



January 2016 Issue

Winter Storm Warning



Photo Captions: **Left:** Iced over A.W. Willis Bridge, downtown Memphis, **Center:** SCOP Director Lane speaking to the media, **Right:** snow and ice cover an overpass off of I40 at 06:30 a.m.

Dale Lane, Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) Director, activated the Emergency Operations Center at a Level IV, as a **major winter storm** was predicted for January 22. With temperatures just below freezing, Shelby County braced for “blizzard-like conditions.” The National Weather Service forecasted freezing rain, sleet, and 4 to 6 inches of snow. Citizens were warned to expect “extremely hazardous roadways, 40 mile per hour winds, power outages, and low visibility.”

SCOP staff began planning days ahead to ensure city and county agencies worked together and that the public was well informed. Schools and businesses closed pre-emptively. Emergency resources were staged and available. 44 trucks were on the road to spread salt and sand. The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) declared a “state of emergency” and activated at a Level III.

As the winter storm began, SCOP staff drove throughout the county providing live footage back to the Emergency Operations Center of icy spots via “go to meeting” software.

The storm spread 1 inch of snow and iced bridges. A.W. Willis Bridge was closed for salt treatment. MLGW reported 1 outage and Memphis Police saw few accidents. Mid-morning on January 22, Director Lane said, “Fortunately, we have had no major disruptions. We appreciate citizens heeding the warning and staying off the roads. Our low traffic volume has helped reduce the number of accidents.”

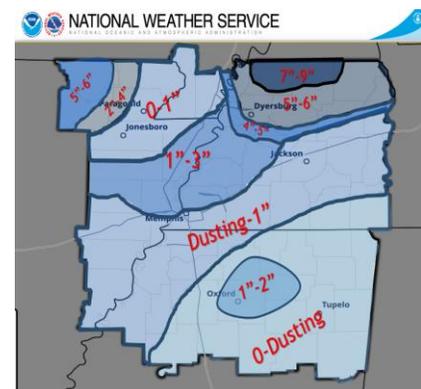
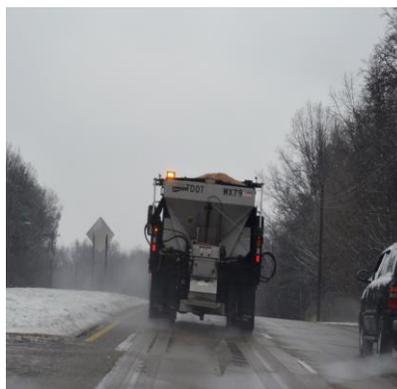


Photo Captions: **Left:** Snow covers Shelby County East campus, **Center:** TDOT salt truck, **Right:** NWS snow accumulations

Moderate River Flooding



Photo Captions: Left: Flooded Mississippi River Greenbelt Park boat dock and parking lot, **Center:** Second Street, downtown Memphis, closed to traffic, water bladders installed, **Right:** Rodney Baber Park flooding

On **December 25, 2015**, following 30 days of rain in central U.S., the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a **river flood advisory**, then a **river flood warning** for the Mississippi River at Memphis. At 22 feet, the river was expected to rise above minor floor stage, 34 feet, then to 38 feet by January 8, 2016. With vivid memories of the “2011 Flood of the Century,” Dale Lane, Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) Director held a briefing at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on December 29. Attending were the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), MLGW, University of Memphis, Shelby County Mayor’s Office, City of Memphis, public works, FedEx, MATA, law enforcement, fire and health departments. SCOP staff, Dr. Brian Waldron, Dr. Gene Rench, the NWS, and Rick Stieg (Shelby County GIS Coordinator), updated the 2011 flood maps and released them to the public. **Dr. Rench, hydrologist, predicted a 43.5 foot crest on January 9, the fourth highest for winter.** Director Lane said, “We are concerned for homes in North Memphis, Frayser, President’s Island, Westwood, Millington, and Mud Island.” For the public, he said, “We have planned for the worst. Stay vigilant, and look at the SCOP website for our flood maps. If your property has flooded in the past, and you need to evacuate, don’t hesitate. We will shelter you.”

The American Red Cross Mid-South Chapter worked with SCOP Officer, Terry Donald, and the Humane Society to ready four shelters and set up an intake center for potential flood victims.

- **December 31, 2015:** North Second Street was closed as “water bladders” are installed. GIS predicted 31 homes, 10 buildings, and 18 mixed-use buildings would flood. Flooding was seen at Mississippi River Greenbelt Park and the Marina Cottages on Mud Island. Dewitt Spain Airport created a berm and had sandbags ready.

