food, critical infrastructure protection, protection of key leadership and events, border security, maritime security, transportation security, immigration security, and cyber security.

Prevention - Refers to those capabilities necessary to avoid, prevent, or stop a threatened or actual act of terrorism. Prevention capabilities include, but are not limited to, information sharing and warning, domestic counterterrorism, and preventing the acquisition or use of WMD. It involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as deterrence operations, heightened inspections, improved surveillance and security operations, investigations to determine the full nature and source of the threat, public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes, immunizations, isolation, or quarantine, and, as appropriate, specific law enforcement operations aimed at deterring, preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity and apprehending potential perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

Response - Refers to those capabilities necessary to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs after an incident has occurred. Response includes the execution of EOPs, mitigation activities designed to limit the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and other unfavorable outcomes. Response also includes efforts to begin the process of returning to pre-emergency conditions.

Recovery - Refers to those capabilities necessary to assist communities affected by an incident to recover effectively, including, but not limited to, rebuilding infrastructure systems, providing adequate interim and long-term housing for survivors, restoring health, social and community services promoting economic development, and restoring natural and cultural resources. Recovery must begin as soon as possible which may be short-term or long-term in duration. The emergency management organization initiates procedures to assess needs and resources, establish priorities, review state and federal aid criteria, and coordinate with representatives from both levels of government. Once the extent of the recovery effort is determined, the appointed recovery team members determine how best to manage the specific activities, what resources and personnel will be required, and what other actions are needed to return the impacted areas to normal operations as quickly as possible. (Additional long-term recovery is available in ESF #14).

Mitigation - Refers to those capabilities necessary to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation capabilities include, but are not limited to, community-wide

risk reduction projects, efforts to improve lifelines, risk reduction for specific vulnerabilities from natural hazards or acts of terrorism, and initiatives to reduce future risks after a disaster has occurred. Mitigation measures may be implemented prior to and after an incident and are often influenced by lessons learned from prior incidents. Measures may include zoning and building codes, floodplain buyouts, and analysis of hazard-related data to determine where it is safe to build or locate temporary facilities. Mitigation can include efforts to educate governments, businesses, and the public on measures they can take to reduce loss and injury.

Core Capabilities

Planning-Conduct a systematic process engaging the whole community as appropriate in the development of executable strategic, operational, and/or community-based approaches to meet defined objectives.

Public Information and Warning - Deliver coordinated, prompt, reliable, and actionable information to the whole community through the use of clear, consistent, accessible, and culturally and linguistically appropriate methods to effectively relay information regarding any threat or hazard, as well as the actions being taken and the assistance being made available, as appropriate.

Operational Coordination - Establish and maintain a unified and coordinated operational structure and process that appropriately integrates all critical stakeholders and supports the execution of core capabilities.

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Prevention	Protection	Mitigation	Response	Recovery
Planning				
Public Information and Warning				
Operational Coordination				
Forensics and Attribution	Access Control and Identity Verification	Community Resilience	Critical Transportation	Economic Recovery
Intelligence and Information Sharing	Cyber security	Long-term Vulnerability Reduction	Environmental Response/Health and Safety	Health and Social Services
Interdiction and Disruption	Intelligence and Information Sharing	Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment	Fatality Management Services	Housing
Screening, Search, and Detection	Interdiction and Disruption	Threats and Hazard Identification	Infrastructure Systems	Infrastructure Systems
	Physical Protective Measures		Mass Care Services	
	Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities		Mass Search and Rescue Operations	
	Screening, Search, and Detection		On-scene Security and Protection	
	Supply Chain Integrity and Security		Operational Communications	
			Public and Private Services and Resources	
			Public Health and Medical Services	
	Situational Assessment		Natural and Cultural Resources	

Table 1: Resource: National Preparedness Goal: First Edition, September 2011, pg. 2

F. Assumptions

- Incidents mean an occurrence or event (natural, technological, or human-caused), that requires a response to protect life, property, or the environment (e.g. , major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, terrorist threats, civil unrest, wild land and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials (HAZMAT) spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, tsunamis, war-related disasters, public health and medical emergencies, and other occurrences requiring an emergency response.
- Incidents may occur at any time with little or no warning in the context of a general or specific threat or hazard, and they may involve single or multiple geographic/jurisdictional areas.
- All incidents begin and end locally and are typically managed at the lowest possible geographic, organizational, and jurisdictional level.
- Government at all levels must continue to function under all threats, emergencies, and disaster conditions.
- Executive Order No. 932 designates NIMS as the basis for all incident management in the State of Mississippi. Therefore, incident management activities shall be initiated and conducted using the NIMS Command and Management principles. In accordance with NIMS requirements, the Incident Command System (ICS) will be used as the on-scene management system.
- Local governments possess varying levels of capabilities, plans, procedures, and resources to provide for the safety and welfare of their people. They also vary in their capacity to protect property and the environment in times of emergency or disaster.
- Incidents may cause significant alterations and damage to the environment resulting in numerous casualties and fatalities, displaced individuals, property loss, disruption of normal life support systems, disruption of essential public services, and damage to basic infrastructure.
- Incidents pose a challenge for the whole community but specifically the special needs population which includes children, individuals with disabilities, and others with access and functional needs, diverse communities, the elderly, and people with limited English proficiency. These groups may be lacking in resources such as food, shelter, and transportation.

- Approximately 20.5 percent of Harrison County's population is disabled. Preparedness, prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts will be consistent with federal policy and guidelines. Emergency efforts will enable people with disabilities to evacuate, use emergency transportation, stay in shelters, and participate in all emergency and disaster related programs together with their service animals.
- Persons with pets may be hesitant to evacuate or seek shelter. Emergency Support Function #11 will develop strategies for the evacuation and shelter of persons with pets. A Pet Friendly Shelter is operated in conjunction with HCEMA and Harrison County School District and the South Mississippi Humane Society at the Harrison Central High School.
- Incidents may attract a sizeable influx of independent, spontaneous volunteers and supplies and may require prolonged, sustained incident management operations and support activities.
- Individuals, community based organizations, and businesses will offer services and support in time of disaster.
- Incidents may overwhelm capabilities of the county and private-sector infrastructure owners and operators.
- Mutual aid and other forms of assistance will be rendered when impacted jurisdictions exhaust or anticipate exhausting their resources.
- The greater the complexity, impact and geographic scope of an emergency, the more multiagency coordination will be required.
- Harrison County may request state assistance when the local resources for incident management become inadequate.
- When a major emergency or disaster occurs, an evaluation of the severity and magnitude will be made by local officials in coordination with MEMA and representatives of other state and federal agencies.
- If the situation warrants support from the state, the Governor will declare a state of emergency and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) will be activated at the appropriate level to support a coordinated response.

II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Pursuant to the MS Code Ann. § 33-15-17(a) (1972), as amended, the Harrison County Board of Supervisors has appointed a County Emergency Manager (director) to carry out the organization, administration, and operation of the local organization for emergency management.

The Harrison County Emergency Operation Center has been designated as the base for all emergency management activities for the county. The Harrison County EOC is located in the County Courthouse, 1801 23rd Avenue, Gulfport, Mississippi at UTM 2 and 16;3,361;7(2) North; 299,000 East and 30 degrees 22' 18" Latitude 89 degrees 13' 30" Longitude.

Harrison County and its municipalities adopted the Incident Management System Standard Operations Guide for Harrison County and filed with MEMA on October 12, 2004. ICS/NIMS is used in All Hazard Events and Incidents to help with the successful completion of the task at hand.

Incidents typically begin and end locally and are managed on a daily basis at the lowest possible geographical, organizational, and jurisdictional level. This plan takes into account the involvement of the whole community, which includes individuals, communities, the private and non-profit sectors, faith-based organizations, and federal, state and local governments who are mandated or encouraged to develop, exercise, and maintain individual emergency operations plans (EOPS) or standard operation procedures (SOPS).

When local resources become exhausted emergency managers depend on the involvement of multiple jurisdictions for support. Therefore, it is imperative that the whole community be prepared to assist in this effort. This plan will be activated under the direction of the Harrison County Board of Supervisors or by his/her designee in response to emergency or disaster events.

A. National Response Framework (NRF)

The NRF is a guide to how the Nation conducts all-hazards incident response. The NRF states that the role of a State government during emergency response is to supplement local efforts before, during, and after a disaster or emergency situation. If a state anticipates its needs may exceed its resources, the Governor can request assistance from other states through mutual aid agreements (MAAs) and/or from the Federal government.

The NRF emphasizes the concept of resilient communities. Resiliency begins with prepared individuals and depends on the leadership and engagement of local government, civic leaders, and private sector businesses and organizations. These entities should work with individuals, families, and service providers for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs to enhance their awareness of risk levels and specific threats, develop household emergency plans that include household pets and service animals, and prepare emergency supply kits.

B. National Incident Management System (NIMS)

NIMS provides a consistent framework for incident management, regardless of the cause, size, or complexity of the incident. NIMS provides the Nation's first responders and authorities with the same foundation for incident management for all hazards.

Executive Order No. 932 as signed by the Governor of the State of Mississippi designates the NIMS as the basis for all incident management in the State of Mississippi. NIMS provides a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, tribal, and local governments to work together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity.

The components of NIMS include:

- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Multi-agency Coordination Systems (MACs)
- Training
- Identification and management of resources (including systems for classifying types of resources)
- Qualification and certification
- Collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident resources.

C. Incident Command System (ICS)

ICS is a critical component of NIMS and is used to manage all incidents. ICS is used to organize on-scene operations for a broad spectrum of emergencies from small to complex incidents, both natural and man-made. The field response level is where emergency management/response personnel, under command of an appropriate authority, carry out tactical decisions and activities in direct response to an incident or threat. Resources from the federal, state, tribal, or local levels, when appropriately deployed, become part of the field ICS as prescribed by the local authority. ICS is used by all levels of government – federal, state, tribal, and local – as well as by many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. ICS is applicable across disciplines.

ICS Management includes the following characteristics:

- Common Terminology

- Modular Organization
- Management by Objectives
- Reliance on an Incident Action Plan
- Manageable Span of Control
- Pre-designated Incident Mobilization Center Locations and Facilities
- Comprehensive Resource Management
- Integrated Communications
- Establishment and Transfer of Command
- Chain of Command/Unity of Command
- Unified Command
- Accountability of Resources and Personnel
- Deployment
- Information and Intelligence Management.

D. Unified Command System (UC)

Unified Command is a structure that brings together the Incident Commanders of major organizations/agencies involved in the incident in order to coordinate an effective response while at the same time carrying out their own jurisdictional responsibilities.

The UC links the organizations/agencies responding to the incident and provides a forum for these entities to make consensus decisions. Under the UC, the various jurisdictions and/or agencies and non-government responders are co-located or closely coordinate and communicate throughout the operation to create an integrated response team.

The UC is responsible for overall management of the incident and possesses the decision-making authority. The UC directs incident activities, including development and implementation of overall objectives and strategies, and approves ordering and releasing of resources. Members of the UC will work together to develop a common set of incident objectives and strategies, share

information, maximize the use of available resources, and enhance the efficiency of the individual response organizations.

UC members shall represent an appropriate level of authority in their respective organizations and agencies as well as the resources to carry out their responsibilities. The UC members may change as the response transitions out of emergency response into recovery. In conjunction with the ICS the UC enables, local agencies, state agencies, and the Federal government to carry out their own responsibilities while working cooperatively within one response management system.

E. Multi-agency Coordination System (MACS)

Multi-agency coordination is a cornerstone of comprehensive emergency management. Fundamentally, MACS provide support, coordination, and assistance with policy-level decisions to the ICS structure managing an incident. MACS may be required on large or wide-scale emergencies that require higher-level resource management or information management. The primary functions of MACS are to:

- Support incident management policies and priorities.
- Facilitate logistics support and resource tracking.
- Make resource allocation decisions based on incident management priorities.
- Coordinate incident-related information.
- Coordinate interagency and intergovernmental issues regarding incident management policies, priorities, and strategies.

