

2011 HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE

GET PREPARED
supply checklists
crisis communication
evacuation routes

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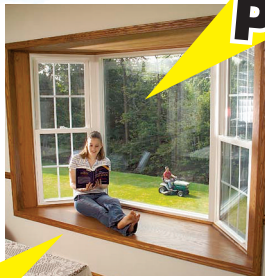
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Stay prepared, no matter the forecast

BY MELISSA M. SCALLAN
mmscallan@sunherald.com

Hurricane season begins today, and weather experts are advising residents to be prepared, however many storms forecasters predict will form between now and Nov. 30.

“Your preparedness should be the same, no matter what the forecast is,” said Jeff Masters, co-founder of Weather Underground. “You should treat every season like it’s 2005 because we could definitely see another season like that again.”

People in South Mississippi don’t need reminders about 2005 because that was the

year Hurricane Katrina devastated the Coast and spawned a record 28 named storms.

A high-activity era for hurricanes began in 1995 and could last up to 20 years, forecasters said.

“It appears that this year could be slightly more active than normal,” said Mike Brown, professor at Mississippi State University and assistant state climatologist. “Hurricane forecasting this far in advance is certainly not an exact science, and subtle changes to the atmosphere can result in big differences in the number of tropical systems and whether or not they make landfall.”

According to the Census Bureau, there are 37 million people living in the area most threatened by Atlantic hurricanes — which is the coastal portion of states from Texas to North Carolina.

Last year, there were 19 named storms and two tropical depressions, but none of them hit the United States. Still, Bill Read, director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, said residents shouldn’t count on that happening again this year.

“The 2010 hurricane season was one of the most active on record; yet no hurricanes made landfall in the U.S.,” Read said in a statement. “That does not mean we will be as fortunate during the 2011 season. Be prepared for a hurricane now, before one threatens your area.”

Weather experts advise that coastal residents have a hurricane supply kit that includes non-perishable food and water for 72 hours, batteries, a radio, flashlight and first aid kit. People also should plan beforehand if they will evacuate or not and know where they will go if they do evacuate.

Brown said residents should stay informed and have a good plan.

“Be vigilant in watching the weather,” he said. “And understand that there are uncertainties in the forecasted strength and landfall positions of hurricanes. Be ready to take action.”



SUN HERALD FILE PHOTO — Plywood sheet, in quarter or half-inch thickness, offers the best protection for windows from limbs and other flying debris during a hurricane.

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Helpful phone numbers and websites

LOCAL

Sunherald.com — Get breaking news and updates throughout hurricane season on developing storms.

Harrison County Emergency Management Agency 865-4002, www.co.harrison.ms.us

Hancock County Emergency Management Agency 466-8320, www.hancockeoc.com

Jackson County Emergency Management Agency 769-3111, www.co.jackson.ms.us

Stone County Emergency Management Agency 601-928-3077, www.stonecountygov.com

Pearl River County Emergency Management Agency 601-795-3058, www.pearlrivercounty.net

George County Emergency Management Agency 601-947-7557

STATE

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency 1-866-519-6362, www.msema.org

Governor's Office 1-877-405-0733, www.governor.state.ms.us

Attorney General 601-359-3680, www.ago.state.ms.us

Dept. of Environmental Quality 1-888-786-0661, www.deq.state.ms.us

Dept. of Marine Resources 1-800-374-3449, www.dmr.state.ms.us

Dept. of Transportation 1-866-521-6368, www.GoMDOT.com or www.MSTraffic.com

Highway Patrol 601-987-1212(*hp from any cell phone), www.dps.state.ms.us

Lodging

1-866-733-6477, www.visitmississippi.org

Board of Animal Health

1-888-722-3106, www.mbah.state.ms.us

Medicaid

1-800-421-2408, www.medicaid.ms.gov

Insurance Dept.

1-800-562-2957, www.mid.state.ms.us

Louisiana Dept. of Transportation

1-877-452-3683, www.dotd.state.la.us

Louisiana State Police

1-800-469-4828, www.lsp.org

Alabama Dept. of Transportation

334-242-6358, www.dot.state.al.us

Alabama Highway Patrol

334-242-4371, www.dps.state.al.us

FEDERAL

Federal Emergency Management Agency

1-800-621-3362, www.fema.gov or m.fema.gov (cell phones)

National Weather Service (New Orleans/Baton Rouge)

504-522-7330, www.srh.noaa.gov/lix; Mobile, 251-633-6443, www.srh.noaa.gov/mob

U.S. Coast Guard

8th District, 251-441-6213

American Red Cross

1-866-438-4636, www.redcross.org

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

www.noaa.gov

National Hurricane Center www.nhc.noaa.gov

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BAHAMAS - COLONIALS - ACCORDIANS - ROLL/DOWNS - STORM PANELS

Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale

Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale is used to estimate potential property damage and flooding expected along a coast from a hurricane landfall.

