



July 2014 Issue Bob Nations, Jr., Director

Flash Floods Soak Shelby County June 29 - 30, 2014



Photo Captions: Left: Car splashes through high water at 3rd and A.W. Willis. Water bubbles up through drains.



Right: Cars stall at the intersection of Macon and Jackson.

Bob Nations, Jr. Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) after heavy rains caused flash flooding in the county on June 29 - 30, 2014.



Photo Captions: Left: Wolf River at Germantown parking lot is underwater on June 30, 2014.



Right: East Memphis Farm Road fields soaked with water.

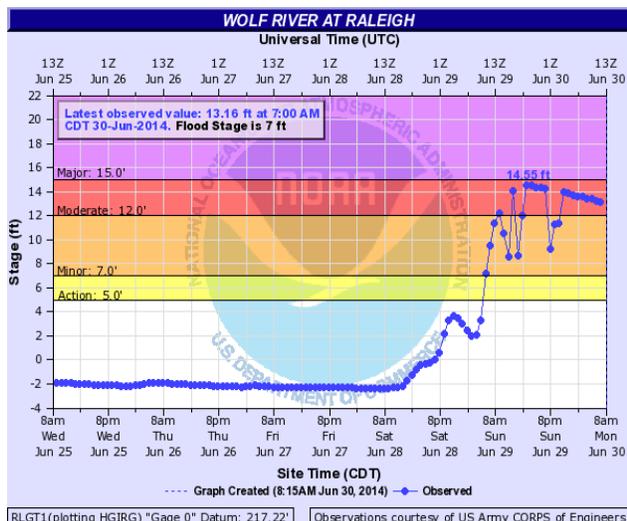


Photo Captions: Left: The Wolf River at Raleigh rose from - 2 to 14.55 feet. Flood stage is 7 feet.



Right: Wolf River at Raleigh near major flood stage

On June 28, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Memphis issued a severe thunderstorm and flash flooding warning for Shelby County.

On June 29, a flash flood warning was issued by the NWS due to “3 to 5 inches of rain falling in less than 6 hours.” Director Nations warned citizens to stay off the roads. He cautioned, “Don’t drive through water on the roads! You can’t see what is underneath the water. Its danger is deceptive. And please don’t let children play in overflowing ditches!” By 7:00 a.m., 2575 Memphis Light, Gas and Water customers were without power. Flash flooding was reported throughout the county. A river flood warning was issued for the Wolf River at Germantown. By 8:30 a.m., 4,355 customers were without power. Vehicles were reported in the water at Winchester and Tchulahoma.

The EOC, utilizing Geographical Imaging System (GIS) software, mapped the damages which included downed power lines, fallen trees, signal light malfunctions, and road closures. Some incidents included:

- Nonconnah Creek on Winchester Road rose from 8 to 25.13 feet. Flood stage is 23 feet.
- Half of the 300 homes in the Wheel Estate Mobile Park in Whitehaven were flooded. Many citizens required rescue and were sheltered for a few days.
- Wolf River rose to 22.5 feet near the Germantown Parkway access (up from 4 feet on June 28). A Toyota 4Runner was stuck in the water. Fortunately no passengers were inside.
- Sheriff’s Office closed Memphis-Arlington Road between Arlin and Chambers Chapel Road.
- Bartlett closed the intersection of Westbrook and Billy Maher.
- Flooded intersections included: Overton Park and North McLean, Union and Poplar, Jackson and Stonewall, Raleigh LaGrange and Summer, James and Warford, Jackson and Macon, Millbranch and Raines, Airways and Directors Row, Park and Perkins, Knight Arnold and Hickory Hill, Kirby and Quail Hollow, Poplar and Colonial, Elvis Presley and Winchester, Bellevue and Houston Place, Person and Cincinatti, and the Tillman Street entrance.

On June 30, 5.78 inches of rainfall were recorded. This is the second highest amount of rainfall in one day since 1935. Director Nations noted that because the Mississippi River at Memphis was below flood stage before this weather event, the tributaries, such as the Wolf River and Nonconnah Creek, were able to transfer extra water into the Mississippi. However, the slow drainage of the tributaries was a major concern during this flash flooding event. The NWS recorded 7.09 inches of rainfall in a 30 hour period.

West Tennessee Staging Drill



Photo Caption: West Tennessee counties gathered on June 18 in Gibson County for the TNCAT14 drill (photo by Eugene Jones)

On June 18, 2014, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, along with other emergency agencies from West Tennessee, traveled to Gibson County for the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) TNCAT14 drill. This was a staging exercise that included positioning of an identification center, a mobile command center, a mobile communications tower, a helicopter landing pad, and a rehabilitation center. In attendance were the Tennessee Highway Patrol, the Tennessee Health Department, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. David Purkey, Director of Tennessee Homeland Security and Interim Director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, also attended and thanked the agencies for attending and participating in the drill. Additionally, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness participated in a state-wide communications check as part of this drill.

IPAWS



The Integrated Public Alert and Warning system, “IPAWS,” is now the nation’s public alert system. It provides immediate emergency alerts and warnings by disseminating life-saving information quickly. Federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local alerting authorities can use IPAWS. For public safety officials, IPAWS is the most effective way to alert and warn the public about widespread emergencies using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and other public alerting systems from a single interface. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness is one of 11 agencies to be authorized to use IPAWS in Tennessee. To find out more, visit: www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system.

