Caddo officials planning emergency services for days and weeks to come

Monday, June 8, 2015

At 10 a.m. this morning, the Red River was at 36.89 feet approaching its projected crest of 37 feet, according to National Weather Service experts who addressed Caddo emergency responders.

After the crest, the river will slowly start to fall and remain at flood stage at least through this coming weekend and possibly into next week.

“The next few days will be as bad as what we’ve been through,” said Sheriff Steve Prator, director of Caddo Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, in reference to the aftermath, which will include saturated ground, erosion, and backed-up water.

Weather officials said less than one-quarter inch of rain is expected between today and Thursday, with the heaviest rainfall, approximately one-quarter to one-half inch, coming on Thursday and Friday.

In today’s briefing, Caddo/Shreveport officials said:

- About 300 structures in the city and parish have now been affected by flooding, either from water entering the structures, residents evacuating, or power being shut off. Approximately 36 roads are impacted.
- All levees are holding. The Army Corps of Engineers is patrolling 24 hours a day.
- Three additional houses are now being threatened along Middle Bayou in Allendale. The City is sending sandbags there in an effort to save the homes.
- Anderson Island is experiencing some street flooding from a culvert, which could make access to the neighborhood more difficult in the days to come. They are also checking the area surrounding Quail Creek Apartments and continue to check previously identified neighborhoods on a regular basis.
- One home and one business on Wells Island Road remain occupied.
- The Parish is sending three trucks today to pick up filled sandbags in Texarkana. The LA Army National Guard is shipping 2,500 sandbags daily to the Parish, and 2,500 to the City.
- About 100 CCC inmates continue to be used for sandbag missions in the parish and city.
- Centerpoint Energy is asking customers in affected areas to leave their natural gas on so pressure remains in the pipes and water can’t get in.
- SWEPCO is reminding customers that water and electricity don’t mix! Energized current will take the least-resistant path to ground, and water is an excellent conductor of electricity. If water reaches your electrical equipment, call the proper city or parish authorities to have it safely disconnected by SWEPCO. Southwestern Electric Power Company wants to ensure the protection of public safety and our facilities in homes and businesses impacted by flooding.
- Several citizens have reported snakes entering homes and property around areas receiving water. Citizens are reminded to be vigilant and watch for unwanted creatures.
- Sandbag stations will remain open 24 hours a day at Parish Public Works at 1701 Monty Street and City Streets and Drainage at 3825 Mansfield Road. The parish also has facilities open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 11928 Greenwood-Springridge Road and 108 Finley Drive in Vivian.
- The Northwest Louisiana Red Cross is operating shelters in Caddo Parish at the LSU-S Red River Radio Building, 8675 Youree Drive, and at Southern University-Shreveport in the gymnasium, 3052 Dr. Martin

Luther King Drive.

Photo 1: Sheriff Prator meets with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Photo 2: CCC inmates help sandbag a building on Russell Road.

Attachments



