

Shelby County Office of Preparedness eNews

**January 2017
Issue**



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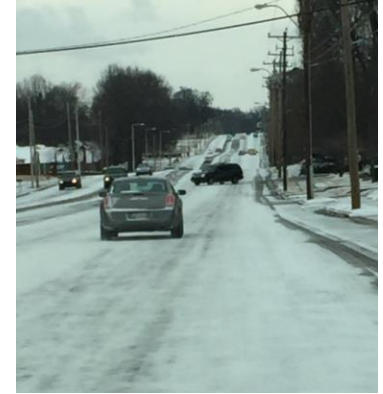
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Director Lane's Message: Winter's not Over – Stay Ready!



On January 6, the National Weather Service issued winter weather and wind chill advisories with predictions of subfreezing temperatures, 2 inches of snow, low visibility, and hazardous roads for Shelby County. TDOT and Shelby County pre-treated bridges, overpasses, and major roadways with brine. In



the predawn hours students learned they would have their first snow day of 2017!

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director Dale Lane activated the Emergency Operations Center, at Level 4, monitoring road conditions and power outages. Lane said, "Don't travel today if you don't have to. If you must get on the road, go slow, let someone know your intended route, and use an abundance of caution." Lane was most concerned about the new I-40 flyover, which at 95 feet off the ground, is the highest flyover in Tennessee. "We appreciate road crews pre-treating the roadways and MLGW is doing a great job with a low number of outages."



Hundreds of auto accidents were reported causing Shelby County and its municipalities to implement their "inclement weather policy" asking motorists to exchange insurance information if there were no injuries. In addition to school closings, the Memphis OEM opened a warming center at the



Benjamin Hooks Library with MATA offering free rides to citizens. Government offices were partially closed and garbage collection was delayed. FedEx warned of some delivery delays. A water main broke at Poplar and Highland due to the cold temperatures. Memphis International Airport noted the weather had little impact on flight operations. Citizens were cautioned about "black ice" due to refreezing. Two inches of snow was reported at Memphis International Airport, with winds at 11 MPH, and wind chill indices at -1 degrees. SCOP reminds citizens that we have a few more months of winter - stay prepared!

Captions: Top Left: Snow on Sycamore View. **Top Right:** Cars sliding on ice on Covington Pike. **Bottom Left:** Shelby County EOC activation with Shelby County PIO Steve Shular, SCOP Preparedness Officer Eugene Jones, SCOP Director Dale Lane, and Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell. **Bottom Right:** Director Lane interviewed in the EOC by Mike Mathews with Local 24 News.

Outreach:

Scouts Visit EOC



Two agencies with similar missions to “be prepared” came together January 7 when the Grace St. Luke’s Cub Scouts visited the Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) Emergency Operations Center (EOC). SCOP Director Dale Lane shared information about SCOP’s responsibility to write and practice the county’s emergency plans and how the EOC functions as a hub to coordinate responses and resources with public safety officials during a disaster. He spoke about the importance of preparing for events such as tornado, flooding, and power outages. “While we

appreciate MLGW’s ability to keep our electricity on, have great meteorologists, and brave first responders here, at some point we all have a personal responsibility to take care of ourselves,” Director Lane said. He encouraged the scouts to keep a disaster kit on hand and upload the ReadyTN mobile app. Gene Jones, SCOP Preparedness Officer and former scout, encouraged the scouts to continue their safety education by taking a CERT class. And Kevin Bebout, Tennessee Office of Homeland Security Agent, explained about the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), grants management, and the sharing of emergency equipment and resources by the UASI counties. Director Lane concluded, “We are excited you cared enough to visit us....if we can help you learn more about being prepared, let us know!”



The scouts received SCOP coloring books and crayons, HELP/OK signs, and a Homeland Security pin. The Grace St. Luke Scouts are the oldest continually existing Boy Scout troop in Memphis. The Scout Master is Jim Martin.

Caption: Left: Grace St. Luke Cub Scouts visits SCOP staff at the EOC. **Right:** Agent Kevin Bebout gives scouts HLS pins.

Charity Christian Community Church



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness was delighted to spend the afternoon of January 8 with the Charity Christian Community Church at 4348 Coleman Road in Memphis. This lively group learned the importance of being prepared and what to do before, during, and after disasters that can occur in Shelby County.

Caption: Members of the Charity Christian Community Church

EMAP Accreditation Imminent:



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness is on their way to achieving full accreditation status by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program or EMAP. Following 2 years of detailed preparation and a week-long final on-site assessment the week of January 8, full accreditation status is near. EMAP, an independent non-profit corporation, offers standard-based voluntary assessment and peer review accreditation processes for state and local emergency management agencies. In order to become accredited, agencies must prove

competencies in administration, finance, laws, authorities, hazard identification, risk assessment, consequent analysis, hazard mitigation, prevention, security, planning, incident management, resource management, logistics, mutual aid, communications and warnings, operations and procedures, facilities, training, exercises, evaluations, corrective actions, and crisis communications.