Water Purification Straw



Disasters such as flooding, earthquake or tornado may interrupt the infrastructure, including the water supply. The rule of thumb is to have one gallon per person per day of clean drinkable water for each person and pet in the household. An alternative for humans to drink water that is safe, is to use a purification straw. These handy water filters are pocket-size and easy to use. They remove 99% of waterborne bacteria and protozoa from questionable water and surpasses EPA standards for water filters. They do not filter metals or viruses and will not desalinate water. Each straw filters approximately 264 gallons or 1000 liters of contaminated water making it safe to drink. Water purification straws can be purchased in the camping section of stores.



July do1thing: Family Communications Plan!

When disaster strikes, are you able to get in touch with your family and friends? Develop a plan now how you will communicate during an emergency. Here are some tips to help you communicate with those you care about during a disaster:

- First, program important phone numbers into your cell phones as well as carry a wallet card with the same information on it. Make sure all family members do the same.
- Designate an out-of-town contact for all family members to call and check in with during a disaster.
- Local and long distance calls work on different circuits. If local circuits are clogged, you may be able to make a long distance call.
- If the power is out, cell phones may be working but can become overloaded with too many people trying to call each other. Cordless phones, internet, and email will not be working. However, a landline with a cord connecting the handset to the base will work even with the power out.
- A text message from your cell phone may get through when a phone call won't. Make sure everyone in your family knows how to send and receive text messages.
- Keep a car charger for your cell phone in your vehicle.

For more information on the 12 monthly tips to get prepared, please visit www.do1thing.com.

Commuter Emergency Plan



Ready.
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

**Commuter
Emergency Plan**

FEMA

Make sure you have a plan for traveling between work and home, and other commonly visited locations, in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, list your normal and some alternative routes you can use to get to your destinations. Keep a copy of this plan in your wallet or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Public transportation mode (bus, train, ferry, etc.):

MODE	LINE	STOP	FARE: \$
			TOTAL FARE: \$

Daily driving directions and alternative routes to and from work or other location:

DAILY ROUTE

TO: _____

FROM: _____

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

TO: _____

FROM: _____

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

TO: _____

FROM: _____

Other transportation options:

	PHONE NUMBER	NOTES
LOCAL TAXI COMPANY:		
COMMUTER RAIL:		
LOCAL BUS LINE:		

A disaster, such as the recent flash flooding event of June 30 in Shelby County, may strike at any time cutting you off from your normal route. Do you know an alternative way to get to home, work, or your child's school? The Ready campaign can help you plan for such an event. Upload the "Commuter Emergency Plan" today. The form requests a list of your normal routes as well as alternatives in case those streets are not passable. Additionally, the form reminds citizens that public transportation may be up and running to help you get from A to B during an emergency. Visit www.fema.gov to print of the form. Once the form is filled out you can save it and email it to family members.

Preparedness Training

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training: July 19 and 26, 2014, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Shelby County Office of Preparedness, 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134. Free. Pre-registration is required. To register email: mathiassl@bellsouth.net

Amateur Radio Technician Training: July 14 – August 18, 2014, 6:15 – 9:30 p.m., Free. 6865 Poplar Pike, Memphis. Manual is \$29.95. Exam is \$15. Contact: Joe Lowenthal at 901.628.4318.

Social Media for Natural Disaster Response and Recovery: August 18 or August 19, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Host: National Weather Service at 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134. Email Shannon.towery@shelbycountyttn.gov. Registration code: 30794.

Preparedness Resources

ALERTFM

www.alertfm.com



READYTN

www.tema.org/READYTN



FEMA

www.fema.gov



Weather Channel

www.weather.com



TDOTSmartWay

www.tdot.state.tn.us/tdotsmartway



Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us, 901.515.2525.



Shelby County Office of Preparedness Storm Shelter Registry: Kimberlyn.bouler@shelbcountytn.gov

Shelby Cares - Faith-based Sheltering Initiative: Terry.donald@shelbycountytn.gov

Shelby County CERT Program: Eugene.Jones@shelbycountytn.gov

Shelby County Citizen Corps: citizencorps@shelbycountytn.gov,  www.facebook-shelby-county-citizen-corps

Shelby County, Tennessee: www.shelbycountytn.gov

ALERTFM: www.alertfm.com

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

Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC): www.cusec.org

Department of Homeland Security: www.dhs.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Ready America, Ready Business, Ready Kids: www.ready.gov, www.fema.gov, Citizen Corps: www.citizencorps.gov

Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW): www.mlgw.org, 901.544.6549, Outages: 901.544.6500, downed lines or gas leaks: 901.528.4465. Outage Map on line: www.mlgw.com/residential/outagemap

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): www.floodsmart.gov

National Weather Service (NWS): www.weather.gov, NWS Memphis: 901.544.0399

Ready Tennessee: www.tn.gov/homelandsecurity/getready.shtml

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

Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT): www.tdot.state.tn.us, 1.877.244.0065, call 511

United States Fire Administration (USFA): www.usfa.fema.gov

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

Weather Channel: www.weather.com

EMERGENCY: 9-1-1

