

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of Media Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2011

**UPDATED: Cabinet Members to Travel to Alabama, Mississippi to Meet
with Families, Officials and View the Damage**

WASHINGTON - Following the President's commitment on Friday that the federal government would do everything possible to help families and communities recover from the deadly tornadoes from earlier this week, several members of his Cabinet will travel to Alabama and Mississippi on Sunday. They will meet with families affected by the storms, as well as meet with state and local officials, while viewing damage and assessing the initial recovery efforts already underway.

Those traveling to the area on Sunday include:

Janet Napolitano, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security;
Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture;
Shaun Donovan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and
Karen Mills, Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration.

STOP 1:

What: Media availability to discuss ongoing response efforts in Alabama following last week's devastating severe weather.

When: Sunday, May 1 at 1:15 PM CDT; Media must preset no later than 12 PM CDT

Where: Birmingham, Ala.

Who: Secretary Napolitano, Secretary Donovan, Secretary Vilsack, Administrator Fugate, Administrator Mills, Birmingham Mayor William Bell, American Red Cross President and CEO Gail McGovern and other state and local officials.

Additional details: The media availability will be located at intersection of Dugan St. and Lafayette St., at the top of the hill on Dugan St. Due to space constraints and to limit the number of people traveling with the group during the tour of tornado damage in Pratt City, pool photographers will be utilized for both video and photography.

Contact: For logistical information, please contact Brad Carroll at (202) 615-2187 or by email at Bradley.Carroll@fema.gov.

Pool Information:

- (Still) Birmingham News photographer Michelle Williams Campbell; Cell 205-532-4234
- (Video) Mike Tucker with Fox 6; 205-527-4207

All other questions should be directed to the FEMA HQ News Desk at (202) 646-3272 or FEMA-News-Desk@dhs.gov.

STOP 2:

What: Media availability to discuss ongoing response efforts in Mississippi following last week's devastating severe weather.

Where: Smithville, Miss.

When: Sunday, May 1 at 4:30 PM CDT; Media must preset no later than 4 PM CDT

Who: Secretary Napolitano, Secretary Donovan, Secretary Vilsack, Administrator Fugate, Administrator Mills, Gov. Haley Barbour, Smithville Mayor Gregg Kennedy, American Red Cross President and CEO Gail McGovern, and other state and local officials.

Additional details: The media availability will be located at the parking lot of Smithville Town Hall, directly across from Piggly Wiggly, on Highway 25 N. Members of the media who have proper credentials will be allowed through the checkpoints. The town continues to maintain a curfew between 6:30 p.m.-6 a.m. Residents will not be allowed to return until the search and rescue is completed. Due to space constraints and to limit the number of people traveling with the group during the tour of tornado damage in Smithville, pool photographers will be utilized for both video and photography.

Contact: For logistical information or to receive additional pool information, please contact Trooper Ron Hall at (662) 266-1130 or by email at rhall@mdps.state.ms.us, or MEMA Public Information Officer Nikki Pressley at (601) 850-8578 or by email at npressley@mema.ms.gov. All other questions should be directed to the FEMA HQ News Desk at (202) 646-3272 or FEMA-News-Desk@dhs.gov.

Pool Information:

- (Video) Drew Goldfarb with NBC 9, 954-610-1064.