MACS include emergency operations centers and, in certain multi-jurisdictional or complex incidents, multi-agency coordination entities. Multi-agency coordination entities are responsible for:

- Ensuring that each involved agency is providing situation and resource status information.
- Acquiring and allocating resources required by incident management personnel.
- Coordinating and identifying future resource requirements.
- Coordinating and resolving policy issues.
- Providing strategic coordination.

F. Public Information/Interoperable Communications

1. Public Information

Public information consists of processes, procedures, and systems to communicate timely, accurate, and accessible information on the incident's cause, size, and current situation to the public, responders, and additional stakeholders (both directly and indirectly affected). Public information must deliver coordinated, prompt, reliable, and actionable information to the whole community through the use of clear, consistent, accessible, and culturally and linguistically appropriate methods to effectively relay information regarding any threat or hazard, as well as the actions being taken and the assistance being made available, as appropriate.

2. Interoperable Communications

NIMS stresses that the success of incident response and recovery operations depends on the availability and redundancy of critical communications systems to support connectivity to internal organizations, other departments or jurisdictions, and the public. Harrison County and its agencies, as well as municipal jurisdictions, will strive to achieve interoperable communications, including testing their communications equipment biannually to assess the adequacy to support essential functions and activities, and ability to communicate with first responders, emergency personnel, State government, other agencies and organizations, and the general public. Harrison County E911 and the Harrison County Emergency Communication Commission is continuously improving the 800 EDACs Radio System with the responders within Harrison County and all public safety agencies. Harrison County EOC monitors and has connectivity to 800 MHz, 700 MHz, high band, low band, ham radio frequencies that could be used in an event/incident.

Harrison County Emergency Management utilizes both traditional communications systems and modern technologies such as WebEOC[®], Internet, high frequency phones, radios, and satellite networks combined with backup from other agencies tasked under this plan, to enhance the county's capability in communications and automated data systems.

Internal and external communications equipment is essential to support disaster recovery efforts. Each is needed to disseminate instructions and operational guidance. Internal communications equipment may utilize existing telephone systems, e-mail, satellite radio, facsimile machines, high frequency (HF) radio, or messengers. External communications utilize existing systems. In a major disaster, existing communications may require augmentation to handle the increased volume of traffic.

G. Local, State, and Federal Relationships

The Harrison County CEMP addresses the full spectrum of emergency management activities related to incident management for response and recovery, consistent with state law. The MS Code Ann. § 33-15-1(1972) is the legal guidance for all emergency management operations. It addresses legal issues as it relates to preparedness, response, or recovery actions. MS Code Ann. § 33-15-21(1972) addresses the liability protection that is available to responders.

1. Local

The initial responsibility for the first level of response, emergency actions, direction, control, and coordination rests with the local government through both its elected and appointed officials. Harrison County and municipal governments handle the majority of emergencies in accordance with local laws and community requirements.

If an incident escalates and exceeds the capability of local resources and personnel, state resources may be made available through coordination with The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Harrison County will respond to the severity and magnitude of the incident by:

- Proclaiming a “Local Emergency” [MS Code Ann. § 33-15-17 (d) (1972)].
- Fully employing its own resources [MS Code Ann. § 33-15-49(1972)].
- Designating capable personnel to make requests to MEMA for additional resources, if necessary [MS Code Ann. § 33-15-17(a)(1972)].

Harrison County and other localities will implement Mutual Aid Agreements (MAAs) with each other, as well as with neighboring jurisdictions, local organizations or chapters of volunteer organizations, private industry or others, as appropriate.

Each municipality within Harrison County must coordinate requests for state and federal emergency response assistance through the Harrison County EMA.

Assistance from higher levels of government is obtained by requests from the head of the affected local government (or the designated representative) to the head of the next higher level of government.

Local government officials shall take formal action to proclaim the existence of a local emergency [MS Code Ann. § 33-15-17(d) (1972)], and record the action in the minutes of the board or council meeting.

Requests for assistance from Harrison County to MEMA will, at a minimum, contain the following:

- The specific cause(s) of the emergency or disaster.
- The effective date (beginning of the incident).
- The anticipated date the emergency will expire. (By law, an emergency action automatically ends 30 days from the date of enactment unless it is extended by official action of the governing body.)
- Special provisions deemed necessary to cope with the situation. These include, but are not limited to: suspension of selected routine public services, reallocation of scarce resources such as fuel, energy, food, and water supplies, reassignment of manpower; movement, combination, or relocation of government offices; activation of shelters, imposition of curfews, and provision for emergency purchasing authority.

Local government officials, through the Civil Defense/Emergency Management (CD/EM) Director, or designee, are expected to submit minimum prescribed reports to MEMA according to state reporting requirements. These reports, which are found on the MEMA web page, are updated periodically and include the following:

- Initial Disaster Report (MEMA DR-1) -Due within 4 hours of incident.
- Situation Report (MEMA DR-2) -Due within 24 hours of the incident and every 24 hours thereafter until the reporting process for that incident is finished.
- Proclamation of Local Emergency (MEMA DR-3).
- If state assistance is requested, a resolution requesting the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency (MEMA DR-4).

If a request for state and/or federal assistance is made, the Harrison County EMA Director will submit to MEMA, as agent for the Governor, the above reports plus the following assessments:

- Full *Damage Assessment Package* (MEMA DA forms).
- Report of obligations and expenditures.

These requests for resources and assistance will be documented. [WebEOC[®] is designated by MEMA as the primary tool for documentation of all requests (if the electronic connectivity is available during and following the incident)]. Requests will be submitted by facsimile, e-mail, telephone, or field copy to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) or State Emergency Response Team (SERT) should connectivity not be available.

2. State

The State's policy is that all emergency management functions be coordinated to the maximum extent with comparable functions of the Federal government [MS Code Ann. § 33-15-3(b) (1972)].

When the Governor declares an emergency the full resources of State government, as directed by MEMA, shall be made available to provide assistance to local governments, or to otherwise fulfill state responsibilities.

MEMA is authorized to request other State of Mississippi agencies to complete various tasks as appropriate for effective emergency management as defined in [MS Code Ann. § 33-15-11(1972)].

Resources will be requested by local government or state agencies in WebEOC® and tasked by the Logistics Chief or designee to the affected area (see ESF #7 and Logistics Management Annex). The Resources Unit, within the Office of Preparedness, will track personnel only deployed in support of response efforts (resource checklist is included in the Plans SOG).

If the state becomes overwhelmed and federal assistance is needed, the Governor may proclaim a state of emergency [MS Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b) (16) (1972)], implement the Mississippi CEMP, and request federal assistance in one of two forms:

- (1) Request to the Regional Director of FEMA for implementation of the NRF to provide immediate response and early recovery assistance. (This request for the NRF may or may not be preliminary to a request for the President to declare either an emergency or a full scale major disaster).
- (2) Request to the President through FEMA to declare either an emergency or a major disaster for specific areas (counties).

The request to the President to declare either an emergency or major disaster is prepared as follows:

- (a) MEMA prepares the request for a Presidential Declaration and submits it to the Governor for signature.
- (b) After the Governor signs the request, it is forwarded to the Regional Director of FEMA, who forwards it to the Administrator of FEMA, who then forwards it to the President.

If the Governor requests and receives a Presidential Declaration of an emergency or major disaster, state and federal personnel are appointed to coordinate the joint process in the Joint Field Office (JFO).

The MEMA Director, unless otherwise directed by the Governor, serves as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) to sign legal documents. The GAR authorizes all state requests for federal assistance and obligates the state for its matching share (25 percent, or less, depending on the federal-state agreement) of total approved costs. The MEMA Deputy Director normally serves as both the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) to coordinate response and recovery activities, and as the alternate GAR.

3. Federal

Should an incident be catastrophic (i.e., of such severity and magnitude to require immediate federal assistance without delay), FEMA will initiate the preliminary process to implement assistance as outlined in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

FEMA will coordinate the dispatch of a federal interagency Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) to the SEOC to monitor and evaluate the development and impact of the incident. Depending upon the severity of the incident, representatives of designated ESFs, both state and federal, follow the IMAT to coordinate activation of each ESF, as needed. Federal agencies supporting each ESF assume a close working relationship with the state agency having primary responsibility for that function. The state maintains the primary responsibility for response and recovery functions while federal counterparts coordinate for federal resource support. Federal government representatives assigned the lead of ESFs are requested to be present at the Mississippi SEOC or JFO and to be seated side-by-side with state leaders for corresponding ESFs.

FEMA may dispatch a Regional IMAT, consisting of regional-level staff, as a first deployment to the field in response to a disaster incident.

When resources of the FEMA Region have been, or expect to be, overwhelmed in the event of a catastrophic incident, FEMA will dispatch a National IMAT.

If an incident is thought to be an act of terrorism, the Secretary of DHS will, in consultation with other federal departments and agencies as appropriate, provide coordination for federal operations and/or resources and conduct ongoing communications with the State of Mississippi to maintain situational awareness, analyze threats, assess national implications of threat and operational response activities, and coordinate threat or incident response activities with the State of Mississippi.

4. Local, State, and Federal Relationship - Special Needs Population

Harrison County recognizes that throughout all mission areas and phases of emergency management the needs of the whole community must be taken into account. There will be no discrimination on grounds of race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, handicap, language, or economic status in the execution of disaster preparedness or disaster relief and assistance

functions. This policy applies equally to all levels of government, contractors, and labor unions. Consumer complaints pertaining to alleged unfair or illegal business practices during the emergency will be referred to the State Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

Specific members of the population of special interest are:

a. Populations with Access and Functional Needs

According to the 2012 Mississippi ESF 8 and Public Health Hazard Vulnerability Analysis approximately 37, 122 or 20.5 percent of Harrison County's population are disabled.

These members of the community may have needs before, during, and after an incident in access and functional areas, including but not limited to: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care.

When considering this population and others who are at-risk, emergency management plans should take into account the following:

- (1) Communications and Public Information – Emergency notification systems must be accessible to ensure effective communication for people who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/low vision, or deaf/blind. Picture Boards that are language specific are used.

As messages are released non governmental organizations (NGOs) assist **will** South Mississippi VOAD have partnered with the Harrison County EOC to relay emergency messaging to the at-risk communities before, during and after incidents/events.

Evacuation and Transportation – Evacuation plans must incorporate disability and older adult transportation providers for the purpose of identifying the movement of people with mobility impairments and those with transportation disadvantages. Awareness campaigns are conducted several times a year to register at risk citizens who may need evacuation transportation.

Evacuation transportation is a combined effort of the Harrison County EOC, Coast Transit Authority (CTA), and the Harrison County School District.

When an incident occurs CTA will contact registered citizens to confirm needed transportation services. As requested, round-trip curbside service will be provided. Harrison County School District with its resources will be utilized as a backup service to assist CTA as needed.

- (2) Sheltering – Care and shelter plans must address the access and functional needs of people with disabilities and older adults to allow for sheltering in general population

shelters. The construction of safe rooms within the county over the past 8 years has enhanced overall disaster community services for all citizens at risk. The buildings consist of stand-alone power sources and a self-contained septic/sewer system.

- (3) Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, As Amended- When shelter facilities are activated Harrison County will work with local officials to ensure they accommodate the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Refer to the ADA Checklist for Emergency Shelters, July 26, 2007, located at <http://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/chap7shelterchk.htm>.

b. At Risk Individuals

Plans must take into account the at-risk population such as, but not limited to, the homeless, transportation disadvantaged, those without communication systems such as telephones, and tourists who may not be in contact with traditional emergency service providers. These individuals may find it difficult to access and use standard resources to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Harrison County government and its political subdivisions must include provisions in their emergency response plans that address the specific needs of these individuals during response and recovery.