CATEGORY 1 Winds 74-95 mph (119-153 kph)

Barometric pressure 28.94 in. (73.5 cm) or more

Storm surge 4-5 ft. (1.2-1.5 m)

Damage Minimal; signs, tree branches and power lines blown down; damage to mobile homes

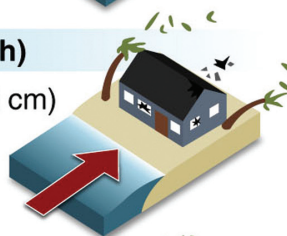


CATEGORY 2 Winds 96-110 mph (154-177 kph)

Barometric pressure 28.50-28.93 in. (72.4-73.5 cm)

Storm surge 6-8 ft. (1.8-2.4 m)

Damage Moderate; some damage to roofs, windows; some downed trees

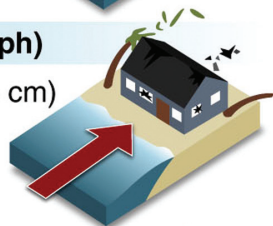


CATEGORY 3 Winds 111-130 mph (178-209 kph)

Barometric pressure 27.91-28.49 in. (70.9-72.4 cm)

Storm surge 9-12 ft. (2.7-3.7 m)

Damage Extensive; minor damage to buildings, homes; large trees blown down

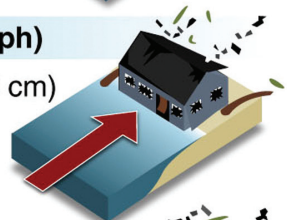


CATEGORY 4 Winds 131-155 mph (210-249 kph)

Barometric pressure 27.17-27.90 in. (69.0-70.9 cm)

Storm surge 13-18 ft. (4.0-5.5 m)

Damage Extreme; almost total destruction of doors, windows; mobile homes destroyed

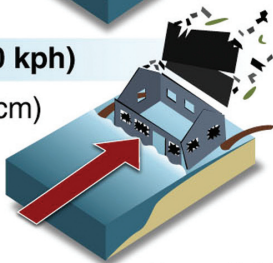


CATEGORY 5 Winds more than 155 mph (250 kph)

Barometric pressure Less than 27.17 in. (69.0 cm)

Storm surge Higher than 18 ft. (5.5 m)

Damage Catastrophic; buildings, roofs, structures destroyed; all trees, shrubs downed



Source: U.S. National Hurricane Center, NASA
Graphic: Melina Yingling

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TERMS TO KNOW

• **Tropical depression:** A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind is 38 mph or less.

• **Tropical storm:** A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind is 39-73 mph.

• **Hurricane Watch:** An announcement for an area that a hurricane or hurricane conditions may pose a threat to coastal areas within 36 hours.

• **Hurricane warning:** A warning that sustained winds of 74 mph or higher associated with a hurricane is expected within 24 hours or less.

• **Storm surge:** Storm surge is the greatest potential threat to life and property associated with hurricanes. A storm surge is a large dome of water, 50 to 100 miles wide, that sweeps across the coastline near where a hurricane makes landfall. It can be more than 30 feet deep at its peak.

Hurricane supply kit

All residents should have a hurricane-supply kit in large, water-proof containers. Replenish the kit each year when hurricane season begins. Among the items to include:

- Three-day supply of nonperishable food and water per person
- Medication (prescription and over-the-counter)
- Battery-powered radio or TV
- Flashlights or lanterns
- Extra batteries
- Manual can opener
- Disposable plates, cups and utensils
- Disposable washcloths and towels
- First-aid kit
- Ice chest
- Matches
- Nonelectric clock
- Sterno
- Toiletries
- Fuel can
- Plastic drop cloth
- Rope
- Fire extinguisher
- Cell phone with an extra battery or a car charger
- Portable generator
- Extension cords
- Latex gloves
- Tool kit
- Sunscreen
- Extra clothes
- Extra cash
- Insect repellent
- Entertainment items (books, playing cards, puzzles); games for kids
- Copies of important papers

Property preparations

PROTECTING YOUR CAR

- Fill the gas tank. Check oil, water levels. Store in a garage or carport.
- If you must leave your car outdoors, park next to a building, away from trees or poles that may topple onto it.
- Stay out of your car during a hurricane.
- Make sure your car has an emergency first-aid kit and tool kit.

PROTECTING YOUR BOAT

- If you can, put the boat in a garage.
- If you leave the boat outside, remove out-board motors.
- Strip all electrical gear and removable equipment from boat.
- Disconnect batteries.
- Lash down the boat.
- Fill the boat one-third to halfway with water (filling it all the way could break the trailer springs or axle).

- Support the axle with blocks inside each of the trailer wheels.
- Remove any item that could blow off the boat.
- Place the boat away from trees or objects that could fall on it.

PROTECTING YOUR HOUSE

- Close shutters, lash down awnings, tape windows and sliding glass doors, board up windows
- Bring in anything that could blow around: toys, bicycles, garbage cans, furniture, grills.
- Lower your TV antenna, but first unplug the television.
- Turn off power to the pool pump, lights and chlorinator. If the pump is exposed, wrap with a waterproof cover and tie securely.
- Do not empty the pool of water.
- Trim dead branches from trees and shrubs.

Checklist: Before, during, after

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. Here are some things to do before, during and after a storm:

BEFORE THE STORM

- Have a list of addresses and contact numbers that includes family, friends and emergency contacts.
- Keep an updated list of all medications for household members. Include a list of all chronic and potential medical conditions.
- If you plan to stay during a storm, make sure you have all the supplies necessary to be on your own for at least three days.
- If you go to an evacuation shelter, have your supply kit packed and ready.
- Make sure you have materials on hand to protect your home and that you make preparations no later than when a hurricane warning is issued.
- Take an inventory of property and possessions on paper, as well as a video survey. Store the inventories with insurance and other important papers in a safe place and send a copy to a relative or friend who doesn't live in a hurricane area.

- Keep a stash of cash or traveler's checks at home so you can get to them quickly in case of an evacuation.
- Keep photos of family members in your wallet in case someone is missing.
- Know where the nearest police and fire stations are. Know the route to the nearest emergency room.

DURING THE STORM

- Stay away from windows and doors, even if they are covered. Go to an interior first-floor section, such as a hallway, bathroom or closet.
- If the storm's eye passes over, it will be calm for a short time. Remain indoors. As soon as the eye passes, winds increase rapidly to hurricane force from the opposite direction.
- Stay calm. It may take several hours for the storm to pass.



