

# IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date:** July 5, 2019  
**Contact:** Office of Communications  
**E-mail:** [MDOCOfficeofCommunications@mdoc.state.ms.us](mailto:MDOCOfficeofCommunications@mdoc.state.ms.us)

## Lockdown Extended Statewide Following Escapes

JACKSON – Movement is now restricted statewide in the prison system as the Mississippi Department of Corrections continues to hunt for escaped inmates Benny Ray Blansett, Jonathan Blankenship, and Christopher Benson High. The statewide lockdown means visitation and other privileges are suspended until further notice not only at the state prisons but also at the private prisons, regional facilities, and community work centers.

Blansett, MDOC #07548, Blankenship, MDOC # 115012, and High, MDOC #139935, were discovered missing during early morning counts today.

Blansett, 59, was housed at the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) at Parchman.

Blankenship, 31, and High, 28, were housed at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF). Both are considered armed and dangerous.

If you see the three men or know of their whereabouts, call the MDOC at 662-745-6611 or Crime Stoppers at 601-355-TIPS (8477). Anyone with information that leads to an arrest could be eligible for a reward. Tips can be received online through the Web Tip link on the home page of the Central MS Crime Stoppers or go to [www.P3tips.com](http://www.P3tips.com)