



## **For Immediate Release**

**August 23, 2012**

# **Chaney Urges Coastal Residents to Be Prepared and Vigilant**

Jackson – With Tropical Storm Isaac about to enter the Gulf of Mexico and projected to become a hurricane, Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney urges coastal residents to remain vigilant and begin making storm preparations now.

“Reviewing your insurance policy is an important part of those preparations, don’t wait until it is too late, start preparing now,” Chaney said.

He also reminds Mississippians that most insurance companies will not accept new applications after a designated hurricane or named storm enters the Gulf of Mexico or the area located in the boundaries of 80 degrees West longitude by 20 degrees North latitude.

"Being prepared in advance of a storm can help save lives and property and can prevent unpleasant insurance surprises should Tropical Storm Isaac take aim at the state," Chaney said.

The Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) offers the following tips for advance storm preparations:

- Check your homeowner's policy to make sure it contains flood and windstorm coverage.
- Have a family evacuation plan and disaster kit ready.
- Review coverage limits on your home and valuables to make sure they are fully covered.
- Determine whether your policy will pay replacement cost or actual cash value in the event of a loss.

- Find out whether your policy will pay for "additional living expenses" to cover the cost of hotels and meals should your home become uninhabitable.
- Record and update an inventory of all personal belongings. Make photos, and, if possible, a videotape showing your possessions. Record insurance policy information. (A home inventory checklist is available on the Storm Preparedness Page of the MID website at [www.mid.state.ms.us](http://www.mid.state.ms.us), or use the NAIC MyHome Scr.app.book home inventory app for mobile phones.)
- Take proactive steps to protect your property from loss. Install storm shutters or cover windows prior to a storm. Be sure there is no loose siding on your home and no damaged or diseased trees growing over your home.

MID is continuing to monitor the situation in the Gulf. For more information on advance preparations visit the storm preparedness pages of the Mississippi Insurance Department website at [www.mid.state.ms.us](http://www.mid.state.ms.us) or follow the department on Twitter® @MSInsuranceDept.