SUN HERALD FILE PHOTO — A Red Cross volunteer sets up cots for Hurricane Gustav evacuees from the Coast at the Red Cross shelter at the United Methodist Church in Madison.

AFTER THE STORM

- Stay on firm ground. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from downed power lines.
- Drive only if necessary. Debris and floodwaters may be covering roads, making them impassable.
- Re-enter your home carefully. Beware of fallen objects or damaged roofs and walls.
- Use flashlights for light. Do not use matches, torches, candles or any other open flame.
- Check gas, water and electrical lines and appliances for damage. Do not try to repair these lines yourself. Call a professional.
- If your home was flooded, flush plumbing fixtures with water. Have health authorities inspect your sanitary disposal system.
- Do not use food that came in contact with flood waters.
- Do not put generators inside your home, and use them only to run necessary appliances.
- Wear protective clothing while cleaning up debris. Wear rubber gloves while scrubbing flood-damaged interiors and furniture.
- If phone service is available, have an out-of-state contact you can call. That person can call other friends and family and give them updates.
- If the electricity is out, open the refrigerator and freezer doors only when necessary. Eat refrigerated food first, then frozen food and dried or canned food last.
- If the power comes on within eight hours, anything with an “off” odor should be thrown out.

Financial preparations

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Jackson offers tips to help families weather the storm:

- **Start an emergency savings account.** Most experts recommend having a minimum of three to six months of living expenses in an emergency fund. These funds can be used to make disaster repairs, cover insurance deductibles, or pay monthly bills if your income is interrupted by job loss.
- **Review your insurance coverage.** Review your policy and make sure you have the proper amount of coverage to repair or replace your home and belongings. Pay special attention to deductibles that apply to specific events, such as hurricanes, which can be a percentage of your home’s value. Also review your flood coverage, which must be purchased separately from your homeowner’s insurance. You do not want to be in the position where you need coverage that you thought you had, but do not.
- **Secure critical documents.** Take some time to make sure that your critical documents are in a safe, secure place and could be taken with you if you have to evacuate.
- **Collect critical paper records** and if you have records on your computer, be sure to make a backup and store it away from your home. Documents you will want to secure include identification records (driver’s license, green card, passport); social security and tax information; titles, deeds, and registrations for property and vehicles owned; insurance policies; credit card, bank and investment records; birth certificates, marriage certificates and wills. Invest in a fire-proof box or safe-deposit box to keep these records secure.
- **Review your “what if” scenarios and make a plan.** What if your place of employment is damaged and will close either for a few weeks or indefinitely? What if your employer is ready to reopen but schools are still closed and you don’t have a place to bring your children? What if your home is damaged and no longer safe to live in? The rebuilding effort following a storm often creates new job opportunities. Talk to friends and neighbors about sharing the childcare responsibilities until school reopens so that you all miss as little work as possible.

Before the storm

- Gather documents and cash
- Store important documents such as insurance policies, deeds, property records and birth certificates in a bank safe-deposit box. Store copies in your disaster-supplies kit.
- Keep a stash of cash or traveler's checks at home where you can quickly get them in case of evacuation.

Make a family emergency plan:

- Identify a safe place in each room of your home and practice rapidly getting there. Best locations include under a sturdy desk or table, or beside a sturdy, large piece of furniture such as a sofa or bed. Avoid doorways as doors could bang open and shut during an earthquake or storm.
- Practice home-evacuation drills. Choose someplace nearby for your family to meet. Expect a lack of transportation.
- Educate your children. Get a copy of your school district's disaster policy regarding transportation and the release of students. Keep photos of family members in your wallet in case someone is missing.
- Take a first-aid course. Learn CPR.
- Know where the nearest police and fire stations are. Know the route to the nearest hospital emergency room. Keep critical phone numbers and your insurance-policy numbers by your phone and in your wallet.
- Enter your "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) numbers on your cell phone so emergency workers will know whom to contact if you're hurt. For example, enter "ICE husband John" and the phone number.
- Find out whether any neighbors have medical or other expertise.
- Plan to unite if your neighborhood becomes isolated. Help elderly, disabled or single-parent neighbors create an emergency plan. Get contact information for their relatives.



SUN HERALD FILE PHOTO — A car parked at the lot at Ken Combs Pier in Gulfport floats in the storm surge generated by Hurricane Gustav in 2008.

After the storm

- Check on everyone
- Provide first aid and a safe place for anyone who is injured or very upset. Check on and help neighbors.
- Call 911 or other emergency phone numbers only if the situation is life-threatening.

ASSESS SURROUNDING AREA

- Check for hazards such as fire, leaks, chemical spills and precarious structures. Natural-gas companies ask customers not to turn off their gas service at the meter unless they smell or hear a leak. If you smell gas coming from inside your home, call your gas company from a phone outside. It's important not to touch electric switches or use the telephone until the situation is corrected. Only the gas company can restore service.
- Plug appliances into a generator directly or with extension cords.
- Never plug a generator into a household outlet because power can flow back to the utility's main system and injure utility workers trying to restore power. Always run generators outdoors to prevent buildup of toxic fumes.
- Turn on the radio. In the case of an emergency that displaces many people, shelter locations will be announced.

CALL FOR HELP

- If phone service is available, give your out-of-state contact an update on your situation. If service is spotty, ask your contact to call your insurance company if necessary, and to call your family and friends who may be worried about you.

Gather water

- Be prepared to treat, filter or boil contaminated water.
- Use hot water sparingly. Most water heaters can retain heat for three days.

- If the water supply is cut off, drinking water is still available in your home in water heaters, in-house plumbing and melted ice cubes.

- Use a hose to get drinking water from your water heater's drain valve in an emergency. It will be cloudy at first but will clear up after a few gallons.

