


January 23, 2008

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

From :  J. W. Ledbetter, 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: 2008 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 Sixth Annual Homeland Security Conference March 11-14, 2008 at the Grand Resort in Tunica, Mississippi. This educational and training conference will feature speakers from law enforcement, public health, animal health, emergency management, representatives from federal offices and state agencies, private industry and elected officials.

The vendor hall and education sessions will begin at 2:00 p.m. March 11, and will conclude before noon on March 14. The governor, congressional representatives and senators have been invited to participate if schedules allow. In addition to various sessions on preparedness, risk management and threat assessment, agroterrorism, bioterrorism and public health emergencies, there will also be an exhibit hall for vendor displays and demonstrations.

(Over, please)

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).

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 Extension Service-CGT.

Reimbursement for all travel expenses, including lodging, as authorized below will be in accordance with the attached policy:

Planning Team Members and RRT Representatives:

Lodging and meals will be provided at no cost for up to 10 members from each county. All other expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the attached policy. In accordance with state policy, those living within 50 miles of the conference site are not eligible for the lodging provision of the conference.

Municipal Representatives:

Reimbursement of travel expenses, to include lodging and registration fee, will be provided for three (3) representative of each incorporated municipality having received FY-06 sub grants from the Mississippi Office of 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 and Federal Agencies:

No reimbursement available.

All Others:

No reimbursement is available.

Participants must make their own lodging reservations with the Grand Resort in Tunica at 1-800-Harrahs (1-800-427-7247) and specify you are making reservations for the Tunica hotel and the group code is **SO3Home** by March 3, 2008. Please ask for the Homeland Security Conference rate, which is \$69.00 per night. This will be directly billed to the conference master account and you must check out of the hotel Friday morning with the front desk and Homeland Security and CGT officials to avoid having personal responsibility for the cost of the lodging. Please use one of the enclosed registration forms to register for the conference. There will be additional information about the conference on the homeland security office, CGT, and msfirstresponder websites prior to the conference. March 3, 2008, 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 Martha Freeman at 601-346-1505.

Please mail, fax, or e-mail your registration forms to: Homeland Security Conference, Center for Governmental Training & Technology, ATTN: Tom Ball, Box 9643, Mississippi State, MS 39762, or fax to 662-325-8954, or e-mail to tomb@ext.msstate.edu.

Enclosure:
Registration Form