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III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

Harrison County is organized into two levels of government: municipal and county. The county is composed of the cities of Biloxi, D'Iberville, Gulfport, Long Beach, and Pass Christian.

MS Code Ann. § 33-15-17(1972) and MS Code Ann. § 33-15-13(1972), otherwise cited as the *MS Emergency Management Act of 1995* establishes and authorizes the organization of emergency management on the local level.

The Harrison County Board of Supervisors will assume additional Executive Emergency Powers of the Governor as provided under MS Code Ann. § 33-15-11(1972) and MS Code Ann. § 33-15-13(1972), otherwise cited as the *MS Emergency Management Act of 1995*.

B. Responsibilities

The intent of the Harrison County CEMP includes, but is not limited to: reducing the vulnerability of the people and property of this county; preparing for the efficient evacuation and shelter of threatened or affected persons, to include: children, individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, diverse communities, and people with limited English proficiency; preparing for the evacuation and shelter of threatened household pets and service animals; providing for the rapid and orderly provision of relief to persons; and coordinating activities relating to emergency prevention, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation among and between agencies and officials of this county, with similar agencies and officials of other local and state governments, interstate organizations, and with the private sector.

C. Local

1. It is the responsibility of Harrison County government through their elected officials to establish and provide for the necessary organizational structure that will alleviate human distress and return their community to normal as soon as possible after a major emergency or disaster. To accomplish these goals, it is imperative that effective planning be accomplished.
2. Harrison County will develop an emergency management plan and program that is coordinated and consistent with the State CEMP.
3. Incident management activities shall be initiated and conducted using the NIMS command and management principles. In accordance with NIMS requirements, the ICS will be used as the on-scene incident management system. These plans shall be revised and/or updated biennially to reflect any local, state, or federal changes.

4. Harrison County's CEMP will be updated and revised biennially. MEMA will schedule a review and re-write of county level CEMPs every five years. This plan should be tested and exercised through drill, table tops and exercises to ensure that it is adequate and represents the current level of local capability to respond to and recover from a disaster or emergency. This plan must also be compatible with the State's CEMP and provide guidance and operating procedures to apply for supplemental state and federal assistance after local resources are committed or exhausted.
5. *The Emergency Management Act of 1995* requires each county operating individually or jointly, to establish and maintain a local emergency management organization. Local officials will appoint a local Emergency Management Coordinator or official who will have direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and operation of a local organization for emergency management, subject to the direction and control of local officials.
6. Agencies of this local government are assigned responsibilities and specific tasks by the local governing body according to their capabilities. They are responsible for initial response and relief efforts and for advising their government officials when assistance is needed.
7. The President of the Harrison County Board of Supervisors is the primary official responsible for the management of county government. The Board serves as the legislative branch of county government. The mayor is the chief executive officer responsible for actions of municipal government. County and city governing authorities are authorized to:
 - Assign and make available employees, property, and equipment for emergency operations.
 - Establish a local EOC and secondary control centers to serve as emergency command posts.
 - If warranted, proclaim a local emergency to exist upon the occurrence or imminent threat of a natural disaster.
 - Activate local plans and appropriate MAAs.
 - Prepare and submit requests for state assistance through the counties
 - Accept services, equipment, supplies, or funds by gifts, grant, or loan from the State or Federal government or any person, firm, or corporation.

- Organize and staff emergency preparedness entities for the purpose of coordinating and managing disaster response and recovery.
8. In case of an emergency/disaster situation, In case of an emergency/disaster situation, Harrison County along with its municipalities will be responsible for the following:
- Coordinating the emergency response effort within their political jurisdictions; All municipalities will coordinate through the county.
 - Providing regular situational updates to MEMA.
 - Directing local evacuations, coordinating shelter activation, and requesting outside assistance when necessary.
 - Activating MAAs with neighboring counties and among municipalities within the county.
 - Proclaiming a local state of emergency and making a formal request for state assistance.
 - Designating local public information officers (PIOs) for coordination with the Joint Information Center (JIC).
 - Documenting all requests for resources and assistance using WebEOC[®] (if the electronic connectivity is available during and following the incident).

Protective actions, such as evacuation and re-entry, are local (do not cross county lines) in scope. In such cases, emergency preparation and response activities for an area are coordinated and administered by county officials, using local resources in accordance with county policies and plans.

D. State

1. State Government

- a. The Governor is responsible for declaring that a state of emergency exists, and at such time, directs all available state and local resources, as reasonably necessary, to cope with the disaster utilizing NIMS/ICS doctrine. This includes the designation of an “Emergency Impact Area”, transfer and direction of personnel or functions of state

agencies or units for the purpose of performing or facilitating disaster services, and designation of a state level Incident Commander (IC) as needed.

- b. The State of Mississippi is responsible for providing assistance to any political subdivision within the state that requests emergency or disaster assistance. The MEMA Director shall coordinate and cooperate with the President and other federal officials as well as review and execute intrastate and interstate MAAs and compacts.
- c. During a declared emergency period, the state may take any action authorized under the provisions of the law without regard to a particular order, rule, or regulation of a state agency, if such action is necessary to protect the safety and welfare of the inhabitants of this state.
- d. Protection, prevention, response, and recovery efforts for all threats or acts of terrorism within the state, regardless of whether they are deemed credible and/or whether they escalate to a higher level, are coordinated with the Mississippi Department of Public Safety and Mississippi Office of Homeland Security as referenced in the Terrorism Incident Annex of the Mississippi CEMP.

2. Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)

- a. MEMA, with its Executive Director and staff, is authorized by MS Code Ann. § 33-15-7(1972). MEMA has responsibility for the coordination of all state emergency management activities.
- b. MEMA operates as the 24-hour state warning point. (Refer to ESF #2 - Communications and the MEMA Communications SOG for additional information).
- c. In the event an emergency or disaster situation develops within the state, the MEMA Director shall activate the SEOC which will be staffed at the appropriate level throughout the duration of the situation.
- d. MEMA will have oversight of all resources in the field.
- e. MEMA will serve as liaison between local government and other State of Mississippi agencies.

3. Other State Agencies

- a. Responsibilities have been assigned to various state agencies listed in the Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan's ESFs and Support and Incident

Annexes. Agencies assigned the primary role are responsible for performing special emergency support functions (refer to Appendix C – Primary and Support Agency Responsibilities).

- b. These agencies have been determined to have the appropriate resources and day-to-day operational expertise to provide guidance and leadership for supporting MEMA and local units of government. Agencies assigned supporting roles are responsible for supporting primary agencies with resources and personnel.
- c. State agencies assigned primary and supporting roles in this plan are responsible for planning and preparing in the pre-emergency period to ensure capabilities exist to effectively carry out their emergency responsibilities, and for ensuring rapid response should their assistance be required elsewhere in the state. Planning and preparation responsibilities include, but are not limited to, annual revisions and updates as required of their respective ESFs, developing detailed SOPs, checklists, and an alert and notification system for key personnel whose services will be required immediately upon implementation of this plan [MS Code Ann. § 33-15-14(2)(a)(viii)(1972)].
- d. In addition to primary and support duties, other additional tasks may be assigned by MEMA to state agencies based on the existing need. As provided in [MS Code Ann. § 33-15-11(1972)], all departments, agencies, offices, and institutions of the state not assigned emergency responsibilities shall make their resources available in support of the emergency management program.
- e. Chief executives of the agencies shall designate agency representatives and key decision makers to be present at the SEOC until emergency operations return to manageable levels.
- f. Chief executives of the agencies shall designate PIOs to the JIC.

E. Federal

When an incident occurs that exceeds or is anticipated to exceed state, tribal, or local resources, as outlined in the NRF the Federal government will provide resources and capabilities to support the state response.

F. Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The private sector and NGOs contribute to response efforts through engaged partnerships with each level of government. The protection of critical infrastructure and the ability to rapidly restore normal commercial activities can mitigate the impact of an incident, improve the quality

of life of individuals, and accelerate the pace of recovery for communities and the nation. NGOs provide sheltering, emergency food supplies, and other vital support services.

1. Personal Preparedness

The residents of Harrison County are the primary beneficiaries of the county's emergency management system. At the same time, residents play an important role in emergency management by ensuring that they and their families are prepared for disasters.

Before an emergency, residents can assist the emergency management effort by taking first aid training, maintaining supplies, and being prepared to evacuate or shelter in-place for several days. Many residents join disaster volunteer programs such as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and remain ready to volunteer or support emergency response and recovery efforts. During an emergency, residents should monitor emergency communications and carefully follow directions from authorities. By being prepared, residents can better serve their family, their community, and reduce demands on first responders.

Harrison County EMA promotes whole community emergency preparedness. Information may be found online by visiting www.co.harrison.ms.us.

County municipalities and local agencies also provide disaster information and tools to support emergency planning. These may be found as links on the county website. www.co.harrison.ms.us/departments/ema/."

Public- Private Partnerships

The private sector provides valuable assistance and resources to support emergency response and recovery activities. To support coordination and response between local government and the private sector, this county has secured agreements between local agencies and nonprofit and private sector resources that can be called upon during an emergency.

Much of the private sector includes businesses. The majority of Harrison County's critical infrastructure is owned or maintained by businesses and must be protected during a response to ensure a quick and complete recovery from an emergency. These same businesses provide valuable resources before, during, and after an emergency and play a critical role in meeting the needs of those impacted by an emergency. Businesses are encouraged to develop a comprehensive business emergency plan which can assist the business and the community at-large to better ensure the protection of vital resources.

2. Voluntary Organizations

Harrison County recognizes the value and importance of organizations which perform voluntary services in the community. When a disaster threatens or strikes, these

organizations are often among the first on the scene. They have resources that augment emergency response and recovery efforts. Many are trained in various areas of emergency management. Services which they provide most often address basic human needs which enable affected individuals to resume normal daily activities. These services include, but are not limited to: shelter, food, clothing, spiritual support, health, and mental health services.

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IV. DIRECTION, CONTROL, AND COORDINATION

The President of the Harrison County Board of Supervisors or his/her designee, the Harrison County Emergency Management Agency, is responsible for coordinating the county's response to an incident. In most cases, the Harrison County EMA Director is the designated Incident Commander using ICS/NIMS.

A. County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

1. The Harrison County EOC (primary) is located at 1801 23rd Avenue, Gulfport, MS 39501.
2. Whenever the Harrison County EOC is activated at a Level III or higher, Harrison County staff is assigned the lead of ESF #2, ESF #5, and ESF #15 activities and to support other ESFs that have been activated.
3. Personnel from the county/city agencies/departments involved in the response will join the Harrison County EMA staff in the EOC until emergency operations return to manageable levels. Personnel from county agencies, private volunteer agencies, and private nonprofit organizations are assigned to ESFs.
4. EOC Activation - Depending upon the severity and magnitude of the emergency, the Harrison County EOC may be activated either partially or fully to support the accomplishment of the activities needed, at the appropriate level described below:
 - a. LEVEL-I - Any disaster or emergency that requires full county response. The EOC shall be fully operational with 24-hour staffing by all county employees, department heads, elected/appointed officials, state liaisons, volunteers, and any other response/support teams as needed.

Note: This level corresponds with MEMA's SEOC Level I along with FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) Level I: Massive -An event/incident involving massive levels of damage, with severe impact or multi-state scope. This level will result in a Presidential disaster declaration, with major federal involvement and full engagement of federal regional and national resources.

- b. LEVEL-II - Involves an emergency or disaster that requires full county response and possible state response and recovery assistance. The Harrison County EOC shall be fully operational on a continual 24-hour basis with staffing from select county employees, key department heads, key elected/appointed officials, key state liaisons, volunteers, and any other response/support teams as needed.