- If pipes break or leak, turn off water at the shut-off valve inside your home.

PREPARE FOOD

- If you have a wood stove with a flat top and an undamaged chimney, you can cook on it.

- If the electricity is out, open the refrigerator and freezer doors only when necessary. Eat refrigerated food first, frozen food next and dried or canned food last.

- Refrigerated foods should be OK for about eight hours, holding a temperature of 40 degrees, unless the door is opened often.

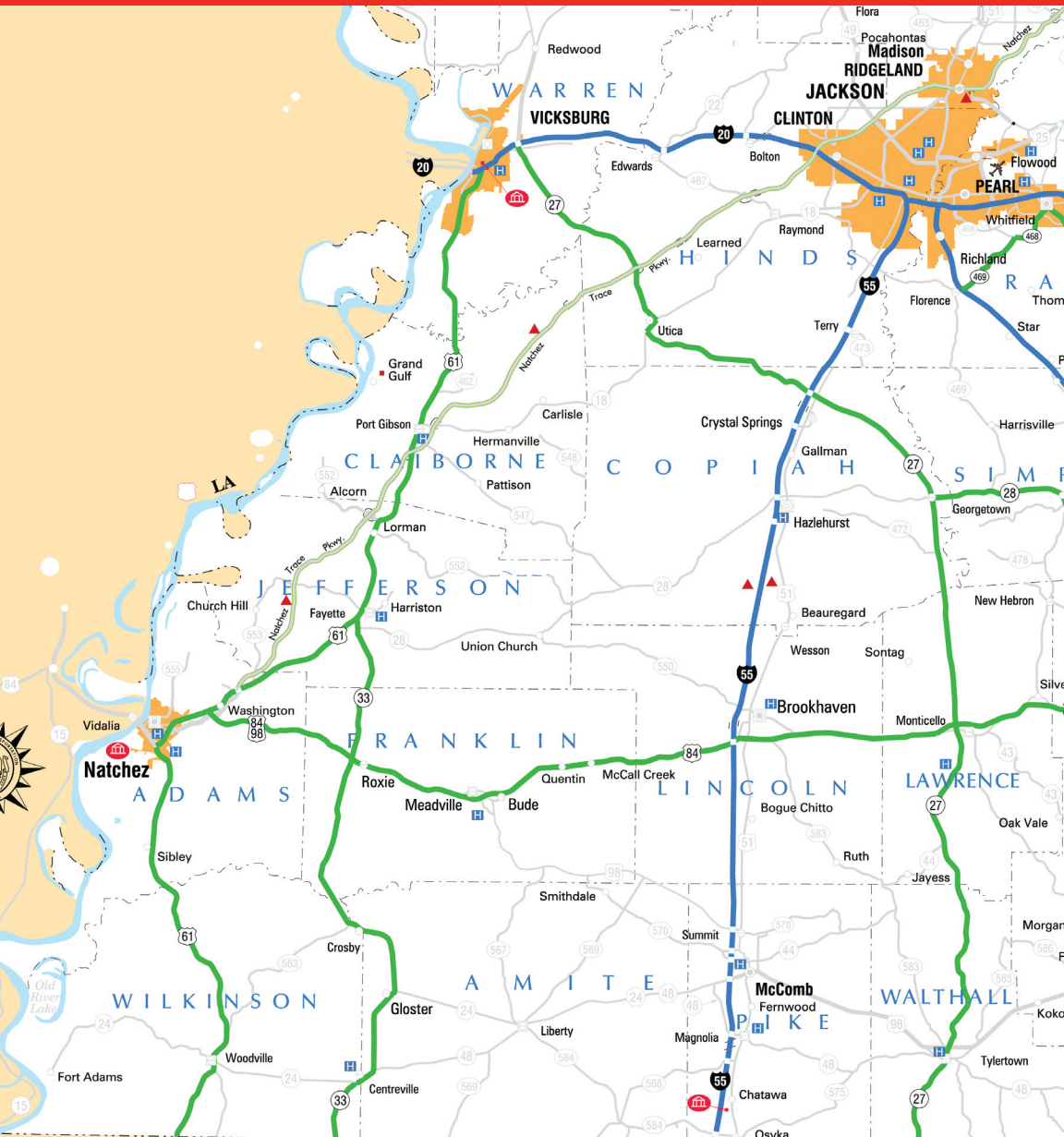
- If the power comes on within the eight hours, anything with an "off" odor should be thrown out.

- Food in a freezer of 12 cubic feet or more should stay frozen for 48 hours if the freezer is full and the door kept closed; that food will keep safely cold for up to 72 hours. Frozen food that has completely thawed — especially vegetables and dishes containing meat, fish, eggs, cheese and cream sauce — should be tossed out because of possible bacteria growth. If the freezer temperature is higher than 40 degrees, throw out all food.










ETC.

- Close off rooms that aren't being used.


- Turn off all appliances except the refrigerator and one light. This prevents a power surge when power is restored.



