

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Office of Communications
Phone: (601) 359-5289, 359-5608
E-mail: MDOCOfficeofCommunications@mdoc.state.ms.us

MDOC to Residents: Be on alert for two escapees

JACKSON, MISS. – Rankin County residents should be on alert for the possibility of two escaped state inmates in the area of Pearson Road and Highway 468.

The Mississippi Department of Corrections in conjunction with local, state, and federal law enforcement is continuing to search the area after receiving a tip that Jonathan Blankenship, 31, and Christopher Benson High, 28, could be there.

The inmates escaped early Friday morning from the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Rankin County dressed in white tops and red and white striped pants.

“Tips received are being investigated,” said Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall today. “However, we have no confirmed sightings, and citizens should report anything out of the ordinary no matter how minor it is. The smallest detail could be significant in situations like this.”

The FBI is offering \$10,000 and the Mississippi Crime Stoppers is offering up to \$2,500, totaling up to \$12,500.

Blankenship, MDOC #115012, is serving a total of five years for sentences for aggravated assault on a police officer and conspiracy to commit a crime in Alcorn County.

High, MDOC #139935, is serving a total of 12 years for burglary larceny of an unoccupied dwelling in Carroll County.

If you see Blankenship and High, call the MDOC at 662-745-6611, ext. 4200, Crime Stoppers at 601-355-TIPS (8477), the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation (MBI) at 601-987-1530, or your nearest law enforcement agency.

Tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers online through the Web Tip link on the home page of the Central MS Crime Stoppers or go to www.P3tips.com