Note: This level corresponds with MEMA's SEOC Level II and FEMA RRCC Level II: Moderate -An event/incident involving moderate levels of damage which will likely result in a major Presidential disaster declaration, with moderate federal assistance.

- c. LEVEL-III- Involves any emergency or pending disaster that is likely to require the involvement of several ESFs. All primary and support agencies shall be alerted, and the EOC staffed with Harrison County and essential ESF personnel.

Note: This level corresponds with MEMA's SEOC Level III and RRCC Level III: Minor -An event/incident involving minor to average levels of damage, which may result in a Presidential declaration of an emergency or disaster. Some federal involvement may be requested by state or local jurisdictions, and the request will be met by existing federal regional resources.

- d. LEVEL-IV - Normal day-to-day operational activities. Involves any incident that does not exceed the capabilities of this government or results in minimal requirements for state level assistance. Only those agencies or ESFs with normal day-to-day emergency service responsibilities or regulatory requirements for the incident will be notified by Harrison County EMA. Full EOC activation is not expected.

B. State Emergency Response Team (SERT) Operations

1. In some instances, local conditions may warrant the request of mobilization of the State Emergency Response Team (SERT). The MEMA Field Services Director or designee will serve as the SERT Leader.
 - a. The SERT is composed of representatives from MEMA and other state agencies as needed for incident response and liaison. SERT members and deployment guidelines are located in the SERT SOG under separate cover.
 - b. For earthquake response, the SERT will deploy to the State Earthquake Support Center (SESC) at the Mississippi National Guard facility at Camp McCain, Elliott, MS (Grenada County).
 - c. For hurricane operations, the SERT will deploy to the State Hurricane Support Center (SHSC) at the Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC), Gulfport, MS. Camp Shelby may be used as a staging area prior to final deployment to the CRTC.
2. The SERT mission includes, but is not limited to, the following tasks:
 - a. Equip the SHSC or SESC for operational readiness.

- b. Establish a capable state response presence in the disaster area.
- c. Become local government's point of contact for state assistance.
- d. Provide disaster intelligence to SEOC and ESF counterparts.
- e. Coordinate the use of available disaster area resources.
- f. Prioritize specific action to reduce life-threatening conditions.
- g. Channel local unmet resource needs to the SEOC.

C. Joint Field Office (JFO) Operations

1. A JFO will be the primary field location in the impacted area for the purpose of conducting and coordinating response and recovery operations between FEMA and the state. The JFO will provide housing of offices for the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR), State Coordinating Officer (SCO), State Emergency Response Team (SERT) leader, Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO), and the State Response and Recovery Branch. State and federal ESF counterparts are located together for ease of communications during the operation.
2. The JFO will remain operational 24 hours a day for as long as necessary during the response phase, and then transition to a daily schedule adjusted to sustain operations, for as long as necessary, during the recovery stage.
3. During or following disasters, additional personnel will be required to conduct damage assessments and to provide public assistance (PA) and individual assistance (IA) to the state and local governments and other qualified applicants.

D. Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)

A DRC is a facility established in, or in close proximity to, the community affected by the disaster where persons can meet face-to-face with represented federal, state, local, and volunteer agencies to:

- Discuss their disaster-related needs.
- Obtain information about disaster assistance programs.
- Register via telephone.

- Update registration information.
- Learn about measures for rebuilding that can eliminate or reduce the risk of future loss.
- Request the status of their application for assistance.
- Learn how to complete the SBA loan application.

E. Recovery Operations

1. The recovery process will be implemented from three locations: 1801 23rd Avenue, Gulfport, MS and two undetermined field offices.
2. The President of the Board of Supervisors is responsible for the commitment of all county resources. The Harrison County EMA Director is responsible for coordinating all disaster recovery efforts between the municipalities and the Harrison County.
 - a. Short-term recovery goals should allow for:
 - Identifying essential records, vital systems, and operations.
 - Establishing priorities for reinstatement of systems and operations.
 - Establishing maximum acceptable downtime before reinstatement to an acceptable system and operational level.
 - Identifying minimum resources needed to recover business operations.
 - b. Long-term recovery goals should consider:
 - Strategic planning, to include budgeting for structural and non-structural repairs.
 - Development and implementation of mitigation goals and activities.
 - Management and coordination of recovery activities.
 - Management of fiscal operations and recovery funding.
 - Management of volunteer, contractual, mutual aid, and agency resources.

F. Alert, Notification, and Warning

Alert, notification, and warning will deliver coordinated, prompt, reliable, and actionable information to the whole community through the use of clear, consistent, accessible, and culturally and linguistically appropriate methods to effectively relay information regarding any threat or hazard, as well as the actions being taken and the assistance being made available, as appropriate.

1. Alert

- a. Involves procedures within an organization for advising key personnel and emergency operating staff of situations that may require future actions. Current elected officials and key personnel are updated annually.
- b. All agencies/departments involved in emergency and disaster response will maintain call lists and procedures for alerting officials within the organization of potential or actual situations in which assistance may be required. The call lists shall be reviewed and updated biannually.

2. Notification

- a. Notification procedures are contained in the Harrison County Communication SOG under separate cover. Electronic notification text messaging, radio call group notification, and telephone calls are all used.
- b. Emergency notification systems must be accessible to ensure effective communication for people who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/low vision, or deaf/blind.

3. Warning

- a. Involves forecasting or predicting natural, technological, or man-made phenomena that could result in loss of life, hardship, and suffering, or extensive property damage.
- b. Natural hazards, such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, severe storms, and winter storms, usually allow more timely warning. But some natural, technological, and man-made hazards strike with little or no warning. These include earthquakes, accidents at fixed nuclear facilities, hazardous materials incidents, transportation accidents, enemy attack, and terrorism.
- c. Local authorities disseminate warnings of potential or actual disasters to the general public.

- d. Harrison County EMA will coordinate with all appropriate departments/agencies and organizations to ensure timely warning readiness in case of a man-made or natural disaster or emergency and will initiate actions to warn citizens by all means necessary.
- e. Harrison County will prepare plans and procedures for activation of local warnings utilizing all available systems and networks. Personnel and facilities shall be trained and organized to provide warning capability on a 24-hour-a-day basis.

G. Evacuation

- 1. Evacuation is an action that is implemented by local government. It is an organized, phased, and supervised dispersal of residents and others from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas.
- 2. Where lives are endangered, protective action recommendations are issued by the appropriate local government officials. Harrison County evacuation plans must be coordinated by county government and must be in accordance with state plans.
- 3. Some disasters provide enough time for warning to allow for an orderly, well-planned evacuation. Other disasters do not allow for sufficient warning or preparation for evacuation.
- 4. Evacuation plans must consider the movement of residents and others with mobility impairments and those with transportation disadvantages.
- 5. Shelters and mass feeding sites will be available for evacuees working in conjunction with local government and volunteer organizations. When shelter facilities are activated, the state will work with local officials to ensure they accommodate the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Care and shelter plans will address the access and functional needs of people with disabilities and older adults to allow for sheltering in general population shelters, which includes household pets and service animals.
- 6. Evacuation and shelter instructions will be issued to the broadcast media through the Local and Public Broadcasting System. Hurricane evacuation routes are marked with transportation route signs. These signs may contain radio frequencies for Mississippi Public Broadcasting's radio stations.
- 7. Local government will coordinate the evacuation requirements with MEMA prior to, during, and following a disaster. This includes, but is not limited to, timeliness of

evacuation, initiating evacuation procedures, issuing joint public information statements, and determining evacuation routes and shelter locations. Types of evacuations include:

a. Spontaneous Evacuation

Some residents or others in the threatened areas may observe an emergency incident or receive unofficial word of an actual or perceived threat and, without receiving instructions to do so, elect to evacuate the area. Their movement, means, and direction of travel is unorganized and unsupervised.

b. Voluntary Evacuation

This is a warning to residents or others within a designated area that a threat to life and property exists or is likely to exist in the immediate future. Individuals issued this type of warning or orders are not required to evacuate; however, it would be to their advantage to do so.

c. Mandatory or Directed Evacuation

This is a warning to residents or others within the designated area that an imminent threat to life and property exists and individuals must evacuate in accordance with the instructions of local officials.

It will be the responsibility of the individual to make arrangements for transporting family and personal belongings whenever evacuation is performed. Persons who are physically or financially unable to carry out the recommendations of local governments should inform the appropriate authorities in order to take advantage of local operating procedures and plans for persons with special needs.

8. The Harrison County EOC should be prepared to assist municipal governments, as requested, with resources to effectively and timely evacuate residents and others with special needs from harm's way. The following local agencies will support the evacuation process as outlined:

CTA- Coast Transit Authority will coordinate with local school districts inside the disaster area to provide school bus equipment, as feasible, to support emergency transportation to reception centers and shelter sites.

9. Re-entry - Following a disaster, local and municipal authorities will jointly decide when it is safe for residents and others to return to their homes and businesses. Information will be broadcast to the public to facilitate and control the re-entry.

V. INFORMATION COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND DISSEMINATION

Information collection, analysis, and dissemination are essential to avoid or minimize loss of life and property. Harrison County Sheriff's dispatch is the primary E911 Center located in Gulfport. It is the designated local warning point operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Harrison County EOC is a secondary warning point and stood up 24 hours a day, seven days a week for events/incidents as needed.

The E911 monitors, collects, and analyzes essential disaster information specifically as it relates to natural and man-made incidents throughout the state from various sources such as the NWS and MDPS. This information is utilized to alert state and local officials if a disaster is imminent or has occurred.

The information can be disseminated and communicated both manually and electronically through the following mechanisms:

- WebEOC® - Harrison County EMA utilizes an electronic web based means of communication between the county and the SEOC. WebEOC® allows for continual communication of the ongoing situation and provides a means for the affected counties to request resources and monitor events taking place outside of their jurisdiction.
- Disaster Reports (DR) - Initial disaster reports (DR) provide initial damage assessments or current situations. DRs are forwarded to the SEOC via WebEOC®, e-mail, state liaison, or facsimile as a hardcopy.
- Facsimile – Allows copies of current situational status to be forwarded to the SEOC for collection by the Plans Section.
- Situation Reports (SITREP) - may be forwarded via WebEOC®, e-mail, state liaison, or facsimile, or the SERT.

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VI. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Harrison County operates a 24-hour emergency communication center located at the Harrison County Sheriff's Department. This serves as the single point to receive and disseminate information and warnings to governmental officials at all levels that a hazardous situation could threaten the general welfare, health, safety, and/or property of the county's population.
- B. Specialized warning point communication capabilities include:
- Telephone System
 - Satellite phones
 - Cellular (Blackberry) Phones
 - Warning point radios
 - National Alert Warning System (NAWAS)
- C. At the Harrison County EOC disaster and non-disaster information will flow internally among various sources. Information received is disseminated and acted upon in accordance with the Communications SOG and ESF #2 guidance.
- D. Communications within the disaster area will require re-establishment or augmentation to provide verbal exchange between the local and state disaster officials. Assistance can be provided by the state with the deployment of MEMA's MOBOPS.
- E. Quasi-public activities, industry, commercial firms, and amateur radio operators are capable of augmenting established communications systems.
- F. Agreements and contracts will be made to ensure equipment and system maintenance on a 24-hour-a-day basis. Alternate warning systems will be maintained and tested for use in the event that the existing primary system is damaged and rendered inoperable. Maintenance and testing of all warning equipment is the responsibility of the MEMA and Harrison County. New equipment is scheduled to be purchased and provided in 2013.

VII. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, AND LOGISTICS

The Harrison County EMA Director, Deputy Director(s), and Administrative personnel are responsible for providing administrative, financial, and logistical support to the Harrison County EOC and its staff. Support includes, but is not limited to, supplying secretarial assistance and office equipment and supplies, arranging for feeding and sleeping, and providing other support as may be required to ensure a continuing long-term response and recovery operation.