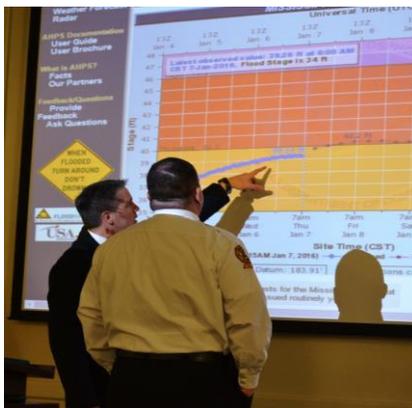


Photo Captions: Left: Director Lane, **Center:** Director Lane and Memphis OEM Director Lt. Richard Keith, **Right:** Left to right: Gina Sweat, Memphis Fire Chief, Director Lane, Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell



Photo Captions: **Left:** Road closed at Benjestown at Billion Road, **Center:** Steve Shular, PIO, and Levell Blanchard, SCOP Deputy Administrator, in the EOC, **Right:** North Mud Island Road closed and barricaded

- **January 2, 2016:** EOC activated at Level IV, was staffed 24 hours a day. Areas of concern included: Meeman-Shelby Forest, Nonconnah Creek near President’s Island, Wolf River near Hollywood, Big Creek at Highway 51, Rodney Baber Park, the Police Academy, Stiles Waste Treatment Plant, Fite Road and Woodtock-Cuba. Law enforcement delivered “high water notifications.”
- **January 4, 2016:** EOC, activated at Level III, held a briefing. Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, Shelby County Sheriff Bill Oldham, and City of Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland thanked everyone for their efforts. **Dr. Rench predicted a crest of 40.5 feet by January 8.** Director Lane explained that 20 homes were at risk, but no mandatory evacuations. A list of special needs citizens was obtained from MLGW to ensure their safety and no loss of electricity. A phone bank was set up at Memphis EOM and volunteers were briefed on patient tracking techniques.
- **January 6, 2016:** The river rose to 38.86 feet with all roads open. David Purkey, Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security / TEMA Deputy Commissioner attended an EOC briefing. Purkey said, “Shelby County is our largest jurisdiction. We look to you for preparedness best practices. You know how to respond. We are in communication with Governor Haslam and the flooding is on his mind. We appreciate what you do and it is an honor to work with Director Lane.” Barricades were installed at seven locations, eleven zip codes were identified as “areas prone to flooding,” and 120 “high water” visits were made.
- **January 8, 2016:** River level was 38.59 feet. **A new crest prediction was 39.5 feet.** Greenbelt Park, Exxon Operations at Memphis terminal, and American Commercial Barge Line transfer operations were closed due to flooding. Nine roads were barricaded.
- **January 9, 2016: Mississippi River crested at 39.6 feet.** The EOC, activated at Level IV, continued to monitor flooded areas. Eight roads were barricaded.
- **January 11, 2016:** River level was at 38.88 feet. The EOC, at Level V, was at normal operations.
- **January 13, 2016:** As the EOC activation deescalated, the **river flood warning** was downgraded to a **river flood advisory**. The river was down to 37.5 feet and expected to drop further.



Photo Captions: **Left:** Cots set up at Orange Mound Community Center, **Center:** Terry Donald, SCOP Officer, sitting far right, leads a shelter meeting, **Right:** Marina Cottages threatened by flood waters

December Tornadoes

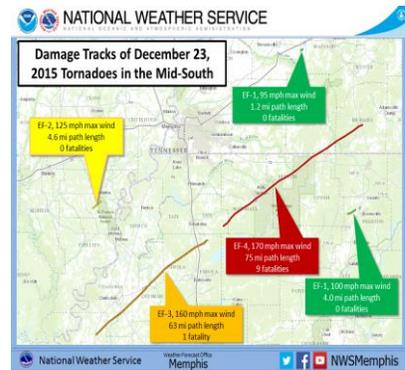
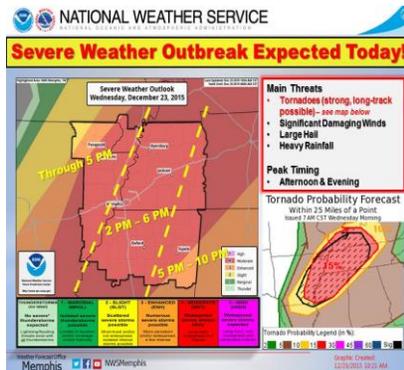


