



HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Laura Hipp (601) 576-2020; lhipp@governor.state.ms.us

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**GOV. BARBOUR DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR 39
MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES**

JACKSON – Governor Barbour today declared a State of Emergency for 39 Mississippi counties and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians after severe storms moved across the state.

The counties of Adams, Alcorn, Attala, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Coahoma, Covington, Grenada, Hinds, Holmes, Issaquena, Kemper, Lafayette, Lauderdale, Leake, Leflore, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Neshoba, Newton, Panola, Pike, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Rankin, Scott, Smith, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union, Yalobusha, Webster and Yazoo have reported damage from the storms. Five deaths have been reported.

The State of Emergency order allows emergency responders to efficiently utilize resources and receive state aid to respond to the situation.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who lost loved ones or property in these devastating spring storms,” Gov. Barbour said. “A large section of our state has been impacted, and our emergency responders are doing an excellent job in helping communities. This State of Emergency declaration will allow the state to offer aid to begin recovery efforts.”

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency officials are working closely with local emergency managers to assess the damages. MEMA continues to monitor severe storm weather moving through the state.