A. Administration

Harrison County will hold to the highest of standards to document and track any and all expenses that could be incurred from a declared state of emergency.

When the Governor declares a state of emergency or state disaster, that includes Harrison County, the County Administrator and Purchasing Clerk will issue the proper purchase orders allowing emergency purchases following the mandated policies and procedures. Harrison County Administrator is the designated Finance Section Chief using ICS/NIMS.

Records and reports will be handled in the following manner:

- Department Heads are responsible for submission of reports involving their agencies response to an incident to the County Administrator or Purchasing Clerk.
- Standard, approved, and accepted records of expenditures and obligations in emergency operations must be maintained by all government entities employing their own bookkeeping procedures.
- All local and State government entities must meet all applicable local, state, federal, and special audit requirements.
- To supplement written records, local and county government entities are encouraged to maintain narrative and log type records of response actions as well as photographs and videos of “untouched damage.
- Harrison County will request reports from private relief agencies and other non-governmental organizations, when deemed necessary.
- Responsibility of submitting local government reports to the SEOC rests with the local chief executive through the Harrison County Emergency Management Director who may delegate this function to the local government administrative or operations group.
- Local governments and state agencies will make reports to the SEOC by the most practical means, which include but are not limited to: Internet, telephone, or facsimile. Delivery of required reports will be supported by mail or hand delivered copy as needed.

- Damage reports (Initial, Situation, Damage Impact and Assessment, and other follow-up reports as prescribed) are to be submitted to MEMA in accordance with the schedule of requirements for disaster reports.
- Other reports, either required or requested, will be submitted in accordance with established procedures for specific reports (Refer to ESF #5 for general reporting).
- Each agency or department is responsible for maintaining and recording documents affecting the organization and legal administration of emergency management functions. It is further the responsibility of Harrison County officials to ensure that all records are secure and protected from damage or destruction at all times.
- Local emergency operations plans must include provisions for protecting and preserving all legal documents of both a public and private nature in accordance with applicable state and local laws. This responsibility lies with Harrison County Chancery Clerk's offices and all other city and/ or town clerks as applicable.
- The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) will be notified when the Governor declares that a state of emergency exists as the result of a disaster. The State Coordinating Officer (SCO) will consult with the SHPO concerning existing historic properties within the designated disaster area.

B. Finance

Harrison County will follow this procedure to ensure maximum reimbursement funds under all Public Assistance Category:

All county departments and agencies, non-for-profit organizations and local jurisdictions are able to apply for federal disaster grants to help recoup response and recovery expenses during a federally-declared disaster through FEMA's Public Assistance program. The program can reimburse expenses at a 75 percent federal cost-share, or up to 90 or 100 percent-cost share if approved by the Federal government.

Following a federally-declared disaster, MEMA will hold applicant briefings to explain the reimbursement process. Expenses eligible for reimbursement include overtime, debris removal, repair or replacement of publically-owned facilities, roads and bridge repair, etc.

MEMA uses the mississippi.org website for applicants who are applying for federal funding to assist with record keeping, necessary documents and forms and payments. More details about specific aspects of the PA program can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations 44, which is revised every October.

It is imperative that all jurisdictions or agencies receiving state or federal funding maintain adequate records, documentation, and accounting procedures due to the fact that all PA funding provided is subject to both state and federal audits.

C. Logistics

Harrison County EMA, following ICS/NIMS, has designated the Sand Beach Director as the Logistics Section Chief. These responsibilities include but not limited to planning, coordinating, and managing the resource support needed in ESF #7.

Equipment, supplies, and personnel will first be addressed through existing support agencies' resources and local sources outside the impacted area. Additional support will be obtained through commercial sources. Resources outside disaster areas will be directed to fulfill unmet needs of local governments. Resources potentially could include staff, emergency relief supplies, shelters, office space, office equipment, office supplies, telecommunications support, space for warehousing, mobilization center (MC), staging area (SA), and contracting services required to support immediate response activities. Resources are managed through the use of WebEOC[®] software maintained by MEMA.

All resource acquisition, deployment, and management will be coordinated to obtain the maximum benefit possible in accordance with ESF #7 Resource Support.

MAAs and memoranda of understanding (MOU) are essential components of emergency management planning, response, and recovery activities. These agreements provide reciprocal emergency aid and assistance during an emergency or disaster. They can increase available resources and improve response and recovery efforts. These agreements may occur intrastate or interstate.

1. Mutual Aid Agreements (MAAs) - Intrastate

MS Code Ann. § 33-15-19 (a)(1972), as amended, authorizes that the governing body of a municipality or county of the state is authorized to develop and enter into mutual aid agreements within the state for reciprocal emergency management aid and assistance in case of disaster or emergency too extensive to be dealt with unassisted.

The Statewide Mutual Aid Compact (SMAC) began in 1995 by MEMA to provide more effective use of resources in times of disaster. It provides a way for cities and counties to request and receive help from each other when local resources are exhausted. Most counties already have some type of MAA with their neighboring counties to provide assistance during emergencies. However, these local agreements may not be sufficient when a disaster strikes a large area. Neighboring jurisdictions may all need assistance. The SMAC provides a mechanism for assistance to come from different parts of the state. It addresses the issues of liability, compensation, direction, and control in a uniform manner. SMAC allows members of the compact to have an MAA with both the state and other compact members.

When a participating government either becomes affected by, or is under imminent threat of, a major disaster it may request emergency-related mutual aid assistance either by:

- Proclaiming a local emergency and transmitting a copy of that proclamation along with a completed Part I Identification of Need (Form REQ-A) to the participating government, or to MEMA, or
- Orally communicating a request for mutual aid assistance to the participating government, or to MEMA, followed as soon as practicable by written confirmation of said request.

Mutual aid can be requested only when resources available within the stricken area are deemed inadequate. Municipalities must coordinate requests for state or federal assistance with their county emergency management agencies.

In order to provide the most effective mutual aid possible, the SMAC also intends to foster communications between the personnel of participating governments through visits, compilation of asset inventories, exchange of information, and development of plans and procedures.

2. Mutual Aid Agreements (MAAs) - Interstate

The EMAC is an interstate MAA that allows states to assist one another in responding to natural and man-made disasters. It is administered by the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA). EMAC was ratified by Congress and signed into law in 1996 (PL 104-321). Since ratification and signing into law in 1996, 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have enacted legislation to become EMAC members.

During an emergency, NEMA staff work with EMAC member states to ensure that a smooth relay of information passes through the EMAC system to coordinate relief efforts. There are five phases of the EMAC process which includes: pre-event preparation, activation, request and offer, response, and reimbursement.

There are eight key players in EMAC operations:

- a. Requesting State- Any EMAC member state that is asking for interstate assistance under the compact. The Governor must declare a state of emergency before the EMAC process can be initiated.
- b. Assisting State - Any EMAC member state responding to a request for assistance from and providing resources to another EMAC member state through the compact.
- c. Authorized Representative (AR) - The person within a member state empowered to obligate state resources (provide assistance) and expend state funds (request assistance) under EMAC.

- d. Designated Contact (DC) - A person within a member state who is familiar with the EMAC process.
- e. EMAC National Coordination Group (NCG) -The nationwide EMAC point of contact during normal day-to-day, nonevent periods.
- f. EMAC National Coordinating Team (NCT) -The EMAC team that is deployed to serve as liaison at the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC), located in Washington, D.C.
- g. EMAC Regional Coordinating Team (RCT) -The EMAC team that is deployed to serve as liaison at the RRCC. From the RRCC, the EMAC RCT coordinates with deployed EMAC components responding to the emergency in states within the region, and is the liaison between the EMAC assistance efforts and the federally provided assistance efforts.
- h. Member States - All member states have the following responsibilities (as defined in the EMAC Articles):
 - To be familiar with possible joint member situations.
 - To be familiar with other states' emergency plans.
 - To develop an emergency plan and procedures for managing and provisioning assistance.
 - To assist in warnings.
 - To protect and ensure uninterrupted delivery of services, medicine, water, food, energy and fuel, search and rescue, and critical lifeline equipment, services, and resources.
 - To inventory and set procedures for interstate loan and delivery of human and material resources, including procedures for reimbursement or forgiveness.
 - To provide for the temporary suspension of any statutes or ordinances that restricts implementation.
 - EMAC can be used for ANY capability one member state has that can be shared with another member state following a governor-declared state of emergency.

VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Harrison County EMA is responsible for maintaining a comprehensive program of emergency management. Pursuant to MS Code Ann. § 33-15-17(a)(1972), as amended, each county shall develop an emergency management plan and program that is coordinated and consistent with the state comprehensive emergency management plan and program.

The agency is responsible for coordination with the efforts of the Federal government, with other departments and agencies of State government, with county and municipal governments and school boards, and with non-profit organizations and private agencies that have a role in emergency management. MS Code Ann. § 33-15-14(1)(1972).

A. Plan Development

The process for developing the 2012 version of this document was initiated and managed by Harrison County EMA, as stipulated by law and was based on the existing CEMP, with updates reflecting state and federal requirements, as well as other germane federal guidance on emergency operations planning, particularly as it relates to homeland security issues.

Furthermore, this plan was developed based on federal guidance provided through NIMS, NRF, the FEMA Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101, Version 2.0, the Presidential Policy Directive – 8 (PPD/8), and the Homeland Security National Preparedness Goal.

As directed by the NRF the plan is based on six essential activities for responding to an incident: plan, organize, train, equip, exercise, and evaluate and improve.



Figure 2: The Preparedness Cycle – National Response Framework

1. Plan

Planning makes it possible to manage the entire life cycle of a potential crisis, determine capability requirements, and help stakeholders learn their roles.

2. Organize

Organizing to execute response activities includes developing an overall organizational structure, strengthening leadership at each level, and assembling well-qualified teams of paid and volunteer staff for essential response and recovery tasks. This includes utilizing the whole community and individual resources, emergency support functions, pre-scripted mission assignments, advanced readiness contracting, and pre-positioned resources.

3. Train

Building essential response capabilities requires a systematic program to train individual teams and organizations – to include governmental, nongovernmental, private-sector, individuals, communities, faith-based organizations, and federal, state and local governments.

4. Equip

Local, tribal, state, and federal jurisdictions need to establish a common understanding of the capabilities of distinct types of response equipment.

5. Exercise

Exercises provide opportunities to test plans and improve proficiency in a risk-free environment.

6. Evaluate and Improve

All local, tribal, state, and federal entities should institute a corrective action program to evaluate exercise participation and response, capture lessons learned, and make improvements in their response capabilities.

B. Plan Maintenance

This plan will be exercised on an annual basis to evaluate the ability of Harrison County and its municipalities to respond to minor, major, and catastrophic disasters and support local emergency management agencies. Exercises will be coordinated with all partners. Directors of primary Harrison County departments and agencies have the responsibility for maintaining

SOPs, checklists, internal plans, and resource data to ensure a prompt and effective response to a disaster in support of this plan. For training purposes and exercises, the Harrison County EMA Director may activate this plan as deemed necessary to ensure a high level of operational readiness.

This plan will be reviewed by Harrison County on a biennial basis. The review will include testing, review, and update of the document and its procedures. This plan will be updated periodically as required, to incorporate new presidential or state directives, legislative changes, and procedural changes based on lessons learned from exercises and actual incidents.

Harrison County EMA is responsible for coordinating updates and modifications, as well as changes to the ESF annexes, appendices, and SOPs. Such recommendations should be forwarded to the Harrison County EMA Director through official correspondence, or may be initiated at the periodic CEMP review. Agency directors with ESF coordinator responsibility will provide information periodically as to changes with available resources, personnel, and operating procedures.

All departments and agencies will be responsible for the development and maintenance of their respective segments of the plan.