On the last day of the on-site assessment, SCOP Director Dale Lane thanked his hard working staff and in particular, Kimberlyn Boulter, the SCOP EMAP Accreditation Manager, for guiding the agency through the detailed and lengthy process. It will be a few months before the Office of Preparedness is awarded the accreditation. SCOP will be the 2nd EMAP certified county agency in Tennessee and the first in Shelby County. The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency was EMAP accredited in 2007.

Caption: Left to Right: Levell Blanchard, SCOP Deputy Administrator, Angela Moreno, EMAP Examiner, Glenn Wisbey, EMAP Examiner, Kimberlyn Boulter, SCOP EMAP Accreditation Manager, Necole Holton-Jacobs, EMAP Examiner, Kevin Madsen, EMAP Examiner, Jim Montgomery, EMAP Examiner, Mark Howard EMAP Examiner, Dale Lane, SCOP Director.

SCOP Monitors Liberty Bowl:



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) was at Level 4 on December 20, 2016 monitoring the large crowds attending the Liberty Bowl. Representatives from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), SCOP staff, and reserves were at the event and in the Shelby County Emergency Operations Center.

Caption: The Shelby County EOC activated for the Liberty Bowl.

Welcome New UASI Members!

During the January Urban Area Security Initiative meeting, SCOP Director Dale Lane welcomed two new members. They are Hunter Winfrey, EMA Director, and Ronnie Markel, EMA Deputy Director, from Fayette County.

Caption: Left: Hunter Winfrey, **Right:** Ronnie Markel



Know Your Stuff! Create a Home Inventory:



After a disaster, it may be difficult to remember every detail of your home and business possessions. Create a home and business inventory as part of your preparedness plan. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness and the Federal Emergency Management Agency suggests the “Know Your Stuff” website at www.knowyourstuff.org to get started. Here are some of their suggestions:

- Step 1:** Gather your supplies. Include a digital camera, cell phone, storage device, pen and paper.
- Step 2:** Walk through your property to remind you of your “inside stuff, outside stuff and high ticket stuff.” Don’t forget the garage, storage buildings, and inside closets and drawers.
- Step 3:** Take videos or photos to create a digital record of your possessions and your property.
- Step 4:** Take photos or videos of each room. Record serial numbers, makes and models.
- Step 5:** Take photos or videos of receipts of your possessions.
- Step 6:** Take photos of business assessments if applicable.
- Step 7:** Check with your insurance agent regarding the value of jewelry and works of art.
- Step 8:** Store your digital inventory in more than one location.
- Step 9:** Update your inventory twice a year.

Winter Auto Emergency Kit:

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness suggests these common items to add to your winter auto emergency kit:

- zip lock bags to place over rearview mirrors
- tube socks to place over windshield wipers
- kitty litter to sprinkle in front of tires for traction
- chalkboard eraser to erase foggy windows

Be sure to check your winter auto kit today!



Mississippi River at Memphis:

The Mississippi River at Memphis measured 22.11 feet on January 25 according to the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service. For river level information, visit www.weather.gov.

Captions: **Left:** NWS river stage graph. **Right:** Fog on the Mississippi Arkansas Bridge January 22 from Tom Lee Park..



Significant Weather / Power Outages:



Captions: Left: Fog January 2. Center: Flash flooding, McLean Blvd January 11. Right: Snow, North Main January 6.

National Weather Service 7 Day Hazardous Weather Outlook: The probability for widespread hazards is LOW. Spotter activation is not anticipated. Visit www.weather.gov for information.

National Weather Service Predictions:



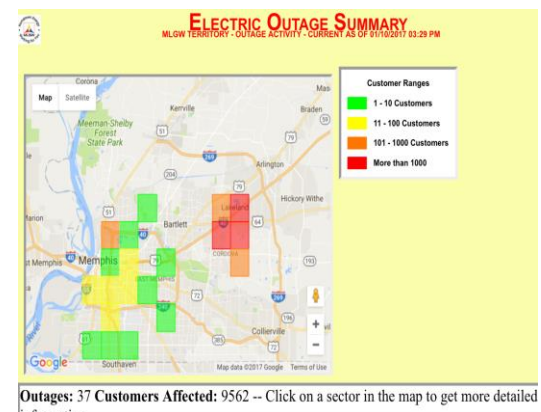
Gary Woodall, National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist, reported these predictions at the January UASI meeting:

- Late January may bring a pattern shift with colder temperatures.
- January, February and March may have above normal temperatures.
- The Mississippi River at Memphis is rising but below “action stage.”
- The 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season is too early to predict.