MISSISSIPPI HURRICANE EVACUATION MAP

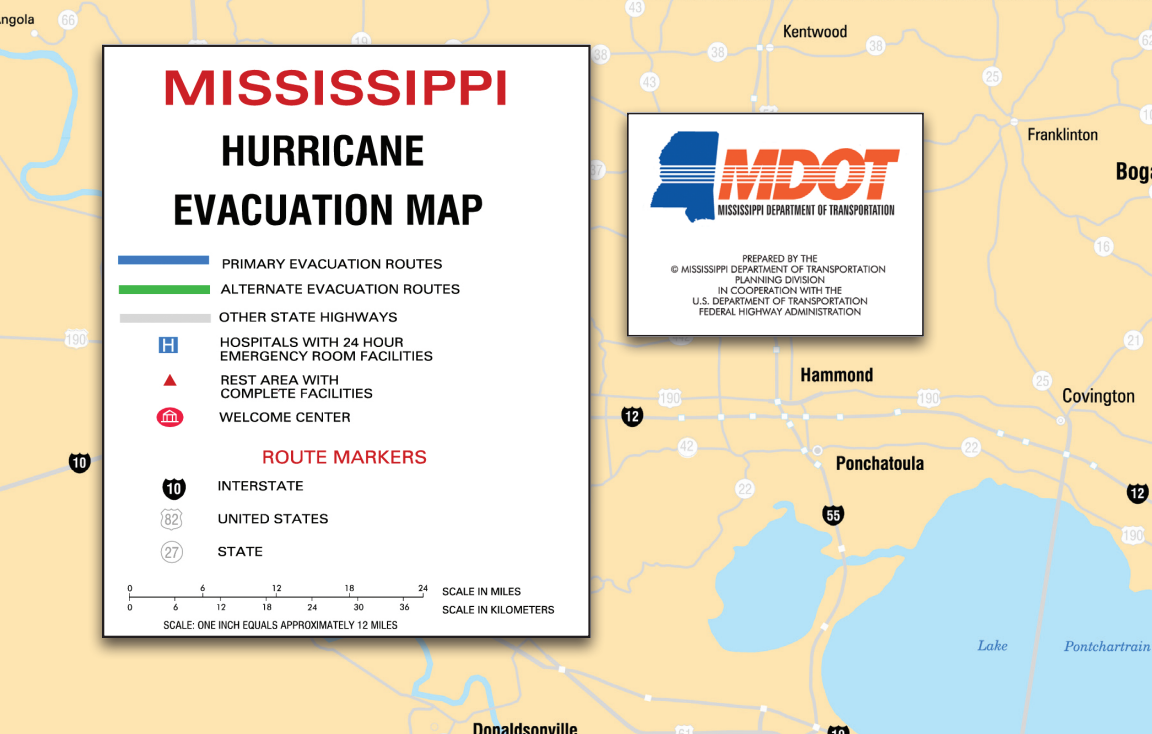
-  PRIMARY EVACUATION ROUTES
 -  ALTERNATE EVACUATION ROUTES
 -  OTHER STATE HIGHWAYS
 -  HOSPITALS WITH 24 HOUR EMERGENCY ROOM FACILITIES
 -  REST AREA WITH COMPLETE FACILITIES
 -  WELCOME CENTER
- ROUTE MARKERS**
-  INTERSTATE
 -  UNITED STATES
 -  STATE

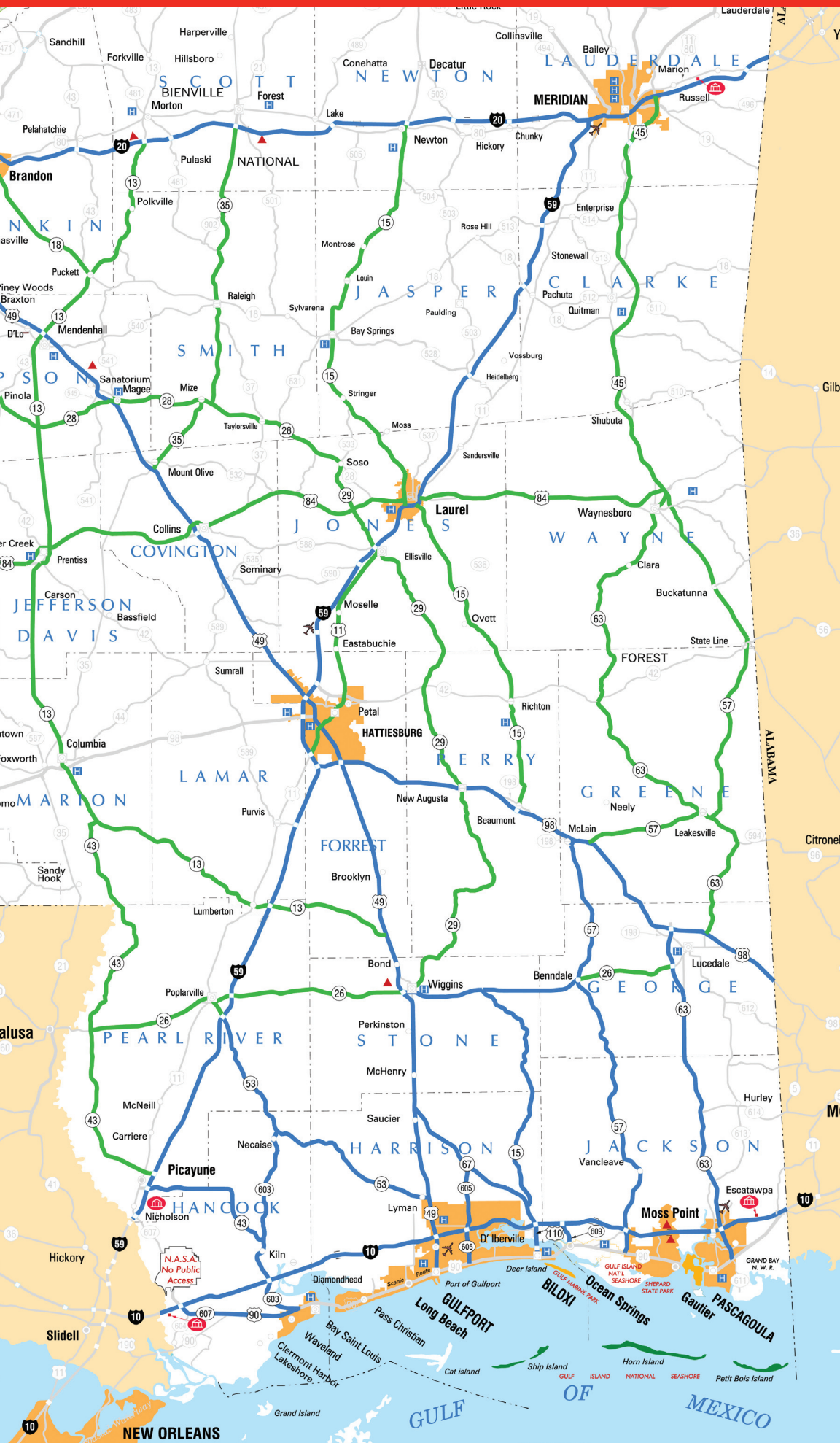
0 6 12 18 24 30 36 24
SCALE IN MILES
SCALE IN KILOMETERS
SCALE: ONE INCH EQUALS APPROXIMATELY 12 MILES



