

"There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks and cost of comfortable inaction." *President John F. Kennedy*



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MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF  
INSURANCE AND RISK  
MANAGEMENT

# SAFETY & LOSS CONTROL NEWS

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## MOSQUITO PREVENTION - KNOWING THE ENEMY

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### TIP:

If you have a building with mosquitoes inside, and you are sure they are not breeding from inside (no water source) - look for doors that are propped open, especially at night!

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Mosquito Breeding Habitat Can Be Formed By:

- Tires stored outdoors
- Buckets / cans
- Gutters
- Flower pots
- Playground equipment
- Fountains / birdbaths
- Flat roofs
- Poorly maintained pools
- Equipment / tools
- Puddles
- Leaking water lines
- Air conditioner drains
- Pet bowls
- Uncovered boats

Mosquito prevention on university campuses can be a chore, to say the least. Knowing your enemy (in this case, the little biters) is always a key to victory. The following comes from "MosquitoBuzz.com" and The MS Dept. Of Health, where you can find much more if you're interested:

There are about 3,000 species of mosquitoes in the world, 150 in the USA. The MS Dept. of Health reports 53 species occurring in MS!

Mosquitoes fly at a rate of 1-1 1/2 m.p.h. Most stay close to home (within 100 yards of where they hatched). Some travel as far as 10 miles.

Only the female mosquito bites. They need the protein from blood to produce eggs.

Male mosquitoes feed only on the nectar from plants.

The life-span for most females ranges from 3 to 100 days. Males live only 10-20 days.

Mosquitoes need water to multiply. They lay eggs in the water. The larvae are hatched and live in water. The pupa then develop and quickly become adult mosquitoes that can fly and bite. The whole process from egg to adult takes 8-10 days in MS!

Adults rest and play in remote shaded areas that are cool and moist when not hunting for a meal.

Bug zappers don't kill mosquitoes. They kill insects attracted to light which are usually moths, ladybugs, beetles and some beneficial insects/bugs. Mosquitoes that bite

(females) are looking for blood and are attracted to live animals and humans through the exhaling of carbon dioxide (hold your breath!).

Products that lure mosquitoes with carbon dioxide produced from the combustion of propane (which also produces deadly carbon monoxide) do seem to work by then trapping the insects and holding them until death. Do not use these indoors!

Now that you know the enemy, attack it's critical need - water. Do not allow water to stand untreated for more than two days. Use insecticides and larvicides to treat standing water that cannot be removed. Create an arid environment by keeping grass cut, pruning shrubs, repairing leaking water faucets, valves, and hoses.

## HAZARDS OF FLOOD CLEANUP WORK

With hurricane season in full swing, it makes sense to recognize the hazards associated with cleanup activities. Whether you work on the Gulf Coast or in north Mississippi, flooding can become a problem after any thunderstorm.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) urges people involved in cleanup work to be aware of (and prepare for) the following hazards associated with areas that have been flooded:

**Electrical** - turn off any electrical equipment that has been in contact with water. Do not turn on until a qualified electrician has inspected it. Never handle downed power lines.

If using a generator to power a building, switch the main

breaker (or fuse) off prior to starting the generator. This prevents inadvertent energization of lines that could shock utility workers.

Coordinate any clearing of debris near power lines with utility company. Be aware of ladder contact and underground line possibilities.

**Carbon Monoxide** - many cleanup activities involve gasoline powered equipment. Many deaths have resulted from improper use indoors, or inadequate ventilation outdoors. Never run combustion engines indoors.

**Backs, Knees & Shoulders** - common injuries when lifting and handling debris. Use proper body mechanics, use team-work, use equipment. Warm-up muscles prior to

work and stay within your limits.

**Heat Stress** - from cramps, to exhaustion, to stroke. Drink 12 ounces of fluid every 20 minutes. Wear light, loose (but not dangerously loose) fitting clothes. Incorporate work/rest cycles into routine. Utilize air conditioning from vehicles when possible during breaks.

**Structural Instability** - water may have weakened materials, erosion may have damaged foundations.

**Hazardous Materials** - flood waters can cause and contain spilled material that could be harmful. Wear rubber gloves, boots, and other protective clothing as needed.

