



Parish of Ascension

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

KENNY MATASSA
Parish President

Ascension Parish Officials Warn Residents of Impending Backwater Flooding

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GONZALES – Following predictions made by the National Weather Service that Ascension Parish will see historic backwater flooding levels early next week, parish and city officials made a joint statement Friday afternoon urging residents to use due diligence and begin preparations immediately.

Parish President Kenny Matassa joined with Ascension Parish Sheriff Jeff Wiley, parish Office of Emergency Preparedness Director Rick Webre, Parish Council Chairman Randy Clouatre, Gonzales Mayor Barney Arceneaux, Sorrento Mayor Mike Lambert and parish Drainage Director Bill Roux to warn residents, mostly affected by flooding in the northern and eastern parts of the parish.

“It is predicted that we will be experiencing similar flooding to that of Tropical Storm Allison in 2001,” said President Matassa.

“Over the last 24 to 28 hours our residents have experienced significant flooding due to heavy rainfall,” said Rick Webre. “The threat includes a risk of backwater flooding from the Amite River, Bayou Manchac and the Diversion Canal. We ask that you continue to follow all safety protocols and instructions from first responders.”

Bill Roux said residents along Alligator Bayou Road and the areas behind that, specifically, Bluff Swamp, Spanish Lake and low lying areas along Bayou Manchac, the Amite River, Muddy Creek Basin, and bridges crossing these waterways, will be affected with this event. He said crews will try to provide ways of access to residents across Muddy Creek and Little Prairie bridges.

“We expect Hwy. 431 to overtop near Port Vincent,” Roux said. “Lake Martin will be affected by high water from the Amite River. The roads are expected to be impacted including all low lying areas along the Amite River, Lake Villar, Summerfield, Lake Martin, Hwy. 431, and Gold Place Road. The area of Sorrento south of La. 22, including low lying areas along Bayou Conway and Panama Canal, specifically Raymond Tullier Road and Brittany Street and surrounding areas are expected to be impacted.”

Sheriff Wiley said parish employees and inmates from the Ascension Parish Jail have been filling sandbags around the clock. More than 30,000 bags have been distributed this week.

“All of your government has met here today to make sure that we are here prepared for the people of Ascension Parish,” Sheriff Wiley said. “For those who are attempting to travel to view flooding – please refrain from traveling on the flooded roadways. A wake from those drivers could go into someone’s home.

“We will get through this because it is one of those events that happens. We have a couple of days to prepare for this. Residents should prepare by removing low lying valuables off of the ground in your homes and if you feel the need, sandbag your homes. If your house has flooded before, or has been threatened it is likely that you will be affected by this event. Please be prepared.”

Webre said sand and bags are NOT available at Lamar-Dixon Expo Center. Residents are requested to bring their own shovels to the following locations.

- Prairieville Fire Department
14517 LA-73, Prairieville, LA 70769
- 5th Ward Fire Department
39110 LA-22, Darrow, LA 70725
- 7th District Fire Department Station 71
13432 Roddy Rd, Gonzales, LA 70737
- St. Amant Fire Department
44465 Stringer Bridge Rd, St. Amant, LA 70774
- Geismar Fire Department
12171 La. 73, Geismar, LA 70734

- Galvez-Lake Vol. Fire Department
La. 931 near La. 431, Prairieville, LA
- Sorrento Town Hall, 8173 Main St., Sorrento LA
- City of Gonzales Barn, 2919 South Darla Ave., Gonzales, LA
- La. 431 at Valentine Road (Curve of La. 431), St. Amant, LA
- Ridge Road at Kleinpeter Road (off of Bluff Road)
- End of Tullier Road, Sorrento, LA
- End of Buxton Road, St. Amant, LA