Caddo Parish residents urged to prepare for possibility of more flooding

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Caddo Parish residents are in for another round of high water, but it's too soon to know when or how much, according to local weather experts.

The forecast is still developing due to continuing rainfall in Arkansas and Oklahoma, so it's still too early to know when the river will crest again in Shreveport but more major flooding is expected, they said.

In the meantime, Caddo officials are warning residents affected by the last flood to keep sandbags in place and re-consider moving forward with home repairs until the effects of the current weather system are known.

Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator encouraged residents to go to http://alertregistration.com/caddo-bossier and register for emergency notifications through the parish's FirstCall system. Citizens should be vigilant by checking city and parish government websites and Facebook pages for current announcements and monitoring local weather forecasts.

Shreveport Mayor Ollie Tyler said city police and fire, along with Caddo deputies, remain in the impacted communities evaluating conditions and assessing citizen safety.

Federal assessment teams were in Caddo Parish this week and visited 150 properties that reported damage from the last flood. Of those, 69 structures took on water, and 42 were classified by FEMA as having major damage or being destroyed.

The Northwest Louisiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) is planning a Multi-Agency Resource Center for flood victims in Caddo Parish. The Department of Health and Hospitals will also offer a second opportunity to receive free Tetanus shots. Those dates and times are still being finalized.

Sandbags are still available with assistance from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Caddo Parish Public Works, 1701 Monty Street, and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Shreveport Streets and Drainage, 3825 Mansfield Road. Both locations will keep sandbags available for pick up throughout the weekend, although the locations will not be staffed.

In the meantime, flood victims needing assistance can contact the American Red Cross at 865-9545, Salvation Army at 212-0463, or Northwest LA Food Bank at 632-9321.