





January 20, 2006

To : County Homeland Security Coordinators, Municipal Homeland Security Coordinators, Regional Response Team Leaders, Supervisors, Mayors, Aldermen and Councilmen, Clerks, Administrators, Sheriffs, Fire Chiefs/Fire Coordinators, Coroners, Hazardous Materials Team Leaders, Police Chiefs, Civil Defense/Emergency Management Directors, 911 Coordinators and Directors, Health Care Professionals, Public Works Directors, Utilities Operators, and Emergency Medical Services Professionals

From :  Edwin Worthington, Director of the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security

  
Tom Ball, Governmental Training Officer, Center for Governmental Training and Technology, Mississippi State University Extension Service

Concerning: 2006 Governor's Homeland Security Conference

To strengthen Mississippi's efforts to ensure the preparedness and safety of our citizens, you are invited to attend the Governor's Homeland Security Conference March 13-15, 2006, at the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, Mississippi. This educational and training conference will feature speakers from law enforcement, emergency management, public health and other federal offices and agencies, private industry and elected officials.

The professional education sessions will begin at noon on March 13, and will conclude before noon on March 15. Included in the conference is a keynote address by Presidential Advisor for Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security Frances F. Townsend. Lt. General Russell L. Honore has also been invited to speak during the conference. The governor, congressional representatives and senators have been invited to participate if schedules allow. In addition to various sessions on law enforcement, preparedness, risk management, and public health emergencies, there will also be an exhibit hall for vendor displays and demonstrations.

The conference registration fee is \$350.00. The registration fee is prepaid for members of the 82 county planning teams (maximum of 10 members per team) having participated in previous homeland security threat assessment and prevention activities, and Regional Response Teams (RRTs) (maximum of 3 representatives per team). Governmental representatives or spouses of attendees not requiring overnight lodging may register for \$125.00.

County Homeland Security Coordinators and RRT leaders are responsible for submitting the Planning Team Registrations. All other interested registrants should submit their registration forms along with payment directly to MSU-CGT.

**(Over Please)**

Reimbursement for all travel expenses, including lodging, as authorized:

Planning Team Members, RRT Representatives:

Lodging will be provided at no cost.

Municipal Representatives:

Reimbursement of travel expenses, to include lodging and registration fee, will be provided for one (1) representative of each incorporated municipality having received sub-grants for homeland security. Designated representatives must include a letter from their municipality along with their registration form certifying that they are authorized to represent the municipality.

State Agencies:

No reimbursement available.

All Others:

No reimbursement is available.

Participants must make their own lodging reservations with the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw at 1-800-557-0711 before March 1, 2006. Please ask for the Homeland Security Conference rate, which can be obtained with the code **MSGER06**. Room charges for individuals who qualify for lodging reimbursement (Planning Team Members, RRT Representatives and Municipal Representatives outlined above) will be directly billed to the conference master account and must check out of the hotel by noon on Wednesday. All attendees are reminded to please see officials with the MS Office of Homeland Security or Center for Governmental Training & Technology prior to leaving to receive their certificate of attendance.

Please use one of the enclosed registration forms to register for the conference. You will receive by return mail additional information about the conference. March 1, 2006, is the deadline for registering for the conference. After that time, all those wishing to participate in the conference will be responsible for their own expenses related to the conference.

It will be a pleasure seeing each of you at the homeland security planning conference. For more information about the conference, please feel free to contact Tom Ball at 662-325-3141 or Todd Frier at 601-987-1499. Please mail your registration forms to: Homeland Security Conference, Center for Governmental Training & Technology, Box 9643, Mississippi State, MS 39762 or fax to 662-325-8954.

Enclosures:

Registration Forms