This plan applies to all local agencies, boards, commissions, and departments assigned emergency responsibilities and to all elements of local government in accordance with current law and Executive Orders (EOs).

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IX. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

The following authorities and references may be consulted for further advice and guidance. Other than those references and authorities that have the inherent force and effect of law, this plan is not intended to incorporate them by reference.

A. County

Harrison County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

B. State

Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan: N.p., 2012. Web.

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E.O. 932, March 28, 2005; Designation of National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) For Incident Management

Other applicable MS laws refer to "Compendium of Legislation" found in Mississippi Administrative Plan

C. Federal

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- U.S. Department of Homeland Security. *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ["The Stafford Act"], PL 93-288, as Amended by PL 100-707, 42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq. [Successor to: The Natural Disaster Relief Act of 1974, which superseded*

the Federal Disaster Relief Act of 1950, PL 81-875] and Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 106-390. Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2007. Print.

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U.S. Government. *U.S. Government Printing Office Style Manual.* Washington, D.C.: The Public Printer of the United States, 2008. Print.

United States Geological Society (USGS). "Mississippi." Web. 2011. <<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/states/mississippi/history.php>>.

X. APPENDICES

A. List of Acronyms

B. Glossary

Appendix A (List of Acronyms)

HARRISON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

August 2012

AC	Area Coordinator
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AR	Authorized Representative
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CEMP	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
COG	Continuity of Government
COOP	Continuity of Operations
CPG	Comprehensive Preparedness Guide
CRTC	Combat Readiness Training Center
CSG	Council of State Governments
CTA	Coast Transit Authority
DC	Designated Contact
DFA	Department of Finance
DFO	Disaster Field Office
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DR	Disaster Reports
DOT	Department of Transportation
DRC	Disaster Recovery Center
DSCA	Defense Support of Civil Authorities
EAS	Emergency Alert System
ECO	Emergency Coordinating Officers
EO	Executive Order
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EMAC	Emergency Management Association Compact

EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Response
ERT	Environmental Response Team (EPA)
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FCO	Federal Coordinating Officer
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FNS	Food and Nutrition Service
FRC	Federal Resource Coordinator
GAR	Governor's Authorized Representative
HF	High Frequency
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HSPD	Homeland Security Presidential Directive
IAP	Incident Action Report
IC	Incident Command
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
IFG	Individual and Family Grant Program
IMAT	Incident Management Assistance Team
JFO	Joint Field Office
JIC	Joint Information Center
JIS	Joint Information System
JOC	Joint Operations Center
JUC	Joint Unified Command

HARRISON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

August 2012

MAA	Mutual Aid Agreement
MC	Mobilization Center
MACC	Multi-agency Command Center
MATTS	Mobile Air Transportable Telecommunications System
MEMA	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
MERS	Mobile Emergency Response Support
MOBOPS	Mobile Operations Center
MOU	Memoranda of Understanding
MS	Mississippi
NAWAS	National Alert Warning System
NCG	National Coordination Group (EMAC)
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NCT	National Coordinating Team (EMAC)
NDMS	National Disaster Medical System
NEOC	National Emergency Operations Center (EMAC)
NEMA	National Emergency Management Association
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NMSZ	New Madrid Seismic Zone
NRCC	National Response Coordination Center
NRF	National Response Framework
NSSE	National Special Security Event
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
PA	Public Assistance

PFO	Principal Federal Official
PIO	Public Information Officer
RCP	Regional Contingency Plan
RCT	Regional Coordination Team
RRCC	Regional Response Coordination Center
RRP	Regional Response Plan
RRRC	Regional Response Coordination Center
RRT	Regional Response Team
SA	Staging Area
SCO	State Coordinating Officer
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Center
SERT	State Emergency Response Team
SESC	State Earthquake Support Center
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Areas
SFO	Senior Federal Official
SHPO	State Historical Preservation Officer
SHSC	State Hurricane Support Center
SITREPS	Situation Reports
SLO	State Liaison Officer
SMAC	Statewide Mutual Aid Compact
SOG	Standard Operating Guideline
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SWP	State Warning Point
UC	Unified Command
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard

USGS U.S. Geological Survey

Mississippi State Agencies Acronyms

ARC, MS	American Red Cross, Mississippi Chapter
CAP	Civil Air Patrol
MACPA/MARL	Mississippi Animal Control and Protection Association/Mississippi Animal Rescue League
MBAH	Mississippi Board of Animal Health
MBVME	Mississippi Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
MCES	Mississippi Cooperative Extension Services
MDA	Mississippi Development Authority
MDA/ED	Mississippi Development Authority/Energy Division
MDAC	Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
MDAH	Mississippi Department of Archives and History
MDE	Mississippi Department of Education
MDEQ	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
MDEQ/WWD	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality/Wastewater Division
MDES	Mississippi Department of Employment Security
MDFA	Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration
MDHS	Mississippi Department of Human Services
MDHS/AAS	Mississippi Department of Human Services/Aging and Adult Services
MDITS	Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
MDMH	Mississippi Department of Mental Health
MDMH/MR	Mississippi Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
MDMR	Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
MDOC	Mississippi Department of Corrections

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MDOI	Mississippi Department of Insurance
MDoM	Mississippi Department of Medicaid
MDOT	Mississippi Department of Transportation
MDPS	Mississippi Department of Public Safety
MDPS/MHSP	Mississippi Department of Public Safety/Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol
MDRS	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
MDRS/VR	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services/Vocational Rehabilitation
MDWF&P	Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
MEMA	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
MFC	Mississippi Forestry Commission
MGC	Mississippi Gaming Commission
MHSP	Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol
MMD	Mississippi Military Department
MMD-AGO	Mississippi Military Department/Office of the Adjutant General
MMD-CFMO	Mississippi Military Department/Construction and Facilities Management Office
MMD/NG	Mississippi Military Department/National Guard
MPB	Mississippi Public Broadcasting
MPSC	Mississippi Public Service Commission
MPSC/PUS	Mississippi Public Service Commission/Public Utilities Staff
MSBCJC	Mississippi Board of Community and Junior Colleges
MSBML	Mississippi Board of Medical Licensure
MSBN	Mississippi Board of Nursing
MSBP	Mississippi Board of Pharmacy
MSDH	Mississippi Department of Health
MSDH/EMS	Mississippi Department of Health/Emergency Medical Services

MSDH/WSD	Mississippi Department of Health/Water Supply Division
MSFA	Mississippi State Fire Academy
MSFMO	Mississippi Fire Marshall's Office
MSIHL	Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
MSNG	Mississippi National Guard
MSOGB	Mississippi Oil and Gas Board
MSOHS	Mississippi Office of Homeland Security
MSPB	Mississippi State Personnel Board
MSU/CVM	Mississippi State University/College of Veterinary Medicine
MSVOAD	Mississippi Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster
MVMA	Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association
NWS	National Weather Service
OAG	Office of the Attorney General
OG	Office of the Governor
OME	Office of the Medical Examiner
OSA/DoA	Office of the State Auditor/Department of Audit
RACES	Radio Amateur Communication Emergency Services
SA	Salvation Army
SOS	Office of the Secretary of State
STC	State Tax Commission
UMMC/SH	University Mississippi Medical Center/ and/or other State Hospitals
USGS	United States Geological Society

Appendix B (Glossary)

Accountable Property. Property that: 1) has an acquisition cost that is \$15,000 or more; 2) has a unique, identifiable serial number (e.g., computer or telecommunications equipment); and 3) is considered “sensitive” (i.e., easily pilferable), such as cellular phones, pagers, and laptop computers.

Agency. A division of government with a specific function offering a particular kind of assistance. In ICS, agencies are defined either as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident management) or as assisting or cooperating (providing resources or other assistance).

Agency Representative. A person assigned by a primary, assisting, or cooperating Federal, State, local, or tribal government agency or private entity that has been delegated authority to make decisions affecting that agency’s or organization’s participation in incident management activities following appropriate consultation with the leadership of that agency.

Area Command (Unified Area Command). An organization established (1) to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by an ICS organization or (2) to oversee the management of large or multiple incidents to which several Incident Management Teams have been assigned. Area Command has the responsibility to set overall strategy and priorities, allocate critical resources according to priorities, ensure that incidents are properly managed, and ensure that objectives are met and strategies followed. Area Command becomes Unified Area Command when incidents are multi-jurisdictional. Area Command may be established at an EOC facility or at some location other than an ICP.

Available Resources. Resources assigned to an incident, checked in, and available for use, normally located in a Staging Area.

Awareness. The continual process of collecting, analyzing, and disseminating intelligence, information, and knowledge to allow organizations and individuals to anticipate requirements and to react effectively.

Casualty. Any person who is declared dead or is missing, ill, or injured.

Catastrophic Incident. Any natural or man-made incident, including terrorism, which results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, and/or government functions. A catastrophic event could result in sustained national impacts over a prolonged period of time; almost immediately exceeds resources normally available to state, local, tribal, and private-sector authorities in the impacted area; and significantly interrupts governmental operations and emergency services to such an extent that national security could be threatened. All catastrophic events are Incidents of National Significance.

Chain of Command. A series of command, control, executive, or management positions in hierarchical order of authority.

Civil Transportation Capacity. The total quantity of privately owned transportation services, equipment, facilities, and systems from all transportation modes nationally or in a prescribed area or region.

Coastal Zone. As defined by the NCP, means all U.S. waters subject to tide, U.S. waters of the Great Lakes, specified ports and harbors on inland rivers, waters of the contiguous zone, other water of the high seas subject to the NCP, and the land surface or land substrata, ground waters, and ambient air proximal to those waters. The term “coastal zone” delineates an area of federal responsibility for response action. Precise boundaries are determined by EPA/USCG agreements and identified in RCPs.

Command Staff. In an incident management organization, the Command Staff consists of the Incident Command and the special staff positions of Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, Liaison Officer, and other positions as required, who report directly to the Incident Commander. They may have an assistant or assistants, as needed.

Community Recovery. In the context of the NRF and its annexes, the process of assessing the effects of an Incident of National Significance, defining resources, and developing and implementing a course of action to restore and revitalize the socioeconomic and physical structure of a community.

Consequence Management. Predominantly an emergency management function and included measures to protect public health and safety, restore essential government services, and provide emergency relief to governments, businesses, and individuals affected by the consequences of terrorism. The requirements of consequence management and crisis management are combined in the NRF. See also **Crisis Management.**

Credible Threat. A potential terrorist threat that, based on a threat assessment, is credible and likely to involve WMD.

Crisis Management. Predominantly a law enforcement function and included measures to identify, acquire, and plan the use of resources needed to anticipate, prevent, and/or resolve a threat or act of terrorism. The requirements of consequence management and crisis management are combined in the NRF. See also **Consequence Management.**

Critical Infrastructures. Systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.

Cultural Resources. Cultural resources include historic and prehistoric structures, archeological sites, cultural landscapes, and museum collections.

Cyber. Pertaining to computers and their support systems, such as servers, routers, and switches, which support critical infrastructure.

Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA). Refers to DOD support, including federal military forces, DOD civilians and DOD contractor personnel, and DOD agencies and components, for domestic emergencies and for designated law enforcement and other activities.

Deputy. A fully qualified individual who, in the absence of a superior, could be delegated the authority to manage a functional operation or perform a specific task. In some cases, a deputy could act as relief for a superior and therefore must be fully qualified in the position. Deputies can be assigned to the Incident Commander, general staff, and branch directors.

Disaster. See **Major Disaster**.

Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). A facility established in a centralized location within or near the disaster area at which disaster victims (individuals, families, or businesses) apply for disaster aid.

District Response Group. Established in each DHS/USCG District, the District Response Group is primarily responsible for providing the OSC technical assistance, personnel, and equipment during responses typically involving marine zones.

