Caddo to use FirstCall for emergency notifications

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Caddo residents who live in areas that could be affected by flooding will receive an automated telephone message today from the Caddo Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (COHSEP), said Sheriff Steve Prator.

The message is generated through the FirstCall Network, an automated warning system that pushes messages out to fixed lists of residents or geographic areas within Caddo's jurisdiction. Notification automatically goes to landlines associated with an address. **Residents throughout Caddo Parish are also encouraged to go to http://alertregistration.com/caddo-bossier to register their cell numbers.**

Messages are planned for neighborhoods in the Haven, Les Maisons, Wells Island Road, Dixie Garden Road, Russell Road, and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive near McCain Creek.

"We are not expecting any flooding inside residences," said Sheriff Prator, who serves as the parish's OHSEP director, "but there will be street flooding, if they aren't experiencing that already.

"We know our citizens are keeping a close eye on how the flood may affect their neighborhoods, and we want to make sure they are prepared for all possibilities."

The message is as follows:

"This is an advisory message for residents in your area from the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and the City of Shreveport.

The Red River in Shreveport will be approaching major flood stage over the next several days and is forecasted to crest at a gauge height of 34 feet by Saturday, June 6th. We do not anticipate seeing water in any homes at this level, however there is the possibility of rising waters in your streets. We recommend that all drainage ditches and culverts are cleared of debris and that residents take extreme caution around floodwaters.

No evacuations are being called for at this time, however please make necessary preparations as this situation could change. Family planning and preparedness information can be found at ready.gov.

Monitor local news media for current updates and dial 911 in emergency situations."

- End Message -

Additionally, both the parish and the city have extended the hours citizens can pick up sandbags from public facilities. Sandbags are available at the following locations:

Caddo Public Works Fleet Services

1701 Monty Street, Shreveport,

Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Phone: 226-6936, extension 7

Caddo Public Works (South)

11928 Greenwood-Springridge Road

Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Phone: 925-9558

Caddo Public Works (North)

108 Finley Drive, Vivian,

Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Phone: 375-2464

* Limit 20 bags at parish locations

City of Shreveport Streets and Drainage

3825 Mansfield Road

Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Phone: 673-6330

* Limit 20 bags per household and 50 per business as long as supplies last