



December 2015 Issue

Active Shooter Training Prepares Public



Photo Caption: Active shooter training in the EOC.
Left: Captain Perry McEwen. **Center:** SCOP Director Dale Lane

“Be prepared for anything....learn to recognize gun fire, notice exit locations, plan an escape, keep a warrior mentality that you will not be a victim, that you will survive!” This was the message for Shelby County employees on December 8 at the Emergency Operations Center during active shooter training. Shelby County Sheriff’s Office Captain Perry McEwen and FBI Special Agent Tom Hassell, instructors for the seminar, studied past events, such as the 1999 Columbine, Colorado massacre and the 2013 Millington, Tennessee shooting. Lessons learned from those tragedies led to active shooter drills at malls to improve response skills. “Mass shooting events are unexpected and cease quickly - on average from 5 to 12 minutes in length. When 911 gets the call, you have 2 to 4 minutes before law enforcement arrives. Buy yourself time - do what you can to save your own life,” Agent Hassel said. Captain McEwen added, “Don’t be paranoid, be prepared. Your survival depends on if you have a plan or not.”

The advice from the instructors for Shelby County employees: **run, hide, or fight.**

- **Run:** Have an escape route. Leave belongings behind (except cell phone). Do not try to move the wounded victims. Help others escape. Keep others from entering the area. If you are shot at, run from cover to cover, not in a straight line. Call 911 when possible.
- **Hide:** Hide in an area out of shooter’s view. Lock the door behind you. Silence cell phones and remain quiet. Barricade the door with heavy furniture. Lie down. Look for computer cables to wrap around door knobs. If you are in a theatre, get low.
- **Fight:** If you are in imminent danger, fight! Attempt to incapacitate the shooter. Be aggressive. Hit soft spots (eyes, nose, and groin). Improvise weapons. Throw things at the shooter. Commit to your actions - your life depends on it.

When law enforcement arrives: Follow their instructions. Drop items in your hands. Raise your hands and spread fingers. Keep hands visible.

Information for 911: Give them the locations, descriptions and number of shooters, the types of weapon used, and the number and location of victims.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) Director Dale Lane advised, “Always stay vigilant. Please tell your friends and family to view the “Run, Hide, Fight” video on YouTube. Remember, public safety is all our responsibility.”



In the wake of increased terrorist attacks on U.S. soil, Jeh Johnson, Homeland Security Secretary, announced that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has **added** a “bulletin” to the National Terrorist Alert System (NTAS) to increase communication to the public. The bulletin includes a summary of the developing threat, the duration and expiration date of the threat, details about the threat, and U.S. Government counterterrorism efforts. The first bulletin was issued December 16th and will be in effect until June 16, 2016.

The NTAS which replaced the color-coded system in 2011, includes 2 types of alerts:

- **Elevated:** warning of credible terrorism threats against the U.S.
- **Imminent:** warning of a credible, specific, and impending terrorism threat against the U.S.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness urges citizens to stay safe by following these steps:

- **Stay alert.** Report suspicious activity. **If you see something, say something!**
- **Be prepared, not scared!** Be ready to shelter-in-place or evacuate in a moment’s notice.
- **Stay informed.** Visit: www.dhs.gov/national-terrorism-advisory-system for more information.

Office of Preparedness on Watch



Photo Captions: **Left:** Runners on Danny Thomas. **Right:** Far Left: SCOP Deputy Director, Levell Blanchard, and TEMA West District Coordinator, Erin Meyer, view the course map at the EOC, Center: Reserve Sheronda Greenleaf, Right: TEMA’s Mack Green.

On December 5, over 20,000 runners crowded the streets of downtown Memphis for the annual St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Marathon as the Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) kept watch. SCOP staff was on site at the marathon well as monitoring a bank of cameras at the Shelby County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for a partial activation. Representatives from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) were also at the EOC providing support in case of an emergency or terrorist event. SCOP Reserves assisted staff by monitoring the event from the Emergency Operations Center.

Holiday Decoration Safety



Photo Caption: Holiday tree catches fire.

Did you know that December 25 is second only to Thanksgiving for home fires? Holiday trees and decorations are festive but can be dangerous. FEMA and the Shelby County Office of Preparedness offer these safety tips:

- Cut live trees at a 45 degree angle at the base
- Keep trees stands filled with water
- Keep trees at least 3 feet away from heat sources
- Never use lighted candles near trees (use battery operated candles instead)
- Use only non-flammable or flame-retardant decorations
- Make sure holiday lights are UL rated
- Inspect lights for frayed wires and other defects
- Do not leave lights on unattended
- Make sure trees (and other decorations) don't block exits
- Discard trees when they become dry

Fire Alarms: Great Stocking Stuffers!



Keep your friends from harm....give them a smoke alarm! Smoke alarms make great stocking stuffers. Here are some smoke alarm safety tips from FEMA and the Shelby County Office of Preparedness:

- Install smoke alarms on each level of the home, outside sleeping areas, inside bedrooms
- Test smoke alarms once a month
- Replace smoke alarm batteries annually
- Have a working carbon monoxide alarm
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years
- Have a fire escape route and practice escaping

Monster Guard App



Who said learning can't be fun and educational? Children 4 and up learn basic safety skills and what to do during an emergency with the **free** Monster Guard mobile app. Designed for children by the American Red Cross and sponsored by Disney, Monster Guard invites children to become recruits training to survive tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes, and earthquakes. Children learn how to escape a home fire, evacuate from a tsunami, and find higher ground during a flood. Visit: www.redcross.org or text monster to 90999 to upload the app.