Emergency. As defined by the Stafford Act, an emergency is “any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, federal assistance is needed to supplement state and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States.”

Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support domestic incident management activities normally takes place. An EOC may be a temporary facility or may be located in a more central or permanently established facility, perhaps at a higher level of organization within a jurisdiction. EOCs may be organized by major functional disciplines (e.g., fire, law enforcement, and medical services), by jurisdiction (e.g., Federal, State, regional, county, city, tribal), or by some combination thereof.

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The “steady-state” plan maintained by various jurisdictional levels for managing a wide variety of potential hazards.

Emergency Public Information. Information that is disseminated primarily in anticipation of an emergency or during an emergency. In addition to providing situational information to the public, it also frequently provides directive actions required to be taken by the general public.

Emergency Response Provider. Includes federal, state, local, and tribal emergency public safety, law enforcement, emergency response, emergency medical (including hospital emergency facilities), and related personnel, agencies, and authorities. (See section 2(6), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002).) Also known as “emergency responder.”

Emergency Support Function (ESF). A grouping of government and certain private-sector capabilities into an organizational structure to provide the support, resources, program implementation, and services that are most likely to be needed to save lives, protect property and the environment, restore essential services and critical infrastructure, and help victims and communities return to normal, when feasible, following domestic incidents. The ESFs serve as the primary operational-level mechanism to provide

assistance to State, local, and tribal governments or to federal departments and agencies conducting missions of primary federal responsibility.

Environment. Natural and cultural resources and historic properties as those terms are defined in this glossary and in relevant laws.

Environmental Response Team. Established by EPA, the Environmental Response Team includes expertise in biology, chemistry, hydrology, geology, and engineering. The Environmental Response Team provides technical advice and assistance to the OSC for both planning and response to discharges and releases of oil and hazardous substances into the environment.

Evacuation. Organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.

Facility Management. Facility selection and acquisition, building services, information systems, communications, safety and health, and physical security.

Federal. Of or pertaining to the Federal Government of the United States of America.

Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO). The federal officer who is appointed to manage federal resource support activities related to Stafford Act disasters and emergencies. The FCO is responsible for coordinating the timely delivery of federal disaster assistance resources and programs to the affected state and local governments, individual victims, and the private sector.

Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC or OSC). The federal official pre-designated by the EPA or the USCG to coordinate responses under subpart D of the NCP, or the government official designated to coordinate and direct removal actions under subpart E of the NCP.

Federal Resource Coordinator (FRC). The federal official appointed to manage federal resource support activities related to non-Stafford Act incidents. The FRC is responsible for coordinating support from other federal departments and agencies using interagency agreements and MOUs.

First Responder. Local and nongovernmental police, fire, and emergency personnel who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101), as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel (such as equipment operators) who provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations. First responders may include personnel from federal, state, local, tribal, or nongovernmental organizations.

Hazard. Something that is potentially dangerous or harmful, often the root cause of an unwanted outcome.

Hazard Mitigation. Any cost-effective measure, which will reduce the potential for damage to a facility from a disaster event.

Hazardous Material. For the purposes of ESF #1, hazardous material is a substance or material, including a hazardous substance, that has been determined by the Secretary of Transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce, and which has been so designated (see 49 CFR 171.8). For the purposes of ESF #10 and the Oil and Hazardous Materials Incident Annex, the term is intended to mean hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants as defined by the NCP.

Hazardous Substance. As defined by the NCP, any substance designated pursuant to section 311(b)(2)(A) of the Clean Water Act; any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance designated pursuant to section 102 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); any hazardous waste having the characteristics identified under or listed pursuant to section 3001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (but not including any waste the regulation of which under the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. § 6901 et seq.) has been suspended by act of Congress); any toxic pollutant listed under section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act; any hazardous air pollutant listed under section 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 7521 et seq.); and any imminently hazardous chemical substance or mixture with respect to which the EPA Administrator has taken action pursuant to section 7 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq.).

Historic Property. Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, including artifacts, records, and remains which are related to such district, site, building, structure, or object [16 U.S.C. § 470(w)(5)].

Incident. An occurrence or event, natural or human caused, which requires an emergency response to protect life or property. Incidents can, for example, include major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, terrorist threats, wild land and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, war-related disasters, public health and medical emergencies, and other occurrences requiring an emergency response.

Incident Action Plan. An oral or written plan containing general objectives reflecting the overall strategy for managing an incident. It may include the identification of operational resources and assignments. It may also include attachments that provide direction and important information for management of the incident during one or more operational periods.

Incident Command Post (ICP). The field location at which the primary tactical-level, on-scene incident command functions are performed. The ICP may be collocated with the incident base or other incident facilities and is normally identified by a green rotating or flashing light.

Incident Command System (ICS). A standardized on-scene emergency management construct specifically designed to provide for the adoption of an integrated organizational structure that reflects the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating with a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. ICS is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to small as well as large and complex

incidents. ICS is used by various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private, or organized field-level incident management operations.

Incident Commander (IC). The individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and release of resources. The IC has overall authority and responsibility for conducting incident operations and is responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.

Incident Management Team (IMT). The Incident Commander and appropriate command and general staff personnel assigned to an incident.

Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) – Are full-time, rapid-response teams with dedicated staff able to deploy within two hours and arrive at an incident within 12 hours to support the local incident commander. The teams support the initial establishment of a unified command and provide situational awareness for federal and state decision-makers crucial to determining the level and type of immediate federal support that may be required.

Incident Mitigation. Actions taken during an incident designed to minimize impacts or contain the damages to property or the environment.

Information Officer. See **Public Information Officer.**

Infrastructure. The man-made physical systems, assets, projects, and structures, publicly and/or privately owned, that are used by or provide benefit to the public. Examples of infrastructure include utilities, bridges, levees, drinking water systems, electrical systems, communications systems, dams, sewage systems, and roads.

Infrastructure Liaison. Assigned by DHS, the Infrastructure Liaison serves as the principal advisor to the JFO Coordination Group regarding all national- and regional-level critical infrastructure and key resources incident-related issues.

Initial Actions. The actions taken by those responders first to arrive at an incident site.

Initial Response. Resources initially committed to an incident.

Joint Field Office (JFO). A temporary federal facility established locally to provide a central point for federal, state, local, and tribal executives with responsibility for incident oversight, direction, and/or assistance to effectively coordinate protection, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery actions. The JFO will combine the traditional functions of the JOC, the FEMA DFO, and the JIC within a single federal facility.

Joint Information Center (JIC). A facility established to coordinate all incident-related public information activities. It is the central point of contact for all news media at the scene of the incident. Public information officials from all participating agencies should collocate at the JIC.

Joint Information System (JIS). Integrates incident information and public affairs into a cohesive organization designed to provide consistent, coordinated, timely information during a crisis or incident operations. The mission of the JIS is to provide a structure and system for developing and delivering coordinated interagency messages; developing, recommending, and executing public information plans and strategies on behalf of the IC; advising the IC concerning public affairs issues that could affect a response effort; and controlling rumors and inaccurate information that could undermine public confidence in the emergency response effort.

Joint Operations Center (JOC). The JOC is the focal point for all federal investigative law enforcement activities during a terrorist or potential terrorist incident or any other significant criminal incident, and is managed by the SFLEO. The JOC becomes a component of the JFO when the NRF is activated.

Joint Unified Command (JUC). The JUC links the organizations responding to the incident and provides a forum for these entities to make consensus decisions. Under the JUC, the various jurisdictions and/or agencies and non-government responders may blend together throughout the operation to create an integrated response team.

At the state level, the State of Mississippi has adopted a Joint Unified Command structure for incident management. This organizational framework places a state official side-by-side with a federal official at the section, division, and branch level, as the situation warrants these levels of organization.

Jurisdiction. A range or sphere of authority. Public agencies have jurisdiction at an incident related to their legal responsibilities and authorities. Jurisdictional authority at an incident can be political or geographical (e.g., city, county, tribal, state, or federal boundary lines) or functional (e.g., law enforcement, public health).

Liaison Officer. A member of the command staff responsible for coordinating with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies.

Local Government. A county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under state law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization or, in Alaska, a Native Village or Alaska Regional Native Corporation; or a rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity. (As defined in section 2(10) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135, et seq. (2002).)

Long-Range Management Plan. Used by the FCO and management team to address internal staffing, organization, and team requirements.

Major Disaster. As defined by the Stafford Act, any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought) or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity

and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under this act to supplement the efforts and available resources of states, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

Materiel Management. Requisitioning and sourcing (requirements processing); acquisition, asset visibility (resource tracking), receipt, storage, and handling; security and accountability; inventory, deployment, issue, and distribution; and recovery, reuse, and disposition.

Mission Assignment. The vehicle used by DHS/EPR/FEMA to support federal operations in a Stafford Act major disaster or emergency declaration. It orders immediate, short-term emergency response assistance when an applicable state or local government is overwhelmed by the event and lacks the capability to perform, or contract for, the necessary work.

Mitigation. Activities designed to reduce or eliminate risks to persons or property or to lessen the actual or potential effects or consequences of an incident. Mitigation measures may be implemented prior to, during, or after an incident. Mitigation measures are often developed in accordance with lessons learned from prior incidents. Mitigation involves ongoing actions to reduce exposure to, probability of, or potential loss from hazards. Measures may include zoning and building codes, floodplain buyouts, and analysis of hazard-related data to determine where it is safe to build or locate temporary facilities. Mitigation can include efforts to educate governments, businesses, and the public on measures they can take to reduce loss and injury.

Mobilization. The process and procedures used by all organizations—federal, state, local, and tribal—for activating, assembling, and transporting all resources that have been requested to respond to or support an incident.

Mobilization Center. An off-site temporary facility at which response personnel and equipment are received from the point of arrival and are pre-positioned for deployment to an incident logistics base, to a local staging area, or directly to an incident site, as required. A mobilization center also provides temporary support services, such as food and billeting, for response personnel prior to their assignment, release, or reassignment and serves as a place to out-process following demobilization while awaiting transportation.

Multi-agency Command Center (MACC). An interagency coordination center established by DHS/USSS during NSSEs as a component of the JFO. The MACC serves as the focal point for interagency security planning and coordination, including the coordination of all NSSE-related information from other intra-agency centers (e.g., police command posts, Secret Service security rooms) and other interagency centers (e.g., intelligence operations centers, joint information centers).

Multi-agency Coordination Entity. Functions within a broader multi-agency coordination system. It may establish priorities among incidents and associated resource allocations, deconflict agency policies, and provide strategic guidance and direction to support incident management activities.

Multi-agency Coordination System. Provides the architecture to support coordination for incident prioritization, critical resource allocation, communications systems integration, and information coordination. The components of multi-agency coordination systems include facilities, equipment, EOCs, specific multi-agency coordination entities, personnel, procedures, and communications. The systems assist agencies and organizations to fully integrate the subsystems of NIMS.

Multi-jurisdictional Incident. An incident requiring action from multiple agencies that each have jurisdiction to manage certain aspects of an incident. In ICS, these incidents will be managed under Unified Command.

Mutual Aid Agreement. Written agreement between agencies, organizations, and/or jurisdictions that they will assist one another on request by furnishing personnel, equipment, and/or expertise in a specified manner.

National. Of a nationwide character, including the federal, state, local, and tribal aspects of governance and policy.

National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC). The NCTC serves as the primary federal organization for analyzing and integrating all intelligence possessed or acquired by the U.S. Government pertaining to terrorism and counterterrorism, excepting purely domestic counterterrorism information. The NCTC may, consistent with applicable law, receive, retain, and disseminate information from any Federal, State, or local government or other source necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). A coordinated partnership between DHS, HHS, DOD, and the Department of Veterans Affairs established for the purpose of responding to the needs of victims of a public health emergency. NDMS provides medical response assets and the movement of patients to health care facilities where definitive medical care is received when required.