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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PLANNING DIVISION
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
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FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION





NEW ORLEANS

GULF OF MEXICO

N.A.S.A. No Public Access

GULF ISLANDS NATL SEASHORE SHEPARD STATE PARK
Gulfport Long Beach
Ocean Springs
Gautier
Pascagoula

ALABAMA

Escatawpa

Hurley

Lucedale

Benndale

Wiggins

Bond

Brooklyn

McHenry

Saucier

Lyman

D'Iberville

Moss Point

Vancleave

Benndale

Wiggins

Bond

Brooklyn

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Saucier

Lyman

D'Iberville

D'Iberville

In-state hurricane evacuation routes

Regardless the path of the hurricane, “Scram Northbound,” do not evacuate parallel to the coast, evacuate north. Consider taking an alternate evacuation route to arrive at your final destination in order to relieve traffic congestion on Hwy 49.

FROM JACKSON COUNTY

- Mississippi Highway 57 to U.S. Highway 45N at state line to Interstate 20 at Meridian
- Mississippi Highway 57 to U.S. Highway 98W at McLain to Mississippi Highway 15N to I-20 at Newton
- Mississippi Highway 63 to U.S. Highway 45N at Waynesboro to I-20 at Meridian

FROM HARRISON COUNTY

- Mississippi Highway 53 to Mississippi Highway 26W at Poplarville to Mississippi Highway 43N to Mississippi Highway 13N*
- Mississippi Highway 15 to Mississippi Highway 26E to Mississippi Highway 57N to U.S. Highway 45N at State Line to I-20 at Meridian
- Mississippi Highway 15 to Mississippi Highway 26W to Mississippi Highway 43N then to Mississippi Highway 13N*
- Mississippi Highway 67 to U.S. Highway 49N to Mississippi Highway 26, then either eastbound or westbound

FROM HANCOCK COUNTY

- Mississippi Highway 43 to Mississippi Highway 13N*
- Mississippi Highway 43 to Mississippi Highway 603N to Mississippi Highway 53N to Mississippi Highway 26W to Mississippi Highway 43N to Mississippi Highway 13N*
- Interstate 10W to Interstate 59N to I-20 at Meridian

FROM US HIGHWAY 49 SOUTH OF HATTIESBURG

- Traveling East — At Wiggins, take Mississippi Highway 29N to I-59 at Ellisville to I-20 at Meridian
- Traveling West — At Wiggins, take Mississippi Highway 26W to Mississippi Highway



43N to Mississippi Highway 13N*

FROM U.S. HIGHWAY 49 NORTH OF HATTIESBURG

- At Collins — Mississippi Highway 84W either to I-55 at Brookhaven to I-20 at Jackson or to US Highway 61 at Natchez north to I-20 @atVicksburg or west back into Louisiana
- At Mount Olive — Mississippi Highway 35N to I-20 at Forest
- At Magee — Mississippi Highway 28W to Mississippi Highway 27N

- to I-55 or on to I-20 at Vicksburg
- At Mendenhall — Mississippi Highway 13N to I-20 at Morton
- At Florence — Mississippi Highway 469N to Mississippi Highway 468W to I-20 at Brandon

FROM U.S. HIGHWAY 98 BETWEEN ALABAMA STATE LINE AND HATTIESBURG

- Mississippi Highway 63 to U.S. Highway 45N to I-20 at Meridian
- Mississippi Highway 57 to U.S. Highway 45N @ State Line to I-20 at Meridian
- Mississippi Highway 15 to I-20 at Newton or I-59 to Meridian
- Mississippi Highway 29 to I-59 at Ellisville or onto Mississippi Highway 28W to Mississippi Highway 27N to I-55 or on to I-20 at Vicksburg

*Options at Mississippi Highway 13 — Mississippi Highway 13N to I-20 at Morton, or Mississippi Highway 13N to Mississippi Highway 28W to Mississippi Highway 27N to I-55 or on to I-20 at Vicksburg

Courtesy of Mississippi Department of Transportation; www.GOMDOT.com



SUN HERALD FILE PHOTO — Residents who evacuated to Jackson for Hurricane Gustav board a Coast Transit at a Red Cross hurricane shelter to be taken home.

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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 requested by Louisiana and approved by the Governor of Mississippi. 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 operations would begin in Louisiana, extend into Mississippi, and end just south of Hattiesburg.
- The I-55 contraflow operations would 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 as traffic conditions allow. Law enforcement

officers will be present to assist with traffic control.

- 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.
- Tune-in to Mississippi Public Broadcasting radio stations for emergency information and updated road conditions.