Photo Captions: Left: NWS severe thunderstorm predictions, Center: storm clouds shroud Shelby County on December 23, 2015, Right: NWS damage tracks from the tornadoes

The National Weather Service placed Shelby County in the **enhanced risk** area for severe thunderstorms and a possible tornado outbreak on December 23, 2015. Two storms were feared, one for North East Arkansas and North West Tennessee in the morning and a second storm in the afternoon for West Tennessee and North Mississippi. The main treats were tornadoes, damaging winds, hail, and heavy rainfall. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness alerted the public and tracked the storm from the Emergency Operations Center. The most severe of the storms bypassed Shelby County, which was under a tornado watch for a brief period. The Storm Prediction Center reported 14 deaths throughout Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas from at least 14 tornadoes.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens that severe weather can happen any time of the year. Keep a NOAA weather radio with you at all times and heed the watches and warnings. Have a “safe place” ready for shelter when severe thunderstorms are predicted.

Worry-Free Smoke Alarms



Having a working smoke and carbon monoxide alarm in your home can save your life. The alarm must be in good working order and installed in the correct location. Today, new technology makes it easy. Kidde has created a “worry-free” 10-year smoke and carbon monoxide alarm that is location specific. Installation is simple. It activates when placed on the mounting plate. Models are specific for the kitchen, the bedroom, the living room, or the hallway. The battery lasts for the life of the alarm, 10 years, and can’t be removed. The alarm has a “hush” button to quiet nuisance alarms (non-emergency). The alarm has different warnings for smoke versus carbon monoxide. It can be disabled, but doing so is permanent and it will no longer detect smoke, and should be replaced. After 10 years, the alarm will sound an “end of life” warning, chirping every 30 seconds, letting you know to replace the unit.

The National Fire Prevention Association recommends installing smoke alarms on each level of the home, and inside and outside of sleeping areas. If you have questions about the best type or location of smoke and / or carbon monoxide alarms, please contact your local fire station.

Shelby County is Disaster Resilience Winner



Photo Caption: Flood waters in 2011 at Mississippi River Greenbelt Park

Shelby County has been awarded \$60,445,163, part of a \$1 billion grant, as a finalist in the National Disaster Resilience Competition, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant money will be used to mitigate major flooding in Shelby County through the “Greenprint for Resilience Project.” The plan will create infrastructures to relocate areas exposed to repeated flooding, develop new floodplains, and create wetlands and detection areas. Areas of focus include:

- Creating a new floodplain in the Big Creek Wetland and Recreation near
- Improving flood prevention in the Wolf River Restoration and Greenway in Raleigh and Frayser, near Rodney Baber and Kennedy Parks
- Paying for relocation of homes near Weaver Park in South Cypress Creek Watershed and Neighborhood Development in Southwest Memphis
- Paying for resilience research to identify risks from floods, earthquakes and other disasters

All plans are subject to approval from the Shelby County Commission.

Weather Events / Outages

National Weather Service (NWS) in Memphis Reported:

- **December 23, 2015:** Moderate risk. Severe thunderstorm warning.
- **December 25, 2015:** River flood advisory, upgraded to river flood warning, till January 13, 2016
- **December 28, 2015:** Flash flood warning. Wind advisory.
- **January 13, 2016:** River flood advisory.

Memphis Light, Gas and Water Reported:

- **December 25, 2015:** MLGW reported 8,700 outages.
- **December 28, 2015:** MLGW reported 20 outages or 5278 customers without power.
- **January 22, 2016:** Lakeland and Brunswick reported 1,700 accounts without power.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens to stay ahead of the weather with a NOAA all-hazards radio with battery back-up and tone alert. Heed the watches and warnings.

Cell Phone Medical ID

Many cell phones now have a “Medical ID” section that allows users to provide personal medical information that could be crucial to first responders during an emergency. Information includes: date of birth, medical conditions, allergies and reactions, medications, blood type, height, weight, organ donor, and emergency contacts. Once you have filled in the information and activated the medical ID section, “Medical ID” will appear on your emergency dialer screen. The phone does not have to unlock to access this information. Consider taking the time to activate your Medical ID today!

Mississippi River Drops



Photo Captions: Left: NWS hydrograph, Right: Mississippi River Greenbelt Park on Mud Island, January 27, 2016, littered with driftwood after moderate river flooding.

The National Weather Service (NWS) Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service reports the Mississippi River at Memphis continues to drop after moderate flooding earlier this month. The river stage is 15.6 feet on January 27. To obtain the next river statement, visit www.weather.gov, click near Memphis on the map, and select river and lakes, then current conditions.

