

Public Service Announcement for ESF-17

There is correction to the previous public service announcement for ESF-17. The help line for animal issues is 1-888-722-3106

If you live in or operate out of an affected area and have not been contacted in regards to livestock or other agriculture related issues involving damage that was sustained during the hurricane, you can contact your county EOC or call 1-888-722-3106. Messages left at the toll free number will be forwarded to the specific area of operations that deal with the direct need specified in the message.

We realize that the majority of Mississippi Counties were impacted to some degree by the storm. Current countywide assessments are taking place in the hardest hit areas. These areas have been determined to be from the highway 98-corridor to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Assessments began on September 7th in the counties of Amite, Forest, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Pike, Stone and Walthall.

A concern to be addressed is in the area of animal carcass disposal. For individuals with animal loss and disposal issues, please call the hotline at 1-888-722-3106.

Personnel at the Hattiesburg location are making personal contacts for messages that have been left on the hotline (1-888-722-3106).

Over 100 individuals are operating out of the Hattiesburg location alone.

Preliminary analysis of the assessment forms indicates that the greatest needs among the agricultural community are for building and fencing materials.

Donations of agricultural supplies are currently being delivered to the Forrest County Multi-Purpose center. This location is to be used as a warehouse that will supply distribution points located in each county from the highway 98-corridor to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Currently there are 187 dogs, 85 cats, 7 horses, 4 rabbits and an iguana that are being housed at the Hattiesburg location. Additional animals arrive sporadically and are being immediately examined in the MASH animal hospital.

Assessments have been completed in Amite, Forrest, Lamar, and Marion, Pike and Walthall counties. The information generated from these assessments will be used to influence policy and create agriculture programs to address specific needs of the agricultural community.

Liaison groups operating in support of ESF17 Response include Mississippi Farm Bureau, Humane Society of the United States, Mississippi State University-Extension Service, State Agricultural Response Team of the State of Florida, Veterinary Medical Assistance Team and Wildlife Services.

Mississippi Board of Animal Health Hotline 1-888-722-3106

<http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/hurricane.html>