Courtesy of Mississippi Department of Transportation; www.GOMDOT.com



OCEAN SPRINGS

- The Village (from the \$150's)
- South Breeze (from the \$170's)

D'IBERVILLE

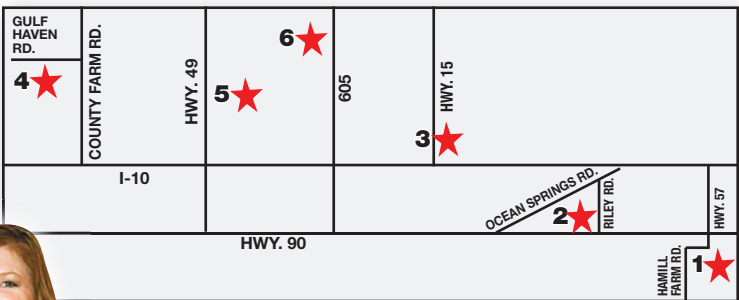
- Riverwalk North (from the \$200's)


GULFPORT

- Gulf Haven (from the \$160's)
- Mays Place (from the \$120's)

NORTH BILOXI

- Tradition (from the \$180's)









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To receive custom information by specific hurricane evacuation route, follow MDOT on Twitter.

- www.twitter.com/mdot_i55
- www.twitter.com/mdot_i59
- www.twitter.com/mdot_us49
- www.twitter.com/mdot_us98
- www.twitter.com/mdot_i10
- www.twitter.com/mdot_i20

Mississippi Public Broadcasting Stations

Biloxi WMAH 90.3 FM	Jackson WMPN 91.3 FM
Booneville WMAE 89.5 FM	Meridian WMAW 88.1 FM
Bude WMAU 88.9 FM	Miss. State WMAB 89.9 FM
Greenwood WMAO 90.9 FM	Oxford WMAV 90.3 FM

Traffic control around 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 U.S. Highway 49 may NOT be allowed to exit at either U.S. Highway 98 or I-59.

- Northbound traffic on I-59 can only exit at Mississippi Highway 11 (Exit 60) or west on Hardy Street/U.S. Highway 98 (Exit 65).

- Westbound traffic on U.S. Highway 98 may NOT be allowed to exit onto U.S. Highway 49, but directed to merge onto I-59 instead.

Courtesy of Mississippi Department of Transportation; www.GOMDOT.com

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Be ready to care for pets

A pet-friendly evacuation shelter for this season is near the masonry shop on the campus of Harrison Central High School. But officials still recommend it be used only as a last resort. If you evacuate, the single most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to plan ahead to take them with you.



- Bring all pets inside your home.
- Give them plenty of food and water.
- Make sure each pet is wearing a collar with identification.
- Try to make the pet as comfortable as possible; give it a safe and familiar towel or blanket and place to stay.
- Stock up on newspapers, paper towels, trash bags and cat litter.



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□ Choose a garage, utility room or bathroom, preferably with a tile floor to make cleanup easier. The room should be a place the animal knows.

□ Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets. On the Web, check out www.pets-allowed-hotels.com.

□ Check with friends, relatives or others outside your immediate area. Ask if they would be able to shelter you and your animals or just your animals, if necessary. If you have more than one pet, you may have to house them separately.

□ Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinary offices that might be able to shelter animals in emergencies and include 24-hour telephone numbers.

□ Emergency shelters require pet owners to provide vaccination proof, ID collar, ID on all belongings, enough water and food, favorite toy, medications, leash and waste-handling supplies.



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When traditional telephone lines are down, there are options

Here is some information on alternative communication that might help if traditional lines go down.

CELLULAR PHONES

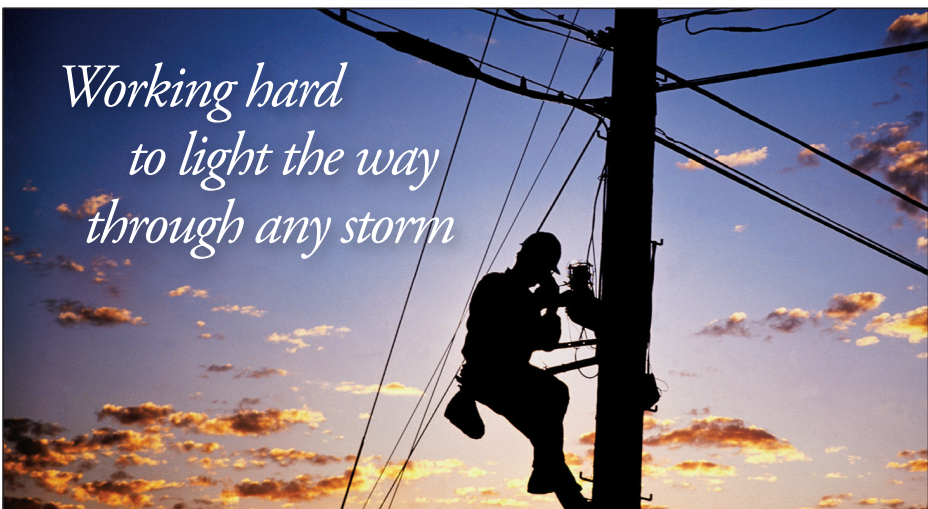
Most cellular companies have cell sites in hurricane-prone areas equipped with permanent or portable generators in the event of power outages, which are prevalent during storms.

To maximize use of cell phones during an emergency, here are some tips:

- Text messages will often go through quicker than voice calls during an emergency situation.
- Program all of your emergency contact numbers into your phone as well as family members.
- Have a family communications plan in place. Designate someone out of the area as a central contact, and make certain all fam-

ily members know whom to contact if they become separated.

