



2026 HURRICANE EVACUATION GUIDE

Hurricane Evacuation Tips

When hurricanes are approaching, don't take chances. Know before you go and stay informed.

- Know where you'll go, whether it's a family member's house, hotel or shelter.
- Know your primary evacuation route and have a secondary route planned as a backup. [See evacuation map on reverse side.]
- To avoid congestion on Hwy 49, consider taking an alternate evacuation route.
- Make arrangements for your pets. [Pets are NOT allowed in most shelters.]
- Seek information from local officials regarding road closures and additional emergency information.
- Fill up your gas tank and have cash on hand.
- Download the MDOT Traffic App to get real time, location-based notifications about road conditions, weather and more.
- Take your time and be patient!

Hurricane Evacuation Routes

See the reverse side for a map of official hurricane evacuation routes highlighted in blue and green. Use it to plan your path to safety.

Scan the code below to download the MDOT Traffic App and see real-time road conditions.



Radio Coverage Areas

Mississippi Public Broadcasting FM Radio



Tune in for emergency information and updated road conditions.

Contact Information

MDOT

1-866-521-MDOT (1-866-521-6368)
www.GoMDOT.com

MS Highway Patrol

601-987-1212 [*HP from any cell]
www.dps.ms.gov

MEMA

1-800-222-MEMA (1-800-222-6362)
www.msema.org

Lodging [Mississippi Tourism]

1-866-SEE-MISS
[1-866-733-6477]
www.visitmississippi.org

Campsites

[MS Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks]
1-800-GO-PARKS
[Park Reservations 1-800-467-2757]
www.mdwfp.com

Animal Shelters

[MS Board of Animal Health]
1-888-646-8731
www.mbah.state.ms.us

MS Animal Disaster Hotline

1-888-722-3106

MS Department of Health

1-866-458-4948
www.HealthyMS.com

MS Insurance Department

601-359-3569
www.mid.ms.gov

MS Division of Medicaid

1-800-421-2408
www.medicaid.ms.gov

United Way

601-948-4725
www.myunitedway.com

Louisiana DOTD

877-4LA-DOTD (1-877-452-3683)
www.emergency.louisiana.gov

Louisiana State Police

1-800-469-4828
www.lsp.org

Alabama DOT

334-353-6554
www.dot.state.al.us

Alabama Highway Patrol

334-242-4393
www.ALEA.gov/DPS/highway-patrol

Arkansas HTD

501-569-2374
www.arkansashighways.com

Arkansas State Police

501-618-8000
www.asp.arkansas.gov

Tennessee DOT

877-244-0065
smartway.tn.gov

Tennessee Highway Patrol

615-741-3181
*847 [within Tennessee]
www.tn.gov/safety

Georgia DOT

877-694-2511
511ga.org

Georgia State Patrol

800-436-7442
dps.georgia.gov

Florida DOT

850-414-4100
www.fdot.gov

Florida Highway Patrol

1-800-459-6861
www.FL511.com

American Red Cross

1-866-GET-INFO (1-866-438-4636)
www.redcross.org/mississippi
Note: phone number is only active during crisis situations

FEMA

1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362)
www.fema.gov
and www.disasterassistance.gov

FEMA Shelter Information

Text "shelter" and your ZIP code to 43362 for a list of shelters within 200 miles of your location.

Contraflow Plans

I-59 and I-55 Contraflow Plans

To assist the state of Louisiana, MDOT will implement contraflow (all lanes flow northbound) for both I-59 and I-55 when requested by the Governor of Louisiana and approved by the Governor of Mississippi. Category III, IV or V hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico might prompt a mandatory evacuation of the greater New Orleans area.

- The decision to contraflow is NOT automatic and will only be used when absolutely necessary. Citizens **should not delay** evacuation in anticipation of contraflow.
- The I-59 contraflow operations will begin in Louisiana, extend into Mississippi, and end just south of Hattiesburg.
- The I-55 contraflow operations will begin in Louisiana, extend into Mississippi, and end just south of Brookhaven.
- All exits within the contraflowed sections of the interstate highways **will remain open** as traffic conditions allow. Law enforcement officers will be present to assist with traffic control.
- The shoulders of both I-59 and I-55 should be kept clear for emergency vehicles. Motorists who need to stop should use the next available exit.
- Hancock County residents traveling westbound to Louisiana on I-10 will be routed North onto I-59 at the I-10/I-12 split.
- Contraflow operations *cannot* be considered on Highway 49.



Hattiesburg Traffic Control

During hurricane evacuations, traffic congestion in the Hattiesburg area can be severe. To reduce area congestion and optimize the flow of traffic, MDOT may restrict or close entrances and exits on U.S. 49 N, I-59 and U.S. 98 W as traffic conditions warrant. These closures may occur with or without contraflow in place.