**Fatigue** - long, stressful hours of hard work can impair judgment. Take breaks and ask for help when needed.

## MORE 15-PASSENGER VAN RECOMMENDATIONS

A five-page summary of FAQs leading up to 18 specific recommendations (with explanations) has been written with regard to the safe operation of 15-passenger vans. The document is available from the Office of Risk Management upon request made to Andy Taylor. Following is a *very brief* synopsis of the recommendations.

Drivers should be experienced.

Drivers should be skilled.

Drivers should be trained.

Driving time should be limited.

Time of day should be limited.

Drivers should be held responsible.

Vans should carry no more than 10 people.

Vans should be loaded from front to rear.

Roof racks / car-top carriers should be prohibited.

Cargo should be low and secure.

All occupants must wear

seat-belts (shoulder + lap).

Towing (if allowed) should not be done with passengers on board.

Backing requires extra caution.

Emergency equipment should be supplied.

Drivers should conduct pre-trip inspections.

Mechanics should conduct monthly inspections.

Safety items should be repaired/replaced during trips.

Applies to rentals & leases.



Does your facility have evacuation routes posted? Above is an excellent example from the Greenville Higher Education Center. The GHEC is a cooperative venture between Delta State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and Delta Community College.

## SAFETY MEETING: PREVENTING CHAINSAW INJURIES

Hurricanes always bring out the chainsaws. Each year 36,000 people are treated in emergency rooms nationwide for chainsaw injuries. Whether you have already responded to a storm this year, or just want to be prepared for the next one, here are some very basic tips offered by the CDC and my own experience:

**Consult the owner's manual** for best instructions on operation, adjustment and maintenance of the saw. Follow those instructions! Note that all saws are not the same, so don't apply one set of instructions (like proper fuel mixture or file size) to all saws.

**Keep chains sharp and bars oiled.** Periodically stop to check for proper tension. Remember, a chain will tighten some as it cools, so don't tighten a hot chain too much!

**Choose the right saw for the job.** Is it large enough to cut the material you will be cutting? Is it too large for the situation you are in?

**Are all the built-in safety features in place?** This includes: chain brake, front and rear hand guards, kill switch, anti-kickback device, chain catcher and spark arrester. If you don't know what those are, consult the owner's manual!

**Wear personal protective equipment (PPE).** Minimum recommended PPE includes: hardhat, hearing protection, face shield and/or safety glasses, leather gloves, chainsaw chaps that extend from waist to top of foot (past top of boot), Sturdy work boots with good ankle support and good traction.

**Include supporting tools in chainsaw kit.** Items such as a first aid kit (with "blood-stopper" bandages), a correctly sized file for sharpening chain, wrenches to adjust bar/chain tension, screwdriver, spare chain, spare sparkplug, bar oil, plastic wedges (for getting out of a bind), axe (for tapping plastic wedges) can all be helpful while on cleanup duty.

**Properly mixed fuel should also be on hand.** It should be mixed according to the owner's manual and stored in an approved container. The container should be clearly labeled as to mix ratios or equipment it is assigned to.

**Do not cut debris near downed power lines** until absolutely positive that they have been de-energized.

**Always cut and keep saw at waist level or below.**

**Clear area as needed to ensure good footing.** Remove vines, limbs, debris or other tripping hazards before starting a cut.

**Keep bystanders at a safe distance.** If felling a standing tree, that's 2 tree lengths. If cutting downed timber, at least 30 feet. A "lookout" may be needed to warn others of danger.

**Use extra caution when cutting "spring poles."** Find point of most tension and *slowly* shave underside to release tension under your control.

**First Aid Corner:**  
**Treat with Ice or Heat?**

<p><b>Ice -</b></p> <p><b>1st 48-72 hrs. after injury.</b></p> <p><b>To numb, reduce pain, reduce hemorrhaging &amp; reduce swelling.</b></p> <p><b>Min 20 - Max 30 minutes on.</b></p> <p><b>1 Hr. between applications.</b></p>	<p><b>Heat -</b></p> <p><b>Begin 72 hrs. after injury.</b></p> <p><b>To open blood vessels and wash away waste material.</b></p> <p><b>Min 20 - Max 30 minutes on.</b></p> <p><b>1 Hr. between applications.</b></p>
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