

MISSISSIPPI

**Hurricane
Evacuation
Guide**

What to Know Before You Go...

As hurricane season strikes the Mississippi Gulf Coast each summer, many tend to scramble at the last minute to keep loved ones and belongings safe and secure through the storms. At the Mississippi Department of Transportation, we promote preparation as the safest method to avoid the wrath of mother-nature.

A **hurricane** is a severe tropical cyclone involving heavy rains and sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or greater that causes flooding, storm surge, and sometimes spin-off tornadoes. A **hurricane watch** is issued when adverse conditions are possible in a specified area, usually within 36 hours and a **hurricane warning** within 24 hours.

Prepare Your Disaster Supply Kits Early!

Start with an easy to carry container and gather the following items:

- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-operated radio and TV with extra batteries
- Tools
- Fire extinguisher – ABC type
- Jumper cables
- Water –1 gallon per person for each day you anticipate being gone
- Non-perishable foods such as canned meats, granola bars, instant soup cereals, etc.
- Non-electric can opener
- Baby supplies: formula, bottle, clothing, soap, diapers, canned foods and juices
- Essential medication
- Clothing: Include changes of clothing, sturdy shoes, and seasonal items such as rain gear.

- ❑ Blankets/sleeping bags
- ❑ Toiletries
- ❑ Anti-bacterial hand wipes or gel
- ❑ Food, water, leash and carrier for pets
- ❑ Games and books

Before you hit the road...

- ❑ Map out your route. Be familiar with the evacuation routes in your area.
- ❑ Locate shelters or hotels ahead of time and be prepared to drive 20 to 50 miles inland to a safe place.
- ❑ Stay tuned to local radio and television stations for emergency information.
- ❑ Protect your home by covering windows with shielding materials.
- ❑ Make arrangements for pets.
- ❑ Bring extra cash and important documents in a waterproof container.
- ❑ Fuel and service vehicles.
- ❑ Do not drive on flooded roads.

Communication is key!

- ❑ Setting up a communication plan ahead of time will help make sure you and your family can connect as easily and quickly as possible.
- ❑ Designate an individual outside of the state to serve as a family point of contact. (After a disaster, it's often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area.) Make sure that all family members know who this person is and how to contact him/her.
- ❑ After a disaster or evacuation, all family members should make contact with the designated individual. Try choosing a certain time for everyone to check in.

Alternate Hurricane Evacuation Routes

In order to relieve traffic congestion on Hwy 49 during Gulf Coast hurricane evacuations, please take the following routes to arrive at your final destination. The routes are posted to a map on the reverse side and will provide you with further details.

From Jackson County:

- Hwy 57 to Hwy 45N @ state line **to I-20 @ Meridian**
- Hwy 57 to Hwy 98W @ McLain to Hwy 15N **to I-20 @ Newton**
- Hwy 63 to Hwy 45N @ Waynesboro **to I-20 @ Meridian**

From Harrison County:

- Hwy 53 to Hwy 26W @ Poplarville to Hwy 43N to Hwy 13N *
- Hwy 15 to Hwy 26E to Hwy 57N to Hwy 45N @ state line **to I-20 @ Meridian**
- Hwy 15 to Hwy 26W to Hwy 11N or Hwy 43N then to Hwy 13N *

From Hancock County:

- Hwy 43 to Hwy 13N *
- Hwy 43 to Hwy 603N to Hwy 53N to Hwy 11N to Hwy 13N *
- I-10W to I-59N **to I-20 @ Meridian**

From Hwy 49 Below Hattiesburg:

Traveling East

At Wiggins, take Hwy 29N to I-59 @ Ellisville **to I-20 @ Meridian**

Traveling West

At Wiggins, take Hwy 26W to Hwy 43N to Hwy 13N *

From Hwy 49 Above Hattiesburg:

Collins

Hwy 84W to I-55 @ Brookhaven to I-20 @ Jackson

Mount Olive

Hwy 35N to I-20 @ Forest

Magee

Hwy 28W to Hwy 27N to I-55 or on to I-20 @ Vicksburg

Mendenhall

Hwy 13N to I-20 @ Morton

Florence

Hwy 469 to I-20 @ Brandon

From Hwy 98 Between AL State Line & Hattiesburg:

- Hwy 63 to Hwy 45N to I-20 @ Meridian
- Hwy 57 to Hwy 45N @ state line to I-20 @ Meridian
- Hwy 15 to I-20 @ Newton
- Hwy 29 to I-59 @ Ellisville or onto Hwy 28W to Hwy 27N to I-55 or on to I-20 @ Vicksburg

**Options at Highway 13*

Hwy 13N to I-20 @ Morton, or

Hwy 13N to Hwy 28W to Hwy 27N to I-55 or on to I-20 @ Vicksburg

Contraflow Plans

Interstates 59 and 55 Contraflow Plans

In an effort to assist the state of Louisiana, MDOT will implement contraflow (lane reversal) for both I-59 and I-55 when it is approved by the Governor of Mississippi. Slow-moving, Category III, IV or V hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico are situations that might cause a mandatory evacuation of the greater New Orleans area.

- The decision to contraflow is NOT automatic and will only be used when absolutely necessary. Citizens should not delay their evacuation plans in anticipation of contraflow.
- The I-59 contraflow would begin in Louisiana, extend into Mississippi, and end just south of Poplarville.
- The I-55 contraflow would also begin in Louisiana, extend into Mississippi, and end just south of Brookhaven.
- All exits within the contraflowed sections of the interstate highways will remain open and law enforcement officers will be present to assist traffic.
- Changeable message signs will provide motorists with exit instructions, and will post radio frequencies for updated travel information.
- The shoulders of both Interstates 59 and 55 should be kept clear for emergency vehicles. Motorists needing to stop should use the next available exit.
- Hancock County residents traveling West into Louisiana on I-10 will be routed North onto I-59 at the I-10/I-12 split.

Traffic Control in Hattiesburg



MDOT will be enforcing the following procedures in the Hattiesburg area to avoid severe congestion at the intersections of three major routes.

- **Northbound traffic on Hwy 49** will NOT be allowed to exit at either Hwy 98 or I-59.
- **Northbound traffic on I-59** can ONLY exit at Hwy 11 (Exit 60) or West on Hardy Street/Hwy 98 (Exit 65).
- **Westbound traffic on Hwy 98** will NOT be allowed to exit onto Hwy 49, but directed to merge onto I-59 instead.

Contact Information

For alternate route and real-time travel information, contact MDOT External Affairs at **601-359-7017** or visit the website at www.GoMDOT.com.

For evacuation orders, shelter locations and all other disaster assistance information, contact the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency at **1-800-222-MEMA** or visit the website at www.msema.org.

For highway traffic information, contact the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol at **1-800-843-5352 (in-state)** or **601-987-1530** when outside of Mississippi.

For information on available hotels throughout Mississippi, contact the MS Division of Tourism at **1-866-SEE-MISS** (1-866-733-6477) or the Hotel & Lodging Association at 228-374-8611. For Bed & Breakfast Reservations, call **1-800-633-6477**.

For Camping sites in Mississippi, contact the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks at **1-800-GO-PARKS**.

Louisiana Department of Transportation **225-379-1232**

Alabama Department of Transportation **334-242-6358**

Tennessee Department of Transportation **615-741-2848**

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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MISSISSIPPI HURRICANE EVACUATION MAP

ROUTE MARKERS

- INTERSTATE
- UNITED STATES
- STATE

SCALE: ONE INCH EQUALS APPROXIMATELY 12 MILES
SCALE IN KILOMETERS



HURRICANE EMERGENCY INFORMATION SIGN



PREPARED BY THE
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, 2005
PLANNING DIVISION
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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