Office of Preparedness Recruiting Volunteers!



Photo Caption: **Left:** SCOP Reserves and staff gather for a holiday dinner December 12. Dale Lane, SCOP Director, 2nd left. Shelby Logan, Reserve Coordinator, 2nd right. Eugene Jones, CERT Coordinator, 3rd right. **Right:** SCOP Reserves assist staff at the EOC partial activation on December 5.

Do you have the heart to serve your community in the area of public safety and disaster preparedness? The Shelby County Office of Preparedness is accepting applications for their Reserve Program and the Shelby Cares Faith-Based Sheltering Program year-round. You are welcome to apply. A recruit class will be held Saturday, March 5, 2016. Please visit www.staysafeshelby.us for an application or call 901.222.6700.

Inclement Weather / Outages:



Photo Captions: **Left:** Low clouds bring heavy rains November 29. **Center:** Cars dodge post rain pooling on Old Austin Peay bridge November 30. **Right:** Dense fog on I-40 on December 11 reduces visibility.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens to stay ahead of inclement weather. Keep a NOAA all-hazards radio with a battery back-up with. Heed the watches and warnings. Recent weather alerts and power outages include:

- 11/28/15: 3,000 accounts without power in Bartlett, Lakeland, and Brunswick
- 11/29/15: Starry Nights closed early due to ponding from heavy rains
- 11/30/15: 3,000 accounts without power in Hickory Hill
- 12/11/15: Dense fog advisory issued by the National Weather Service
- 12/12/15: Wind Advisory issued by the National Weather Service
- 12/13/15: 2,000 accounts without power
- 12/15/15: 1,500 accounts without power in Midtown, Frayser, and East Memphis. Martin Luther King, Jr. College Prep High School dismissed early
- 12/16/15: 2,000 accounts without power in downtown and Midtown

Mississippi River

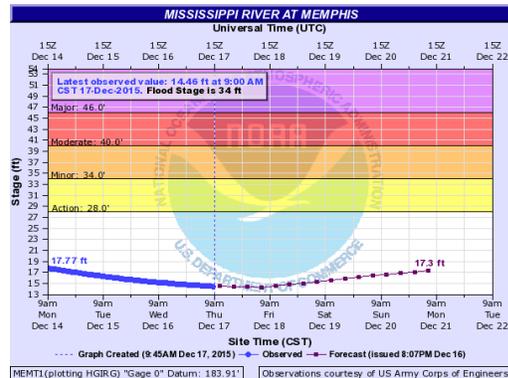


Photo Caption: **Left:** Mississippi River at Memphis on December 15. **Right:** NWS hydrograph.

On December 17, the Mississippi River at Memphis level was 15 feet and forecast to rise to 17.3 feet by December 21, according to the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service. To obtain the next river statement, visit www.weather.gov.

Activation Levels



The Emergency Operations Centers for the Shelby County Office of Preparedness and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency remain at **Level 5: Normal Operations**.

Amateur Radio



Photo Caption: Joe Lowenthal

- **Amateur “Ham” Radio Training. FREE.** Extra Class, Saturdays, January 9 to February 20, 2016, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at 6972 Appling Farms Parkway. Manual is \$29.95. FCC exam is \$15.00. Email instructor, Joe Lowenthal, at wa40v0@gmail.com to register.
- **SCOPERNET Check-In:** Check-in to the Shelby County Office of Preparedness Emergency Reserve Net, Mondays, 6:00 p.m., 147.09 repeater, tone 107.2. Ned Savage is net control.

Training

Run. Hide. Fight. Surviving an Active Shooter Event video. <https://youtu.be/5VcSwejU2D0>

Please visit www.staysafeshelby.us to register for these **FREE** classes:

- **Active Shooter Awareness and Prevention:** Jan. 9, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- **Active Shooter Awareness and Prevention:** Jan. 15, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- **Multi Hazard Planning for Schools:** Jan. 19 – 20, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
- **Pipeline Security in Rural Communities:** Jan. 26, 2016, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Emergency Management Institute: Independent Study. Free, on-line, self-paced courses. To register and view the course list, visit [www: training.fema.gov/emi.aspx](http://www.training.fema.gov/emi.aspx).

Resources

FREE Mobile Apps: FEMA

www.fema.org



ReadyTN

www.tnema.org/ReadyTN/



TDOT

www.smartway.tn.gov/



ARC

www.redcross.org



Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us, 901.222.6700

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StaySafeShelby/

Twitter: twitter.com/SCOP_HLS_EMA

- Citizen Corps: citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Shelby Cares Faith-Based Sheltering Initiative: terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Shelby County Office of Preparedness Reserves: shelby.logan@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Storm Shelter Registry: kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

- Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps: www.shelbycountymrc.org.
- Shelby County Public Health Emergency Preparedness: www.schdresponse.com

American Red Cross (ARC): www.redcross.org

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov

Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI): www.ceri.memphis.edu

Department of Homeland Security (DHS): www.dhs.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): www.fema.gov

Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW): www.mlqw.com

www.mlqw.com/residential/outagemap, Emergency: 901.544.6500

Downed Power Lines: 901.528.4465

National Weather Service (NWS): www.weather.gov/memphis: 901.544.0399

Ready Shelby: www.readyshelby.org

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA): www.tnema.gov

Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT): www.tn.gov/tdot

United States Geological Survey (USGS): www.usgs.gov

Weather Underground: www.weatherunderground.com

EMERGENCY: Call 911