Caddo looks to be included in disaster declaration very soon

Monday, March 14, 2016

Caddo Parish is expected to be included in a future declaration that will open doors to federal aid for flood recovery efforts, said Sheriff Steve Prator.

On Sunday, President Barack Obama declared a major disaster exists in Louisiana and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in areas affected by severe storms and flooding. Seven parishes were included in the initial announcement, which basically got the ball rolling, Prator said. Damage surveys are continuing and more parishes and additional forms of assistance are expected to be designated after the assessments are complete.

“Our application is complete and has been submitted, and we look to be included very soon,” added the Sheriff.

In the meantime, citizens who would like to begin the recovery process with FEMA can register in advance, either at the FEMA website, www.disasterassistance.gov, or by phone at 1-800-621-3362.

For the most part, Caddo waterways are receding, Prator said. Caddo Lake is expected to crest today, and Twelve Mile Bayou, tomorrow. Red River is cresting now.

So far, 250 residential addresses have self-reported damages to the Caddo Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness at 675-2255 or reportdamages@caddosheriff.org. Those who have not reported water in their homes yet are urged to do so as soon as possible.

The Red Cross of Northwest Louisiana is still operating a shelter at Southern University in Shreveport for those who need a place to stay. Red Cross will be doing mobile damage assessments in affected neighborhoods throughout the day and dropping off bulk supplies like cleaning items and toiletries. A fixed site to obtain such items is in the works and should be announced by tomorrow.

If you would like to volunteer or need information on services available to those affected by flooding, go to www.lincc.us. The Louisiana Initiative for Non-profit and Community Collaboration is a project of the Community Foundation of North Louisiana. Citizens impacted by flooding can use the website to locate food pantries, clothing, baby items, showers, laundry, and help with clean up. The site is expected to be updated by 4 p.m. today.

Sandbags in Caddo Parish are still available around the clock at 1701 Monty Street, until 5 p.m. at 108 Finley Drive in Vivian, and at the Mooringsport Boat Ramp.