



## Rivers and Creeks Continue to Rise Flood Preparations Underway

### For Immediate Release

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The Mississippi River and its tributaries continue to rise towards flood stage, which is predicted for tomorrow at 34 feet. Staff at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness spent New Year's Day visiting rivers and creeks to document how close the water is getting to roads and neighborhoods.

**“Getting an in-person look helps us plan for a coordinated response. Water in low-lying areas could block streets and damage property. The Mississippi River is predicted to rise another foot today,”** said Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

Water is high along the Loosahatchie River near Hollywood Street and also North McLean. Downtown, water covers the boat ramp on the north end of Mud Island and sections of the Riverwalk along Mud Island Drive. High water was also noted on Nonconnah Creek near Presidents Island.

**“This is the time to vigilant. Although there have been no reports of damage or blocked roads yet, this could change once the Mississippi reaches flood stage tomorrow. Director Lane and his staff at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness are ready to coordinate a county-wide response of public works, law enforcement, fire and emergency services bureaus,”** said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

Rising water has already led to the planned closing next week of Second Street, between Whitney and Mud Island Drive and the access road to the Stiles Water Treatment Plant. The area will be barricaded at 7 a.m. on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

**“All City of Memphis agencies, especially Public Works, MLGW and the Memphis Fire and Police Departments are on alert should the flood create problems for our citizens. Mayor Luttrell and I are staying in close contact,”** said City of Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland.

National Weather Service forecasters say the Mississippi River will crest at an estimated 42 feet by January 8<sup>th</sup>. The crest was 48.3 feet when the flood of 2011 damaged neighborhoods in Memphis and Shelby County.

For more information about the flood response, go to [www.staysafeshelby.us](http://www.staysafeshelby.us) or call (901) 222-6700.

**(End of Release)**