

December 26, 2015

1730 hrs.

Contact: Mickey Murdock

Statement on Flooding

334-897-2333

Elba City officials are continuing to monitor levee conditions as nightfall occurs. A leak in the levee was discovered directly underneath the U.S. Highway 84 bridge approach from the inside of the levee. City crews, under the direction of Army Corps of Engineers technical experts, have repaired the leak and have taken steps to mitigate future damage from the leak. The repair work caused officials to temporarily close the highway. Currently, U.S. Highway 84 is open across the Pea River at Elba.

City officials urge residents to stay off the roads and to avoid flooded areas overnight. Some damage to residences has been reported due to traffic entering flooded streets in residential neighborhoods. Motorists are urged to use extreme caution and travel only for necessary or emergency needs. Specifically, city officials ask motorists to avoid the downtown area if possible to reduce traffic flow across the levee, creating a safer environment for workers monitoring the levee.

This afternoon, Mayor Mickey Murdock requested the assistance of the Alabama National Guard to provide relief personnel to city crews who have been on a 24-hour rotation. The Guard members will patrol the levee area throughout the night, assist with sandbagging and provide additional support as requested by the city.