



For Immediate Release

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Mississippians Need Flood Insurance For More than Hurricane Season

Jackson, MS –The 2016 hurricane season is less than 30 days away, and it is a good time for everyone to review their insurance needs and purchase flood insurance. Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney today stressed that the beginning of hurricane season is not the only time Mississippians need flood insurance.

“Coastal residents learned last week that significant flooding in their area can occur without the presence of a hurricane or tropical storm,” Chaney said.

Chaney also warns Mississippians not to become complacent about the lack of a major storm in the Gulf Coast in nearly a decade. He stressed preparation should be the same every year regardless of how many storms are predicted, and a key component to preparation is having proper flood insurance. As the 2016 hurricane season begins June 1, he added that everyone needs to be aware that it takes 30 days for a flood policy to take effect.

“The time to check if you have proper flood insurance is now, before hurricane season begins. It’s not the quantity, but the intensity that makes the difference in a storm. Just one storm can cause significant damage and flooding. Don’t wait too late; contact your agent about flood insurance today,” Chaney said.

The Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) does not regulate the NFIP, approve its rates or changes or have any authority over the program. However, the department encourages all citizens to determine their flood insurance needs to protect their homes and property.

Coastal residents now have more options when purchasing flood insurance with the addition of seven new private companies offering flood insurance along the Mississippi gulf coast.

Many residents across the U.S. still lack adequate insurance protection against flood damage causing them to absorb significant financial losses on their own or seek limited funding from other sources to rebuild or repair after a storm. Some remain unaware that their homeowner's policy does not cover flooding.

Most everyone- renters, business owners, and homeowners-can purchase flood insurance. In moderate- to low- risk areas, homeowners and businesses can purchase low-cost Preferred Risk Policies (PRPs). Learn more about your flood risk at www.FloodSmart.gov or by calling 1-800-427-2419, or your local insurance agent.