National Incident Management System (NIMS). A system mandated by HSPD-5 that provides a consistent, nationwide approach for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments; the private sector; and NGOs to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. To provide for interoperability and compatibility among federal, state, local, and tribal capabilities, the NIMS includes a core set of concepts, principles, and terminology. HSPD-5 identifies these as the ICS; multi-agency coordination systems; training; identification and management of resources (including systems for classifying types of resources); qualification and certification; and the collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident resources.

National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC). Managed by the DHS Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate, the NICC monitors the Nation's critical infrastructure and key resources on an ongoing basis. In the event of an incident, the NICC provides a coordinating vehicle to share information with critical infrastructure and key resources information-sharing entities.

National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC). The organization responsible for coordinating allocation of resources to one or more coordination centers or major fires within the Nation. Located in Boise, ID.

Natural Resources. Natural resources include land, fish, wildlife, domesticated animals, plants, biota, and water. Water means salt and fresh water, surface and ground water, including water used for drinking, irrigation, aquaculture, and recreational purposes, as well as in its capacity as fish and wildlife habitat, including coral reef ecosystems as defined in 16 U.S.C. 64501. Land means soil, surface and subsurface minerals, and other terrestrial features.

National Response Center. A national communications center for activities related to oil and hazardous substance response actions. The National Response Center, located at DHS/USCG Headquarters in Washington, DC, receives and relays notices of oil and hazardous substances releases to the appropriate Federal OSC.

National Response System. Pursuant to the NCP, the mechanism for coordinating response actions by all levels of government (40 CFR § 300.21) for oil and hazardous substances spills and releases.

National Response Team (NRT). The NRT, comprised of the 16 federal agencies with major environmental and public health responsibilities, is the primary vehicle for coordinating federal agency activities under the NCP. The NRT carries out national planning and response coordination and is the head of a highly organized federal oil and hazardous substance emergency response network. EPA serves as the NRT Chair, and DHS/USCG serves as Vice Chair.

National Special Security Event (NSSE). A designated event that, by virtue of its political, economic, social, or religious significance, may be the target of terrorism or other criminal activity.

Nongovernmental Organization (NGO). A nonprofit entity that is based on interests of its members, individuals, or institutions and that is not created by a government, but may work cooperatively with government. Such organizations serve a public purpose, not a private benefit. Examples of NGOs include faith-based charity organizations and the American Red Cross.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC). See **Federal On-Scene Coordinator.**

Pollutant or Contaminant. As defined in the NCP, includes, but is not limited to, any element, substance, compound, or mixture, including disease-causing agents, which after release into the environment and upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation, or assimilation into any organism, either directly from the environment or indirectly by ingestion through food chains, will or may reasonably be anticipated to cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutation, physiological malfunctions, or physical deformations in such organisms or their offspring.

Preparedness. The range of deliberate, critical tasks and activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the operational capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents. Preparedness is a continuous process involving efforts at all levels of government and between

government and private-sector and nongovernmental organizations to identify threats, determine vulnerabilities, and identify required resources.

Prevention. Actions taken to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring. Prevention involves actions taken to protect lives and property. It involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as deterrence operations; heightened inspections; improved surveillance and security operations; investigations to determine the full nature and source of the threat; public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and, as appropriate, specific law enforcement operations aimed at deterring, preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity and apprehending potential perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

Principal Federal Official (PFO). The federal official designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security to act as his/her representative locally to oversee, coordinate, and execute the Secretary's incident management responsibilities under HSPD-5 for Incidents of National Significance.

Private Sector. Organizations and entities that are not part of any governmental structure. Includes for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, formal and informal structures, commerce and industry, private emergency response organizations, and private voluntary organizations.

Public Assistance Program. The program administered by FEMA that provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal and disposal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private nonprofit organizations.

Public Health. Protection, safety, improvement, and interconnections of health and disease prevention among people, domestic animals and wildlife.

Public Information Officer (PIO). A member of the Command Staff responsible for interfacing with the public and media or with other agencies with incident related information requirements.

Public Works. Work, construction, physical facilities, and services provided by governments for the benefit and use of the public.

Recovery. The development, coordination, and execution of service- and site-restoration plans for impacted communities and the reconstitution of government operations and services through individual, private-sector, nongovernmental, and public assistance programs that: identify needs and define resources; provide housing and promote restoration; address long-term care and treatment of affected persons; implement additional measures for community restoration; incorporate mitigation measures and techniques, as feasible; evaluate the incident to identify lessons learned; and develop initiatives to mitigate the effects of future incidents.

Resources. Personnel and major items of equipment, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained. Resources are

described by kind and type and may be used in operational support or supervisory capacities at an incident or at an EOC.

Response. Activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident. Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs. Response also includes the execution of emergency operations plans and of incident mitigation activities designed to limit the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and other unfavorable outcomes. As indicated by the situation, response activities include: applying intelligence and other information to lessen the effects or consequences of an incident; increased security operations; continuing investigations into the nature and source of the threat; ongoing public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and specific law enforcement operations aimed at preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity, and apprehending actual perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

Senior Federal Official (SFO). An individual representing a federal department or agency with primary statutory responsibility for incident management. SFOs utilize existing authorities, expertise, and capabilities to aid in management of the incident working in coordination with other members of the JFO Coordination Group.

Situation Assessment. The evaluation and interpretation of information gathered from a variety of sources (including weather information and forecasts, computerized models, GIS data mapping, remote sensing sources, ground surveys, etc.) that, when communicated to emergency managers and decision makers, can provide a basis for incident management decision-making.

State. Any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States. (As defined in section 2(14) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135, et seq. (2002).)

Strategic. Strategic elements of incident management are characterized by continuous, long-term, high-level planning by organizations headed by elected or other senior officials. These elements involve the adoption of long-range goals and objectives, the setting of priorities, the establishment of budgets and other fiscal decisions, policy development, and the application of measures of performance or effectiveness.

Strategic Plan. A plan that addresses long-term issues such as impact of weather forecasts, time-phased resource requirements, and problems such as permanent housing for displaced disaster victims, environmental pollution, and infrastructure restoration.

Telecommunications. The transmission, emission, or reception of voice and/or data through any medium by wire, radio, other electrical electromagnetic, or optical means. Telecommunications includes all aspects of transmitting information.

Terrorism. Any activity that (1) involves an act that (a) is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources; and (b) is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state or other subdivision of the United States; and (2) appears to be intended (a) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (b) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (c) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping.

Threat. An indication of possible violence, harm, or danger.

Transportation Management. Transportation prioritizing, ordering, sourcing, and acquisition; time phasing plans; fleet management; and movement coordination and tracking.

Tribe. Any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaskan Native Village as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C.A. and 1601 et seq.], that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Unaffiliated Volunteer. An individual who is not formally associated with a recognized voluntary disaster relief organization; also known as a “spontaneous” or “emergent” volunteer.

Unified Command. An application of ICS used when there is more than one agency with incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions. Agencies work together through the designated members of the Unified Command to establish their designated Incident Commanders at a single ICP and to establish a common set of objectives and strategies and a single Incident Action Plan.

United States. The term “United States,” when used in a geographic sense, means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, any possession of the United States, and any waters within the jurisdiction of the United States. (As defined in section 2(16) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135, et seq. (2002).)

Unsolicited Goods. Donated items offered by and/or sent to the incident area by the public, the private sector, or other source, that have not been requested by government or nonprofit disaster relief coordinators.

Urban Search and Rescue. Operational activities that include locating, extricating, and providing on-site medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures.

Volunteer. Any individual accepted to perform services by an agency that has authority to accept volunteer services when the individual performs services without promise, expectation, or receipt of compensation for services performed. (See, for example, 16 U.S.C. § 742f(c) and 29 CFR § 553.101.)

Volunteer and Donations Coordination Center. Facility from which the Volunteer and Donations Coordination Team operates. It is best situated in or close by the SEOC for coordination purposes.

Requirements may include space for a phone bank, meeting space, and space for a team of specialists to review and process offers.

Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD). As defined in Title 18, U.S.C. § 2332a: (1) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces, or missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, or mine or similar device; (2) any weapon that is designed or intended to cause death or serious bodily injury through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic or poisonous chemicals or their precursors; (3) any weapon involving a disease organism; or (4) any weapon that is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life.

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Appendix C – Acronyms of Matrix of Primary/Support Agency Responsibilities

ARC, MS	American Red Cross, Mississippi Chapter
CAP	Civil Air Patrol
	Mississippi Animal Control and Protection Association/ Mississippi
MACPA/MARL	Animal Rescue League
MBAH	Mississippi Board of Animal Health
MBVME	Mississippi Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
MCES	Mississippi Cooperative Extension Services
MDA	Mississippi Development Authority
MDA/ ED	Mississippi Development Authority/ Energy Division
MDAH	Mississippi Department of Archives and History
MDE	Mississippi Department of Education
	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality/ Wastewater
MDEQ/WWD	Division
MDES	Mississippi Department of Employment Security
MDFA	Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration
MDHS	Mississippi Department of Human Services
	Mississippi Department of Human Services/ Aging and Adult
MDHS/AAS	Services
MDITS	Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
MDMH	Mississippi Department of Mental Health
	Mississippi Department of Mental Health and Mental
MDMH/ MR	Retardation
MDMR	Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
MDOC	Mississippi Department of Corrections
MDOI	Mississippi Department of Insurance
MDoM	Mississippi Department of Medicaid
MDOT	Mississippi Department of Transportation
MDPS	Mississippi Department of Public Safety
	Mississippi Department of Public Safety/ Mississippi Highway
MDPS/MHSP	Safety Patrol
MDRS	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services/ Vocational
MDRS/ VR	Rehabilitation
MDWF&P	Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
MEMA	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
MFC	Mississippi Forestry Commission
MGC	Mississippi Gaming Commission
MHSP	Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol
MMD	Mississippi Military Department
	Mississippi Military Department/ Office of the Adjutant
MMD - AGO	General
	Mississippi Military Department/ Construction and Facilities
MMD- CFMO	Management Office
MMD/NG	Mississippi Military Department/ National Guard
MPB	Mississippi Public Broadcasting

HARRISON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

August 2012

MPSC	Mississippi Public Service Commission
MPSC/PUS	Mississippi Public Service Commission/ Public Utilities Staff
MSBCJC	Mississippi Board of Community and Junior Colleges
MSBML	Mississippi Board of Medical Licensure
MSBN	Mississippi Board of Nursing
MSBP	Mississippi Board of Pharmacy
MSDH	Mississippi Department of Health
	Mississippi Department of Health/ Emergency Medical Services
MSDH/EMS	
MSDH/WSD	Mississippi Department of Health/ Water Supply Division
MSFA	Mississippi State Fire Academy
MSFMO	Mississippi Fire Marshall's Office
MSIHL	Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
MSNG	Mississippi National Guard
M SOGB	Mississippi Oil and Gas Board
M SOHS	Mississippi Office of Homeland Security
MSPB	Mississippi State Personnel Board
MSU/CVM	Mississippi State University/ College of Veterinary Medicine
MSVOAD	Mississippi Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster
MVDL	Mississippi Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
MVMA	Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association
NWS	National Weather Service
OAG	Office of the Attorney General
OG	Office of the Governor
OME	Office of the Medical Examiner
OSA/ DoA	Office of the State Auditor/ Department of Audit
RACES	Radio Amateur Communication Emergency Services
SA	Salvation Army
SOS	Office of the Secretary of State
STC	State Tax Commission
STC/ABC	State Tax Commission/ Alcoholic Beverage Control Division
UMC	University of Mississippi Medical Center
	University of Mississippi Medical Center/ and/or other State Hospitals
UMC/ SH	

XI. Emergency Support Functions

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