



November 2015 Issue

Terrorism



Photo Caption: flag at half-staff
on Covington Pike, November 17

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness offers condolences as they stand with France following the horrific November 13 series of coordinated terrorist attacks. The attacks occurred in Paris, the capital of France, and Saint-Denis, a Paris suburb. Mass shootings, bombings, hostage-taking, and suicide attacks resulted in 137 dead, 80 critically injured, and 352 wounded, according to CNN. Seven of the dead were identified as the attackers. The Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) have claimed responsibility. France was put under a “state of emergency,” as the news spread quickly around the world, especially through social media. In the aftermath, government agencies reassess security policies toward Syrian and Iraqi refugees and new attacks are reported daily in other parts of the world. A proclamation by President Obama ordered American flags lowered to half-staff to honor those who died during the attacks.

Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, reminds citizens that “terrorism can happen anywhere, any time. You can be proactive in your survival while aiding law enforcement by doing the following:”

- Stay vigilant! Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Be mindful where the exits are located in all public buildings.
- **If you see something, say something!** Report to law enforcement vapor clouds, unscheduled spraying, materials unusual for the area, unusual odors, unattended or leaking packages, suspicious behavior such as someone testing security by attempting to enter government buildings, or someone acquiring large amounts of supplies.
- Have a family communications plan. Program emergency phone numbers into your cell phones. Have an out-of-town contact everyone can check in with.
- Be ready to evacuate or shelter-in-place at a moment’s notice following a terrorist attack. Have a plan in place and practice your plan.

The Office of Preparedness coordinated “Active Shooter” training for Shelby County Government employees on December 7, 8, and 9 with instructors from the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Rains Soaks County

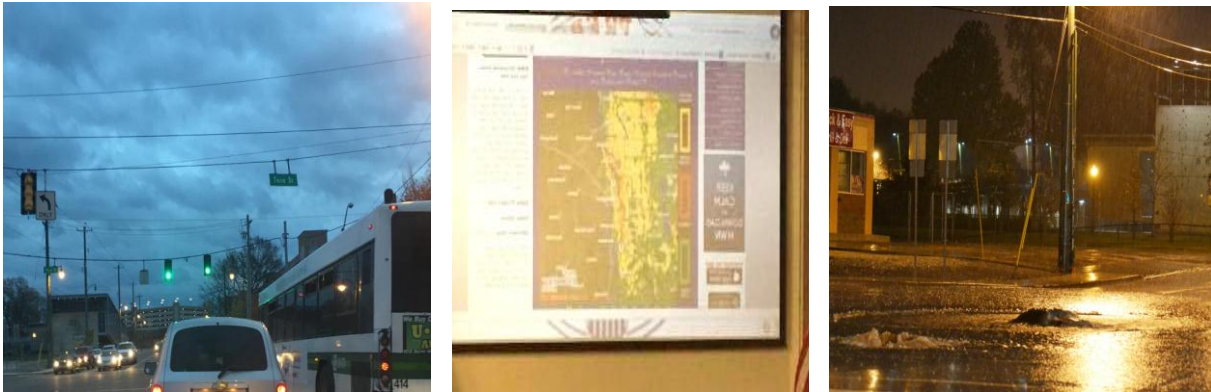


Photo Captions: **Left:** cloud-heavy skies at 4:00 p.m. November 17. **Center:** Tracking the storm from the Emergency Operations Center. **Right:** Flash flooding in Uptown

For days, the National Weather Service in Memphis placed Shelby County in a “slight” risk category for severe thunderstorms, predicting gusting winds of 25 to 40 miles an hour and heavy rainfall of 2 to 6 inches for November 17 through the morning of November 18. On November 17, a flash flood watch and a wind advisory were issued. As skies darkened, rains fell, and the wind whipped up, a tornado watch and a flash flood warning were issued.

Memphis Light, Gas and Water reported 14,544 customers without power at 7:30 p.m. For a brief time over 17,000 customers were without power.

Dale Lane and the SCOP staff monitored the weather event from the Emergency Operations Center. Director Lane stated, “We are thankful for the National Weather Service’s partnership in getting the forecasts out early about this storm. Our staff, as well as our citizens, began preparations at noon today as a pre-storm mission. Fortunately, there were no injuries reported.”

Minor storm damage included downed trees and power lines, a few temporary road closures, and signal light malfunctions in Midtown, South Memphis, Whitehaven, Germantown, and Bartlett. By Wednesday, November 18, only 3,428 customers were without power by 8:30 a.m.



Photo Captions: **Left:** A broken utility pole dangles from electrical wires at Linden and Florence, Midtown. **Center:** Downed trees and utility poles block the street on Florence. **Right:** Law enforcement directs traffic on Union and Cooper due to signal light malfunctions.

Citizens University



Photo Caption: Emergency equipment display at 1075 Mullins Station Road

Citizens attending the Shelby County Government Citizens University were welcomed to the Emergency Operations Center at 1075 Mullins Station Road on October 29, 2015 as part of their 12-week course. Students toured emergency equipment outdoors during the evening class.

