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Shelby County Office of Preparedness

News Release



Flood Warning Issued for the Mississippi River

For Immediate Release

December 29, 2015

A flood warning has been issued for the Mississippi River. The warning begins on January 2nd and will continue until further notice. After almost 30 days of rain in the central United States, the Mississippi River is expected to crest at 43.5 feet on January 9th.

“Our staff at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness is in constant contact with the National Weather Service and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. We will keep the public informed should flooding occur,” added Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

A meeting about the flood threat was held this morning at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness. Representatives from the National Weather Service, law enforcement agencies, fire departments and other emergency services officials attended the planning session.

“Water is already high near the Loosahatchie and Wolf Rivers and along Nonconnah, Cypress and Big Creeks. Those who work and live near these areas need to be vigilant,” said Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

High water could make roads impassable and affect neighborhoods in north Memphis, Frayser, President’s Island, Westwood, Millington and other areas near rivers and creeks fed by the Mississippi River. **“All City of Memphis bureaus are on alert. We are ready to respond should evacuations be needed,”** said Lieutenant Jim Logan, Director of the Memphis Office of Emergency Management.

“In 2011, the Mississippi River crested at 48.3 feet. We don’t expect the river to get that high. However, areas near the river bottoms will likely flood. We will be closely monitoring the water levels,” said Dr. Gene Rench, Hydrologist for the National Weather Service.

For Flood Map go to <http://shelbycountyttn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/22800>

For additional information about preparing for high water, go to www.staysafeshelby.us or call the Shelby County Office of Preparedness at (901) 222-6700.