MIKE CHANEY Commissioner of Insurance State Fire Marshal

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mike Chaney, Commissioner of Insurance/State Fire Marshal Mississippi Insurance Department Jackson, Mississippi Friday, February 29, 2008 For additional information, please contact Donna J. Cromeans, Public Relations Director 601-359-3569

## **Chaney Hosts Coastal Insurance Forum**

Jackson – Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney announced today that the Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) will be offering coastal residents useful additional insurance information at a Coastal Insurance Forum, on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC), Jefferson Davis Campus-Arena Theater in Gulfport.

The forum, to be held from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., will feature speakers from the Wind Pool, the Stennis Institute, and Hancock Bank to discuss how insurance issues affect such areas of recovery as banking and housing. A group of panelists from MGCCC, the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, and coastal media representatives will also participate.

"The MID is trying to do everything possible within the law to help the residents and businesses of the Gulf Coast rebuild as quickly as possible. Tuesday's forum is just one step in the process. This fact-finding learning experience will be invaluable in our efforts to narrow focus on what needs to be done now and how, by talking and working with residents, community and business leaders, we can accomplish our goal of resolving those issues, "said Commissioner Chaney.

The forum is open to the public, but seating is limited. Due to limited time constraints, there will be no open question and answer session. However, the MID will provide each person in the audience a card for written questions. The cards will be filled out at the forum and returned to MID staffers in attendance. The MID guarantees a response as quickly as possible.

"Given the volume of information we are presenting, this is the best way to give everyone in attendance the opportunity to be heard. Having the questions in writing, gives the Department more time to fully respond than would be available at the forum," said Chaney.