

December 26, 2015
1100 hrs.
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Statement on Flooding

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed an initial survey of the Elba levee on Dec. 25, and continue to monitor the levee today. They report the levee is in "excellent" condition and performing as it should under the conditions, while noting some minor issues they will continue to monitor throughout the day as the Pea River heads to its crest, forecast to be between 41.5 feet and 43 feet by the National Weather Service at Tallahassee.

The Corps is monitoring several "pin boils" and one small boil located in a drainage ditch. City crews have taken steps to mitigate these issues. One small surface crack has been noted by the Corps, who indicate it is not a concern.

Predictions:

The Weather Service, which revised its crest forecast of the Pea River down from 43.5 feet overnight, adjusted the crest prediction to 43 feet earlier this morning. In Elba, Moores Creek and Beaver Dam Creek, which had fallen significantly late yesterday, are beginning to rise again as they are being backed up by the river. City officials urge residents affected by these streams to monitor them closely, and to take action as conditions dictate.

Protective Actions:

City crews are continuing to address flooding and have evacuations under way in some locations, as water begins to threaten additional homes. Both city and county law enforcement have begun ticketing of motorists who drive around barricaded areas. These areas have been closed for protection of both property owners and motorists. If water is covering the road, do not drive a vehicle on the roadway. Don't drown, turn around. Additionally, city law enforcement will ticket and arrest any person found on the levee, which is closed to public access. This is a protective measure to limit the chance a person may be swept into the floodwaters. Also, a levee failure can happen more rapidly than a person on foot can escape a collapse. There are NO indications of a levee failure, and this is a precautionary measure.

Road closures and partial road closures are currently:

Riverview
Washington
River
Smith Avenue
Alabama Highway 203 between Troy Highway and Smith Avenue
Garrett
South Plant
South Williams
Payne
Ann
Brookdale Subdivision
Portions of South Reese

Simmons from Adkinson to Davis

City crews are aware that some sewer manholes are venting sewage. This problem cannot be address until water recedes. City officials urge residents to stay out of all floodwaters, and to wash thoroughly after coming into contact with flood waters.

A major leak has occurred at one city water well (Well 4), and water has been cut off to a number of homes on the north side of the city. The well is being repaired and water service is expected to be restored to the affected area today.

Sandbags are available, but the Elba Street Department is asking for volunteers to fill additional sandbags. To volunteer, call the Elba Police Department at 334-897-2555.

An emergency shelter has been established at the Elba Elementary School by the American Red Cross. Feeding times are 8 a.m. until 9 a.m.; 12 p.m. until 1 p.m.; and from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Overnight sheltering is available at EES.