- Keep your wireless phone batteries charged at all times. Have an alternate plan to recharge your battery in case of power outages (i.e. charging via your car charger, extra cell phone batteries, and use of a disposable cell phone battery).
- Forward your home number to your wireless number in the event of an evacuation. Since call forwarding is based out of the telephone central office, you will get incoming calls from your landline phone, even if your local telephone service is disrupted at your home.
- Keep non-emergency calls to a minimum. Chances are that if there is severe



No matter what storm blows our way, you can trust Mississippi Power will be there, ready to restore power as soon as possible.

Our early preparations have already been made to ensure damage assessments are handled efficiently and that our crews are in place. Because we know that when the lights come on, it's the first step to getting your life back on track.



When a storm is in the Gulf, you can follow Mississippi Power on Twitter to get the latest news and outage updates. Sign up now at twitter.com/MPCStorm.

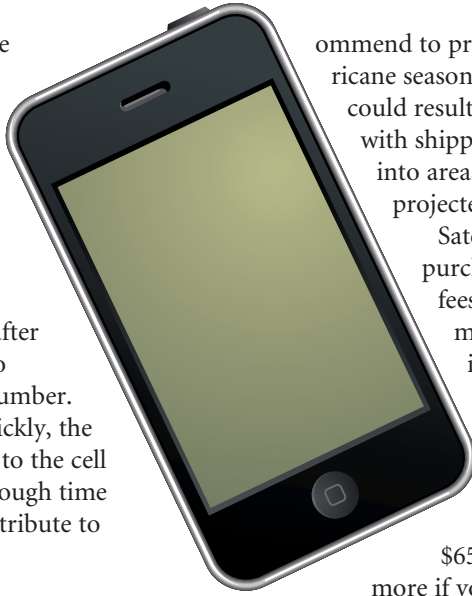


A SOUTHERN COMPANY

mississippipower.com

weather, many people will be attempting to place wireless calls.

- Wait 10 seconds before redialing a call. On many wireless phones, to redial a number you simply push “send” after you’ve ended a call to redial the previous number. If you do this too quickly, the data from the phone to the cell site does not have enough time to clear and may contribute to network congestion.



ommend to prepare before the hurricane season and warn that demand could result in delays and issues with shippers being able to deliver into areas where a hurricane is projected to hit.

Satellite telephones can be purchased or rented. Rental fees run from \$20 a week to more than \$200, depending on the company and phone style. Usually there is no minimum usage or activation fees. Purchase prices run average from

\$650 to \$1,500 and even more if you want extended fea-

tures such as Internet and voice capabilities. Refurbished phones prices start in the \$400 range.

Satellite airtime costs vary, depending on systems or purchase packages. But one can expect to pay about \$2 an hour. And, be aware that there are also monthly fees involved from \$30 for emergency service to about \$300 for extended service.

SATELLITE PHONES

Satellite telephones can give coverage everywhere in the United States in the event the local telephone infrastructure is disrupted. But they can be costly to operate.

Name-brand products include Iridium, Thuraya, Inmarsat and Globalstar.

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2011 Atlantic hurricane names

Experience shows that the use of short, distinctive given names in written as well as spoken communications is quicker and less subject to error than the older more cumbersome latitude-longitude identification methods. These advantages are especially important in exchanging detailed storm information between hundreds of widely scattered stations, coastal bases, and ships at sea.

Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms have been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Center. They are now maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization. The original name lists featured only women's names. In 1979, men's names were introduced and they alternate with the women's names. Six lists are used in rotation. Thus, the 2009 list will be used again in 2015. Here is more information about the history of naming hurricanes.

The only time that there is a change in the list is if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on a different storm would be inappropriate for reasons of sensitivity. If that occurs, then at an annual meeting by the WMO committee (called primarily to discuss many other issues) the offending name is stricken from the list and another name is selected to replace it.

In the event that more than 21 named tropical cyclones occur in the Atlantic ba-

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arlene | <input type="checkbox"/> Lee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bret | <input type="checkbox"/> Maria |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cindy | <input type="checkbox"/> Nate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don | <input type="checkbox"/> Ophelia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emily | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin | <input type="checkbox"/> Rina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gert | <input type="checkbox"/> Sean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey | <input type="checkbox"/> Tammy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irene | <input type="checkbox"/> Vince |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jose | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitney |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Katia | |

sin in a season, additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and so on. If a storm forms in the off-season, it will take the next name in the list based on the current calendar date. For example, if a tropical cyclone formed on December 28th, it would take the name from the previous season's list of names. If a storm formed in February, it would be named from the subsequent season's list of names.

Courtesy of National Hurricane Center;
www.nhc.noaa.gov

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Emergency network in place

As hurricane season begins, South Mississippi residents need to have the latest information about hurricanes and tropical storms where they form and where they are headed.

The Sun Herald will be here with all the updates and news about the storms in our print edition, at sunherald.com and on our Facebook and Twitter pages. We didn't miss a day of publication after Hurricane Katrina, and we plan to provide this area with

what it needs to know to stay safe and move out of harm's way this hurricane season.

The Sun Herald also is part of the Emergency Information Network, a group of local news sources, that will work together to keep South Mississippi informed about storm developments. The Sun Herald, WLOX-TV and several local radio stations will partner so that all of our readers and listeners will have the most up-to-date information possible.

Twitter — www.twitter.com/sunherald | **Facebook** — www.facebook.com/sunherald

The following are some facts and figures regarding hurricanes from the Census Bureau:

- There are 36.8 million people who are most threatened by Atlantic hurricanes, they live between North Carolina and Texas. About 12 percent of the nation's

population live in these areas.

- The collective land area from North Carolina to Texas has 179,015 square miles.
- In 1960, there were 14 million people who lived in this area. There has been a 163 percent increase in the coastal population between 1960 and 2010.

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