

Agency Procedures When Responding To Emergencies In Flooded Areas

Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office (CPSO):

- CPSO monitors all storm systems and primary areas of concern. The Sheriff's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness office continually updates CPSO personnel on weather conditions and flooding possibilities. Deputies will stage personnel and resources in areas of concern.
- For shallow water rescue, the agency has two (2) pro drive boats, three (3) jon boats with outboard motors, three (3) flat bottom boats without motors, a rigid hull inflatable, and a hover craft.
- For high water rescues, CPSO has a specialized high-water truck as well as other vehicles to assist citizens.

Shreveport Fire Department (SFD):

- Did not respond.

Shreveport Police Department (SPD):

- Please refer to attachment – Critical Incident Response (Floods)

Caddo Fire District 1 (CFD1):

- CFD1 has one (1) shallow water boat and a swift/flood water rescue team to respond to water emergencies. In addition, several CFD1 personnel are members of the federal Task Force 3, which covers this area and deploy when requested.

Caddo Fire District 3 (CFD3):

- CFD3 does not own a rescue boat. The agency will coordinate with CPSO and/or another CFD for resources. Citizens should be aware that any response requiring medical personnel or firefighters will certainly be delayed as they coordinate for transport via high-wheeled vehicles.
- Several CFD3 personnel own jon boats, but these may not always be available in a timely manner.

Caddo Fire District 4 (CFD4):

- CFD4 owns one (1) Rescue One R Series All Aluminum weld boat for shallow and high water rescues. The boat is equipped with a 25Hp Mercury motor, emergency lighting and flood lights, and a dive platform to assist personnel and victims out of the water.
- 11 CFD4 personnel are trained for swift and flood water rescue.
- In recent years CFD4 has assisted CFD3 and CFD6 with flooding emergencies, and drowning victim rescues.

Caddo Fire District 5 (CFD5):

- CFD5 does not own a rescue boat. The agency will coordinate with CPSO and/or another CFD for resources. Citizens should be aware that any response requiring medical personnel or firefighters will certainly be delayed as they coordinate for transport via high-wheeled vehicles.

Caddo Fire District 6 (CFD6):

- CFD6 has three (3) boats available and personnel are very familiar with flood prone areas. The agency has a response plan and a flood disaster drop off area within their district, with command post capabilities. CFD6 will pre-stage personnel and resources during events that provide warning. Any response due to flash floods may be delayed.

Caddo Fire District 7 (CFD7):

- CFD7 does not currently have an established flood zone rescue plan, but is developing one. Part of that plan is acquiring a dedicated boat. Past practice has been using boats owned by CFD7 personnel to reach citizens requiring assistance.

Caddo Fire District 8 (CFD8):

- CFD8 does not currently own any boats, and relies on partnerships with CPSO and neighboring departments, or using their personal boats if needed.

Greenwood Police Department (GPD):

- GPD works with CFD3 (using their assets) to rescue citizens. Historically, the primary area of concern is ensuring the safety of the residents of the Greenway Apartments. Flooding over I-20 East between mile markers four (4) and five (5) is another priority area. GPD will continue to plan for rescues in this area, though there has not been a need as yet. LA DOTD has determined the cause of that flooding and is addressing it.

Belcher Police Department:

- Belcher PD does not have any resources to provide unassisted response to flooded areas.

Blanchard Police Department:

- Blanchard PD works with CFD1 (using their assets) to rescue citizens.

Oil City Police Department (OCPD):

- OCPD does not own any boats/watercraft. The agency monitors areas within the town limits of Oil City that have flooding potential. The intersection of Highway 538 and E. Flournoy St. is a major area of concern. OCPD posts DOTD signs in that area, and works with CPSO (Lake Patrol) to utilize their equipment to assist in relocating citizens. OCPD also works with CFD 7 to provide assistance wherever needed. We also receive email updates from the Sheriff's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Office.

Hosston Police Department (HPD):

- HPD does not own any boats/watercraft, or specialized rescue equipment. The agency assists CPSO during emergencies, and requires other agencies to assist with flood related rescues.

Vivian Police Department (VPD):

- Did not respond.

Rodessa Police Department (RPD):

- Did not respond.

Mooringsport Police Department (MPD):

- Did not respond.

Ida Police Department (IPD):

- Did not respond.

Shreveport Police Critical Incident Response (Floods)

XII. FLOODS

Command

- First officer initiates command. First supervisor assumes and announces assumption.
- The Shift A Captain, Shift C Captain or Commander on Duty shall assume command if on duty and until relieved by a superior.

Contain

- Barricade underpasses when water reaches 2 feet.
- Not all areas will flood, resulting in several small perimeters. Unmanned barricades should be patrolled regularly to insure they are still in place and to look for trapped persons.
- Additional patrols along known flood streets may be necessary.
- Consider closing public areas that flood frequently.

Communicate

- In flash floods, call SFD for rescues.
- Report all possible damage to infrastructure such as roads, bridges or drainage structures.
- Utilize media warnings to warn the public of dangers.
- Evacuation may become necessary.

Coordinate

- Coordinate rescue operations with SFD.
- Prepare for evacuation.
- If evacuations are carried out, coordinate with Marine Patrol and SFD concerning boats for security patrols.
- Insure Police Communications Officers have the latest information on road closures, shelters, evacuations, etc.
- If residents are allowed into flooded areas or if sandbagging is being done, coordinate with Caddo Parish Animal Control, whom may be used for wildlife and snake patrols.

Control

- In the case of long turn evacuations, some persons may return during the day and go to shelters at night. Initiate a pass system for any returning.
- Establish security at shelters.
- A plan for return to evacuated areas is a necessity. Floods begin & end slowly. Some individuals/families will return home before others.
- Some individuals/families will go through the area in boats or trucks. This can cause wake damage to structures. Utilize the SPD Cross Lake Patrol.
- Use large trucks such as dump trucks as rescue vehicles.
- Once people return, they will frequently set furniture outside to dry; regular patrols will be needed to prevent theft.

Shreveport Police Critical Incident Response (Floods)

Officer Safety

- Floods often break sewer, natural gas and water lines or electric wires as rising water pushes on pipes and wires.
- Hazardous materials tanks may float free or rupture.
- Water can damage roadway structures and then make the damage and other debris difficult to see. Avoid traveling into these flooded areas or travel very slowly.
- Water can undercut the banks of streams and ditches. When this occurs, the bank may appear stable, but suddenly collapse.
- Flash floods are very dangerous. Six inches of moving water can sweep a person off their feet and approximately 2 feet of moving water will float a car. Most flash flooding deaths occur in cars, officers should abandon stalled units immediately. Check stalled cars for occupants.
- Snakes and other wild animals will seek to avoid rising waters. This may force them into residential areas.
- If at all possible, do not enter water to attempt rescue without helmet, flotation device and safety line. Throw lines to persons in the water. Other things that float, including spare tires can be thrown to people in the water.

Evacuation Notification

- Communication efforts with the public, in the event of a needed mass evacuation would utilize the Everbridge Notification System along with social media and local television network outlets.

Scene Surveillance

- Coordination with drone surveillance teams to provide real-time size up and critical locations would be made and monitored at the established Incident Command Post and Emergency Operations Center.