Caption: Gary Woodall, NWS Meteorologist

Severe Weather / Power Outages:

- **December 20, 2016:** Freezing fog advisory.
- **December 25, 2016, January 1, 2:** Dense fog advisory - visibility less than ¼ miles.
- **December 26, 2016:** Power outages for 1,024 accounts, mainly Midtown.
- **December 28, 2016:** Severe thunderstorm warning.
- **January 1, 2:** Dense fog advisory.
- **January 6, 2017:** Winter weather and wind chill advisories. Schools close. Snow.
- **January 7, 2017:** Wind chill advisory. Snow.
- **January 10, 2017:** Flash flood warning. Wind advisory. Soulsville, Dogwood Elementary, Houston High and Houston Middle Schools were without power. 45-60 MPH wind gusts. 9,562 customers without power.
- **January 11, 2017:** Flash flood warning.
- **January 14, 2017:** Dense fog advisory.
- **January 16:** Dense fog advisory. Visibility down to ¼ mile. 2,878 customers without power.
- **January 22:** Wind advisory.



Surviving Active Shooter Events:

“5 dead, 8 hurt in shooting at Fort Lauderdale airport” screamed the headlines on January 7. Active shooters, individuals attempting to kill citizens in a confined area, select victims at random. Knowing what to do can save your life! The Shelby County Office of Preparedness and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security offers these safety tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Look for at least 2 exits in any facility you visit.
- Have a plan to survive. Practice **Run, Hide, Fight!**
 - **RUN:** Quickly evacuate the area (leave belongings and run). Help others escape if possible, but do not wait for them. Do not move the wounded. If possible, keep others from entering the area.
 - **HIDE:** Stay out of the shooter’s view. If you are in an office, stay there, lock the door, be quiet (silence cell phones), and barricade the door. If you are in a hallway, quickly get into a room, and secure the door
 - **FIGHT:** As your last resort, attempt to take the shooter down. Look for improvised weapons. Be aggressive. Commit to your actions.
- **Call 911** when safe to do so and provide accurate information (location and number of shooters, descriptions of the shooter, type of weapons, and number and location of victims).
- When law enforcement arrives, remain calm. Keep hands visible, raised, and empty. Be quiet, do not scream or yell.
- Aid law enforcement and report any suspicious activity. If you see something, say something!



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness has trained over 5,300 citizens in active shooter awareness. To schedule a class, please visit www.staysafeshelby.us. To view the “Run, Hide, Fight - Surviving an Active Shooter Event” video, visit <https://youtu.be/5VcSwejU2D0>.

SKYWARN Training :



Citizens are invited to attend FREE SKYWARN Weather Spotter training on March 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lord of Life Church, 6865 Poplar Pike, Memphis, TN. SKYWARN volunteers assist the National Weather Service by reporting inclement weather and property damage. To register, please contact ryan.turner@memhamwan.org.

Amateur Radio:

- Check in! SCOPERNET on Mondays, 6:00 p.m., 147.09 repeater, tone 107.2.
- **Technician (entry level) Class:** Saturdays, February 25 – April 15, 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m., at 6972 Appling Farms Pkwy. FREE. FCC exam is \$15.00. ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 3rd Edition is \$25.00. Please email Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO at wa4ovo@gmail.com by February 10.

Emergency Operations Center Activation Status:

- The **Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP)** is at **Level 5**, Normal Operations.
- The **Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)** remains at **Level 3**, Declaration of State Emergency, since November 10, due to Sevier County's wildfires.

Flag Status: Full staff.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness:

- **Visit us!** www.staysafeshelby.us
- **Follow us!** SCOP@SCOP_HLS_EMA
- **Like us!** <https://www.facebook.com/StaySafeShelby/>
- **CERT:** Contact Eugene Jones at Eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov
- **Storm Shelter Registry:** Contact Kimberlyn Boulter at kimberlyn.boulter@shelbycountyttn.gov
- **Volunteers Welcome!**
 - **SCOP Reserve Program:** Contact Shelby Logan at shelby.logan@shelbycountyttn.gov.
 - **Shelby Cares Faith-Based Sheltering Program:** Contact Terry Donald at terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov.

Preparedness Resources:

- **American Red Cross (ARC):** www.redcross.org
- **Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC):** www.cusec.org
- **Department Homeland Security (DHS):** www.dhs.gov
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** www.fema.gov
 - **Text Messages:** Text 43362 (4FEMA) to receive text messages. Texts PREPARE for safety tips or text FIRE, TORNADO, EARTHQUAKE or FLOOD to 43362.
- **Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW):** www.mlgw.com
 - MLGW Outage Map: www.azimuth.mlgw.org/OutageSummary.php
- **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):** www.floodsmart.gov
- **National Weather Service (NWS):** www.weather.gov
 - To add to smart phone or android: www.mobile.weather.gov
- **Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA):** www.tnema.org
 - ReadyTN Mobile App: www.tnema.org
- **Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT):** www.tn.gov/tdot
 - TODOT Smartway Traffic: www.smartway.tn.gov
- **United States Fire Administration (USFA):** www.usfa.fema.gov
- **University of Memphis Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI):** www.ceri.memphis.edu



NWS Mobile Weather

Emergency: call 911