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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Jackson, Mississippi  
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## **Insurance Claims Paid in Mississippi Now Over \$5 Billion**

Jackson –Commissioner of Insurance George Dale announced that as of today insurance companies have paid out over \$5 billion in hurricane related claims for Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Over \$3.6 billion of that is for Hurricane Katrina claims, \$1.3 billion in flood insurance claims, with claims paid for Hurricane Rita over \$6 million. The approximate total for claims now stands at \$5,003,909,300. Those numbers continue to rise as the Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) continues to work with companies and consumers on hurricane related issues. As of today, there have been approximately 380,000 claims filed on Hurricane Katrina and over 3,700 claims filed on Hurricane Rita.

In the three hardest hit coastal counties, over 141,000 claims have been filed, with over \$1.3 billion paid in claims in those counties alone. In Jackson County there have been over 44,000 claims filed and over \$310 million in claims paid. In Hancock County there have been over 24,000 claims filed and over \$216 million in claims paid. In Harrison County there have been over 72,000 claims filed and over \$774 million in claims paid. These figures do not include flood claims.

“So much important work in assisting hurricane victims is still ahead of us. If we continue to work together; local, state, and federal government, the insurance industry, and the private sector, we can rebuild a stronger Mississippi and a stronger Gulf Coast. MID continues to strive to help all citizens get their claims paid, while assuring there is an insurance market in place once people begin to rebuild,” said Dale, who recently returned from a trip to Washington where he appeared before the House Financial Services Committee and met with the Mississippi Congressional delegation.

The National Flood Insurance Program’s recent suspension of claims payments due to running out of borrowing authority caused some delays. Dale is confident that now that Congress voted last Friday, November 18, to increase the NFIP’s borrowing authority, companies will begin paying claims again this week.

The call center for the Mississippi Department of insurance is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm for consumers to call for Hurricane Katrina insurance assistance. The numbers are: Locally - 601-359-2453; In State 1-800-562-2957; Out-of-State - 1-866-856-1982.

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