

Madison County Crews Fight Rising Water to Prevent Flooding of Homes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EDWARDSVILLE - Heavy rain is causing concern for parts of Madison County.

Between 3 and 5 inches of rain has fallen since Friday and county officials are concerned for residents in areas of Nameoki and Chouteau townships.

The deluge of water has kept crews busy making sure storm water pumps continue to work in Special Services Area No. 1, which is located in the Mitchell and Pontoon Beach areas, County Administrator Doug Hulme said.

"We've been making sure the pumps stay operational to prevent flooding in the Arlington Lakes area," Hulme said.

Hulme said that Deputy County Administrator Steve Adler has been working to keep equipment operational to prevent water from backing up into residents homes. He said the one pump located in the Arlington Lakes area wasn't enough to keep up.

"We brought in two extra pumps," Adler said. "We rented one and Metro East Sanitary District loaned us one. We doubled the pumping capacity on a short term basis."

He said the stormwater is pumped over the levee into Cahokia Creek.

"As far as the county goes we are doing better than most," Adler said. "Parts of Granite City are inundated and there are streets with water several feet deep."

Although there are a handful of road closures throughout the county, they are in municipal and township areas, County Engineer Mark Gvillo said.

Gvillo said he anticipates there could be one road closure and that is Lebanon Road at Silver Creek, which is southeast of Troy.

He said most of the roads the county maintains are elevated enough to prevent flooding.

The County's Emergency Management Agency is in communication with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Weather Service, Illinois Emergency Management Agency as well as local police and fire departments.

"We are monitoring water levels and our Incident Management Team is out driving the area, " Todd Fulton, the county's EMA director, said.

Fulton said so far there have been no evacuations. He said emergency personnel are on standby and they are keeping an eye for rising waters near a mobile home park in Chouteau Township.

One of the concerns is high waters reaching the power station and residents losing electricity. The county is working with Mitchell Fire Protections District to make sure residents are evacuated in case it does happens.

"Our priority is to get everyone out safe," Fulton said.

Residents at the mobile home park were evacuated in December 2015 after following heavy rains and flooding.

County officials said motorists should always be prepared when traveling in rain and look for water across the roadways.

"A big cause for concern is when it pours down in a short time," Gvillo said. "It's when flash flooding is most likely to occur and vehicles get swept off the road."

Gvillo said the Sheriff's Department, along with other emergency personnel, are notified of all road closures.

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