Ham Radio Check In!

All licensed “hams”! Check-in to Shelby County Office of Preparedness Emergency Reserve Net (SCOPERNET), every Monday, 6:00 p.m, on 147.09 repeater, tone 107.2. Ned Savage, Reserve, is net control. The net is also activated during weather warnings.

Winter Preparedness Word Search

M I T T E N S T A W U S I N F
R T S O R F A D B M P H R O R
R E T N I W V L N I D E P I O
D R A Z Z I L B P L T L Z T S
E P O D S O G E O A A T S A T
R S T O Y Z S C E I Z E W T B
A W R W C W O H M T D R S I I
P Y I O E M E R G E N C Y P T
E L A N D T E A G W R E B I E
R T E S D H A N T A Y Z O C S
P P S V T C I L P H E E O E A
E R E O O N H E U C E E T R L
T C P T R H R I O S V R S P T
A Y I A S L S W L K N F T I K
H D W A T C H F V L Z I I G Y

ADVISORY
COAT
FREEZE
HAT
ICE
MITTENS
PLAN
READY
SHELTER
WARNING
WINDCHILL

BLIZZARD
COLD
FROST
HEATER
INSULATE
PETS
PRECIPITATION
SALT
SHOVEL
WATCH
WINTER

BOOTS
EMERGENCY
FROSTBITE
HYPOTHERMIA
KIT
PIPES
PREPARE
SCRAPER
SNOW
WEATHER

Preparedness Training

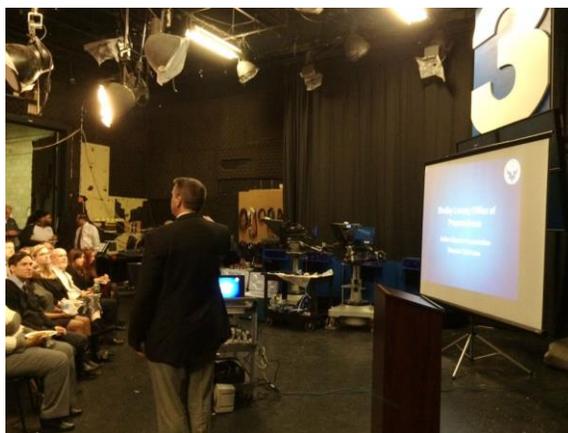


Photo Caption: SCOP Director Dale Lane at WREG, Channel 3, to present “Active Shooter Training.”
Photo by Steve Shular, PIO.

Visit www.staysafeshelby.us to sign up for these **FREE** classes:

- **Amateur “Ham” Radio Class, Technician / Beginner Level:** January 28 – March 10, Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Germantown Fire Station #4, 3031 Forrest Hill Irene, Germantown, TN. Class is limited to 24. Call Jelly at 901.606.5067 to pre-register.
- **MGT405 - Mobilizing Faith Based Organizations Preparing for Disaster,** February 10, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **AWR 209 Working with the Media: Short Course for Emergency Responders,** March 22, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **SKYWARN Weather Spotters,** March 22, 6:30 p.m., Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 6865 Poplar Pike, Memphis, TN. Email Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@gmail to register.

Active Shooter Training Video: “Run, Hide, Fight.” YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5VcSwejU2D0>

FEMA Independent Study: The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers FREE self-paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities and the general public. To register and view the course list, please visit: <https://training.fema.gov/is/>

EOC Activations



Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP): Level V, Normal Operations.



Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA): Level III, State of Emergency, declared January 21, due to heavy snowfall, ice and treacherous road conditions in East Tennessee.

Preparedness Resources

Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us, 901.222.6700. Follow us!

 SCOP@SCOP_HLS_EMA

- Shelby County Citizen Corps: email citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Community Emergency Response Team Training: email eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Shelby Cares Faith-Based Sheltering Initiative: email terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Storm Shelter Registry: email kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Shelby County Office of Preparedness Reserves: email shelby.logan@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

- Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps: www.shelbycountymrc.org
- Shelby County Public Health Emergency Preparedness: www.schdresponse.com

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): www.fema.gov, www.ready.gov,
www.readykids.gov, www.citizencorps.gov

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA): www.tnema.gov

Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW): www.mlgw.com, www.mlgw.com/residential/outagemap.
Emergency / Outages: 901.544.6500, Downed Power Lines: 901.528.4465

National Weather Service (NWS): www.weather.gov, www.weather.gov/memphis, 901.544.0399

EMERGENCY: Call 911