

Levee to close due to high Mississippi River levels

By Rebekah M. Yearout The Press Register | Posted: Thursday, December 31, 2015 3:00 pm

The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board will close the levee to the public in Coahoma, Tunica and Desoto counties effective Jan. 8 due to high water levels.

Jamie Roberson, emergency management director for the levee board, said the agency will have officials on the levee constantly to patrol, with some assistance from outside law enforcement agencies such as the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP).

“The levee will be locked and I’ve requested some additional law enforcement,” Roberson said. “They’ll help patrol the levee.”

Roberson said the Mississippi River is projected to crest at 52.5 feet on Jan. 11, and flood stage is 44 feet.

“At 48 (feet), we go into phase two of our flood-fighting efforts,” Roberson said.

He said people in the communities closest the river, such as Friars Point and Lula, don’t need to be on any particular notice right now, except to stay off the levee after it’s shut.

“It’s going to be lower than it was in 2011, and the levee’s doing what it was designed to do, and we’ll be out there 24/7 monitoring it until it starts receding,” he said. Roberson said the YMDLB doesn’t know when the river’s level might start to fall, but said he’s been in contact with the National Weather Service. So far, though, he said it’s hard to pinpoint when that may happen.

He also said he didn’t know yet if livestock would need to be cleared off the levee.

“There is a possibility of that, but we have not made a decision at this point,” he said.

If anyone has an emergency occur behind the levee, or if they have questions, they are asked to contact the YMDLB at 662-627-4397.



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