



From Recovery to Resilience

Mississippi Coastal Hurricane Preparedness Summit

Thursday, October 8, 2026 · Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College · Free & Open to the Public

TIME	SESSION
8:00–9:00 a.m.	Registration Opens · Community Resilience Expo Opens
9:00–9:10 a.m. (10 min)	Welcome & Summit Overview - Opening: Commissioner Carr - Invocation Prayer: Commissioner Brown - Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Stamps
9:10–9:35 a.m. (25 min)	2026 Hurricane Season: Storm Surge Science & Landfall Forecasting Carrie Duncan, WLOX Meteorologist
9:35–10:00 a.m. (25 min)	PORCH TALK Anatomy of a Restoration: Historical Recovery After a Landfalling Hurricane Brigadier General Benjamin J. Spraggins, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
10:00–10:25 a.m. (25 min)	The Federal Front Line: Securing Resources for Mississippi's Coast U.S. Representative Mike Ezell, MS's Fourth Congressional District
10:25–10:50 a.m. (25 min)	Safeguarding the Process: State Leadership in Crisis Readiness Stephen C. McCraney, Executive Director, MEMA
10:50–11:15 a.m. (25 min)	Lessons from Katrina: Leadership Then, Legacy Now Governor Haley Barbour, 70th Governor of Mississippi (2004–2012)
11:15–11:25 a.m. (10 min)	Break · Expo Open
11:25–11:50 a.m. (25 min)	Hardening the Coast: Undergrounding, Pole Standards & Substation Flood Protection Moderator: - Stacey Miles, Grid Investment Manager, Mississippi Power Company Panelists: - Coast Electric Power Association - Singing River Electric Power Association
11:50 a.m.–12:15 p.m. (25 min)	Critical Infrastructure: Cybersecurity on the Coast Moderator: - Commissioner Wayne Carr Panelists: - Jamie Gruich, Ph.D., Computer Networking & Cybersecurity Technology Instructor, MGCCC — Center for Cybersecurity - Rob Maness, Colonel USAF, Retired
12:15–1:00 p.m. (45 min)	Lunch Break · Expo Open *Lunch is provided for attendees.
1:00–1:25 p.m. (25 min)	Evacuation, Sheltering & Utility Access for Vulnerable Populations Moderator: - Commissioner Sean Tindell, Mississippi Department of Public Safety Panelists: - Holly Bilbo, Hancock County EMA - Jeff Clark, Executive Director, Harrison County Senior Services
1:25–1:50 p.m. (25 min)	Community Lifelines at the Local Level: A Practical Approach to Hurricane Response Moderator: - Matt Stratton, Emergency Management Director, Harrison County EMA Panelists: - Stephen C. McCraney, Executive Director, MEMA - Patrick Levine, Chief Operating Officer, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
1:50–2:15 p.m. (25 min)	Water & Wastewater Systems Under Storm Surge Moderator: - MPSC Commissioner De'Keither Stamps Panelists: - Robyn Reiter, Hancock County Water & Sewer - Marie Ostrander, Harrison County Utility Authority
2:15–2:40 p.m. (25 min)	Mutual Aid in Motion: Nonprofit & Faith-Based Partnerships Responding on the Coast Moderator: - MPSC Commissioner Chris Brown Panelists: - Kathy Springer, Chief Executive Officer, United Way of South Mississippi - Josh Barton, Executive Director, Home of Grace
2:40–3:05 p.m. (25 min)	Fueling Recovery: Natural Gas Safety & Restoration on the Coast Moderator: - Ryan King, Chief Regulatory and Growth Strategy Officer, Delta Utilities Panelists: - Ronnie Vanney, Public Works Director, Bay St. Louis Utility Department - Julie Moody, Utilities Manager & Bo Humphrey, Public Works Manager, Waveland Utilities Department

TIME	SESSION
3:05–3:15 p.m. (10 min)	<i>Break · Expo Open</i>
3:15–3:40 p.m. (25 min)	Staying Connected: Telecommunications & Emergency Alerts After a Storm Moderator: ● <i>Dan Cuevas, Harrison County Supervisor, District 1, Board President</i> Panelists: ● <i>Pat Sullivan, Chief, Harrison County Fire Rescue, Harrison County Fire Coordinator</i> ● <i>Matt Stratton, Emergency Management Director, Harrison County EMA</i>
3:40–4:05 p.m. (25 min)	DOCKSIDE CHAT Mississippi's Waters Before, During & After the Storm: Ports, Vessels & Marine Debris ● <i>Michael Strickland, Patrol Captain, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources</i> ● <i>Charles Tillotson, Port Director, Port of Pascagoula</i>
4:05–4:30 p.m. (25 min)	County Coordination: Coastal Lessons Learned Moderator: ● <i>Rebecca Powers, Harrison County Supervisor, District 2</i> Panelists: ● <i>Scotty Adam, Hancock County Supervisor, District 4, Board President</i> ● <i>Randy Bosarge, Jackson County Supervisor, District 5, Board President</i>
4:30 p.m.	Public Service Commissioners: Recap and Closing Remarks