



Memphis and Shelby County Agencies Step-Up Plans for Possible Flooding

For Immediate Release

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The Mississippi River, now close to 37 feet, continues to creep toward this Friday's predicted crest of 40.5 feet. More Memphis and Shelby County agencies have joined the round-the-clock effort to monitor areas that might be damaged by the high water.

"Supervisors and commanders from public works, fire, law enforcement and support agencies have joined us at the Shelby County Emergency Operations Center. It is vital we stay vigilant and ready to immediately respond," said Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

The Shelby County Health Department and the American Red Cross also have representatives at the Shelby County Emergency Operations Center. **"We made the decision to increase the presence of agencies at the operations center to help ensure the safety of citizens across the county,"** said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

High water from the Wolf River led to today's closure of Second Street just north of Downtown Memphis, between Mud Island Drive and the Stiles Sewage Treatment Plant. Water is also high near Tom Lee Park downtown and has led to the closing of the boat ramp at Greenbelt Park.

"City of Memphis bureaus are working side-by-side with Shelby County and other response agencies. We'll continue our 24-watch of Memphis neighborhoods that could be threatened by the high water," said City of Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness staff and fire and police agencies continued their patrols in areas known for flooding. High water from the Wolf River near Mud Island has crept into the yards of houses on Running River Place, River Landing Drive, Harbor Isle Circle North and Marina Cottage Drive.

In the unincorporated areas, trouble spots include the boat ramp at Shelby Forest and Old Cuba-Benjestown at Billion Road.

Flood forecast maps developed by the University of Memphis during the flood of 2011 are being used to plan for potential threats. The technology, coupled with on-site inspections, will give responders early warning about rising water.

For more information about the flood response, call (901) 222-6700. News releases and maps of potential flooding areas, by Zip Codes, are posted at www.staysafeshelby.us.

(End of Release)