Damage Assessment



Photo Caption: Erin Meyer, TEMA instructor

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness hosted “Damage Assessment” training for citizens and emergency officials on October 22, 2015 at the Emergency Operations Center. Erin Meyer, instructor from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), led the seminar.

Office of Preparedness on Site



Photo Caption: State Senator Mark Norris, left, greets Michael Brazzell, Preparedness Officer, right, at a U of M football game. Photo by Nelia Dempsey

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) continues to be a presence at large public events such as the University of Memphis and the FedEx Forum. Any time there are large groups of citizens gathered, the Office of Preparedness will be on site as well as monitoring the situation from the Shelby County Emergency Operations Center.

Welcome Reserve Recruits!



Photo Caption: Director Lane welcomes Reserve Recruits

“We are excited that you choose to be here!” said Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) Director Dale Lane, as he and his staff enthusiastically welcomed Reserve Recruits to the Emergency Operations Center on October 24. “And by being here today,” he continued, “you choose to make a difference.” He explained SCOP’s philosophy in one word, **service**. “What we do is about the people we serve, it is not about us. The principle we operate by is a team approach. And as a Reserve, there are two statements you will never make...*it’s not my job* and *I wish I had*. We are problem solvers and we give our best to every citizen. We are here to help reduce fear in the public when disaster strikes. We are glad you are with us!”

Some of the special guest speakers for the Recruit orientation class included:

- **Levell Blanchard, Deputy Administrator**, stated that SCOP needs dedicated Reserves since there are only 10 staff members serving 1,000,000 citizens. He showed the Emergency Operations Plan and explained how and why the Emergency Operations Center may be activated. He explained how a federal disaster declaration is achieved.
- **Shelby Logan, Preparedness Officer / Reserve Coordinator**, welcomed the Recruits and explained the orientation and training process to become a full Reserve.
- **Jesse Gammel, Preparedness Officer**, demonstrated the Geographical Information System (GIS) technology and how it is used during a disaster.
- **Eugene Jones, Preparedness Officer / CERT Coordinator**, explained the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

SCOP is accepting applications for the Reserve program year-round. To apply, please visit www.staysafeshelby.us to fill out an application or call 901.222.6700.



Photo Captions: Left: Levell Blanchard. Center: Shelby Logan. Right: Eugene Jones

SCOP Attends EMAT Conference



Representing the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, Dale Lane, Director, and Eugene Jones, Preparedness Officer, attended the Emergency Management Association of Tennessee (EMAT) – Tennessee Emergency Management Association (TEMA) workshop in Chattanooga, Tennessee on November 2 – 5.

EMAT, a non-profit professional association for those involved in planning, mitigation, response, and recovery from disasters in Tennessee, serves as a liaison for local, state, and federal governments and agencies. EMAT promotes emergency management programs through training and dissemination of information to achieve best practices.

Mississippi River Rising

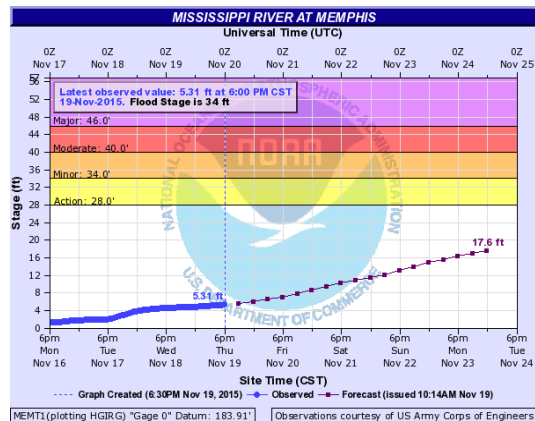


Photo Caption: Left: Mississippi River from Tom Lee Park on November 19. Right: NWS hydrograph.

On November 19, 2015, the Mississippi River at Memphis level was 5.31 feet and predicted to rise to 17.6 feet by November 24, according to the National Weather Service (NWS) Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service. Minor flood stage is 34 feet and major flood stage is 46 feet. To obtain the next river statement, visit www.weather.gov.

Amateur “Ham” Radio

- **Amateur “Ham” Radio Training. FREE.** Extra Class, Saturdays, January 9 to February 20, 2016, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 6972 Appling Farms Parkway. Manual is \$29.95. FCC exam is \$15.00. Please email Joe Lowenthal at wa40v0@gmail.com to register.
- **Ham Radio 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.

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**.

Training

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

- Web EOC Refresher Training: December 2, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- CERT: December 5 and 12, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute: Independent Studies. On-line, self-paced **FREE** courses. Students must register to obtain a FEMA student identification number before starting a course. To register and view the course list, please visit [www: training.fema.gov/emi.aspx](http://www.training.fema.gov/emi.aspx).

Resources

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

- 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: www.redcross.org

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

Memphis Light, Gas and Water: www.mlqw.com, www.mlqw.com/residential/outagemap
Emergency / Outages: 901.544.6500, Downed Power Lines: 901.528.4465

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

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

Tennessee Department of Transportation: www.tn.gov/tdot

EMERGENCY: Call 911