



**Mississippi Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster**  
*Promoting Cooperation, Communication, Coordination and Collaboration  
During Disaster Preparedness, Response, Relief and Recovery*

**SPECIAL CALLED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Preparations for Gustav**

Thursday, August 28, 2008 - 11:00 AM

Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions – Jay Huffstatler

Roll Call:

AMERICAN RED CROSS – Joshua Joachim

CATHOLIC CHARITIES – Greg Patin

GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – Jay Huffstatler

LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL SERVICES IN MISSISSIPPI – Sandra Braasch, Jon Biggs

MISSISSIPPI ASSEMBLIES OF GOD – Robert Bingham

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF – Don Gann

MISSISSIPPI COAST IDTF – Stephen Howard, Roberta Avila

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE – Marsha Kelly, Susan Gregerson

NATIONAL VOAD – Deb Alich

MEMA – Allen Roark, Chantel Fox

MISSISSIPPI UNITED METHODIST DISASTER RELIEF – C.J. Caufield

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE – Leslie Fedo, Sandra Price

THE SALVATION ARMY – James Mullins

UNITED WAY/MISSISSIPPI 2-1-1 – Valari Kyzar

Reports from Agencies:

**MEMA** – Red Cross is coordinating shelters tied to evacuation busing. MCVS will give their own report. IHL – all campuses holding meetings. Community College Board has contacted all 15 Community College Presidents. Medicaid in readiness mode.

**FEMA** - No one on call

**AMERICAN RED CROSS** – volunteer callouts on. Hearing back from numerous volunteers. Hancock & Pearl River EOC planning to stand up. Opening shelter in both locations possibly Sunday. Will release info as it is available. Harrison Co. EOC holding meeting today at 1:30 pm. Harrison Co. not planning to open shelters at this moment. Partnering with ASPCA and Humane Society of South Mississippi regarding pet-friendly shelters. They are shelters of last resort – will send info if these shelters will open.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES** – Not a first responder. Standing by to support Catholic Diocese of Biloxi. Contacting church parishes to see capability they might have for response. Will be able to help with response if needed. National Response Teams pre-positioning to Baton Rouge to be accessible regionally.

**LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL SERVICES IN MISSISSIPPI** – working to identify congregations in Jackson to take evacuees from congregations on coast. All camps on coast (Harrison, Hancock & Jackson Counties) have plans in place. Continuing to reach out to congregations on the coast. Talking with Lutheran Disaster Response and AL colleagues for preparation and response activities.

**MISSISSIPPI ASSEMBLIES OF GOD** – activating campground in North MS. Campground available in Perry MS to offer as staging area for state. Can house 200 people. Made contact with national medical and grocery teams. Working with state of LA as well.

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF** – set up feeding site as needed on Gulf Coast. Preliminary talks with ARC and TSA regarding meal counts to estimate kitchen sizes needed. ARC and TSA are asking for more meals in LA than in MS. All info is preliminary.

**MISSISSIPPI COAST IDTF** – has warehouse in Woolmarket. Board has decided to begin closing the warehouse. Closing date is Sept. 30.

**MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE** – has taken several steps. Had conference call with Volunteer Centers yesterday with those interested in opening volunteer reception centers. Has conference call

today scheduled with AmeriCorps regarding assistance to the volunteer centers should the need arise. Supporting statewide call center and opening statewide warehouse (decisions to be made in the next 24-48 to open those). Using 2-1-1 has the recognized #. The back-up 800 number is 866-472-8265. Had national and state chamber call this morning regarding donations coordination to be ready to step up in case the need arises. [www.211ms.com](http://www.211ms.com) is 211 website. Links from [www.volunteermisissippi.com](http://www.volunteermisissippi.com) and MCVS website also. Discouraging unaffiliated volunteers. There's no infrastructure to support them – they need to be self-sustainable (own housing and food). Volunteer Gulf Coast has partnership with Hands On and working to set up the system. Please send emergency contact numbers to Jay so we can have information for each agency. Please track volunteer hours – crucial for municipalities for their FEMA match. Please discourage donations of used clothes.

**MISSISSIPPI UNITED METHODIST DISASTER RELIEF** – had meeting with conference leaders yesterday. On the coast meeting with folks on the ground. Have plans in place to ensure volunteers evacuate and camps are secured. 5 points of collections throughout the state – will get info out. Sheltering/Housing at Camp Wesley Pines and also in Oxford. Emergency Response Teams in place throughout the state.

**NATIONAL VOAD** – has seat on National Response Coordination Center. Not there yet. Will do so when called. Standing by to assist in any way possible.

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE** – LA villages are being evacuated and items brought to Orange Grove Site. If that site needs to be evacuated, will be brought to Meridian. Emergency Response Teams on standby (medical, trauma, etc.)

**THE SALVATION ARMY** - just finished territory call. Canteens on stand-by. Staging area for operations in Hattiesburg. ICS teams on standby and also staging kitchen teams with MS Baptist Disaster Relief.

**UNITED WAY/MISSISSIPPI 2-1-1** - working with MCVS. In stand-by mode.

Questions:

Q: Special Needs patients – is there an agreement with AMR?

A: FEMA does have a contract with AMR. Once the contract is activated, clients will need to contact local EMA offices to let them know the need. EMA officials will contact AMR to have a client transported to a shelter.

Q: Will we go live with AidMatrix?

A: Waiting on support from AidMatrix to make a few changes. Will try to have this live in time for Gustav.

Q: 211 was down yesterday – is it up?

A: Yes, 211 was temporarily down yesterday. It is fully operational now.

Q: Where are volunteer centers?

A: MCVS will send out info as soon as it is available

Q: How are affiliated volunteers going to be able to get in to help after the storm?

A: Suggest having volunteers carry Drivers license and agency badge and/or letter on agency stationary signed by supervisor.

Q: Is there a list of state-wide shelters (ARC & Non-ARC)?

A: researching info and will send out if available. Jay has contacted FEMA to attempt to locate a list.

Q: Vaccinations available for volunteers?

A: Urge volunteers to ensure they have proper vaccinations before they come to the coast.

Q: Pet friendly Shelters?

A: [www.mbah.state.ms.us](http://www.mbah.state.ms.us)– Animal Health Site – has list of pet friendly motels and possibly shelters later.

Conference Call Schedule: **Friday**, August 29; **Saturday**, August 30; and **Monday**, September 1 – 11:00 AM daily  
Conference Call Number: 800.320.4330 – PIN: 897612#