

## FLOOD EDITION

May 4, 2010

**A daily roundup of recent news stories and opinion pieces about Tennessee transportation, water and flood control infrastructure**

For the full story, click the headline or use the link.

### **[Tenn. Governor Declares 52 Counties A Disaster \(Associated Press\)](#)**

Gov. Phil Bredesen has announced he will designate 52 Tennessee counties a disaster after devastating weekend storms and flooding. Bredesen said Tuesday at McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport in Jackson that President Barack Obama offered to expedite the process of offering federal disaster assistance. A destructive line of weekend storms killed 22 people in Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky. In Tennessee, the storms claimed the lives of 12 people, 11 of whom drowned in massive floods.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33442871.story>

### **[Bredesen Requests Federal Disaster Aid For Tennessee \(C. Appeal/Mckenzie\)](#)**

Flooding hit from Millington to Nashville After a helicopter tour of Jackson and Nashville on Monday, Gov. Phil Bredesen landed at the Tennessee National Guard headquarters in the state capital and delivered letters requesting a federal disaster declaration for the state. Weekend storms and record rainfall that triggered flooding raked the state from Memphis to Nashville in what Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director Bob Nations called "a very unusual event." A declaration would trigger a wide array of federal assistance, including possible help for uninsured homeowners, said Craig Fugate, the administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, who visited Nashville on Monday. In Shelby County, recovery efforts focused on Millington, where the American Red Cross shelter for about 200 people evacuated from their flooded homes was consolidated to one at the First Baptist Church.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/may/04/federal-aid-sought-for-state/>

### **[Governor Declares 52 Counties Disaster Areas \(Jackson Sun\)](#)**

Land that once grew cotton, corn and soybeans now looks like hundreds of mud islands poking through the flood waters that cover Gibson County. In Madison County, businesses in low-lying areas are surrounded by moats instead of parking lots. That was the aerial view seen by Gov. Phil Bredesen, members of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, and state and local officials as two Black Hawk helicopters flew over Madison and Gibson counties to see the damage wrought by weekend rains. The governor declared 52 Tennessee counties disaster areas on Monday. While the amount of flooding was evident from about 1,000 feet up, the full extent of the damage was not. "The loss of life was tragic," Bredesen said at a news conference after the flight, "(and) there are still a lot of homes and businesses under water."

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/5040311/Governor-declares-52-counties-disaster-areas>

### **[Gov. Bredesen Asks Obama For Flood Recovery Help, Death Toll Rises Again \(Tenn\)](#)**

Gov. Phil Bredesen asked President Obama on Monday for federal recovery assistance as the Nashville area began making preparations for a recovery effort from the record flood. At a late afternoon press conference, Bredesen signed letters requesting a presidential declaration so the Federal Emergency Management Agency could begin recovery efforts immediately. "We're going to need a lot of help over these weeks ahead to get out of this," Bredesen said after taking a helicopter ride to survey the damage done by the floodwaters to the Nashville area. Many of downtown Nashville's most prominent buildings such as the Bridgestone Arena, the Schermerhorn Symphony Center and the Pinnacle Building suffered untold flood damages. U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper guessed damages would reach the "multi-billion-dollar" level.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100503/NEWS01/5030340/1002/Gov.+Bredesen+asks+Obama+for+flood+recovery+help>

**[Governor Surveys State, Requests Federal Disaster Declaration \(WPLN-Radio Nash\)](#)**

Governor Phil Bredesen and a dozen officials took two National Guard Blackhawk helicopters to Jackson and back Monday afternoon. Minutes after the governor landed at the 118th Airlift Wing at Berry Field in Nashville, he tolled off the list of blows stuck to Tennessee in two days of unprecedented rain. "This is obviously a major, major event. It is very clear from the air the extent of the damage. This is going to be a long time in cleaning up." The Davidson County airport had measured 13.5 inches of rain Saturday and Sunday. Other areas west and south of Nashville experienced more. Fourteen people had died. One – Carol Williamson, in Hickman County, as a result of a tornado. The other deaths were flood related. The governor said six were in Davidson County, two each in Stewart and Perry counties, and one in Hardeman.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17018>

**[Governor Bredesen to Declare Federal Disaster Areas \(WHBQ-TV Memphis\)](#)**

While the governor was in Jackson talking about damage, Scott Madaus had an opportunity to ask him about Memphis and all of Shelby County. He said additional support is coming. Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen spoke about the state of the state "This appears to have been in terms of the damage, it appears to have started at the river and grown as its gone across the state. Monday afternoon, Governor Bredesen toured flooded and heavily damaged areas in the Jackson area. Fox13 News was the only Memphis news station with the governor as he spoke directly to Shelby County residents hit hard by the weekend storms. "I said to the people of Memphis I know that there's been severe flooding there I know there's been enormous problems created by that." Governor Bredesen said right now the primary concerns, aside from those who have fallen victim to the storm, are bridges across the state of Tennessee and in Shelby County.

<http://www.myfoxmemphis.com/dpp/news/local/05-03-10-governor-bredesen-to-declare-federal-disaster-areas>

**[Governor Bredesen Asks President Obama to Help West Tennessee \(WPTY-TV\)](#)**

Emergency responders say the "rescue" portion of this crisis is over. Now the focus is on the "recovery" process. Late Monday, May 3, 2010, Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen, with the urging of every federal lawmaker from the Eyewitness News viewing area, included West Tennessee in the state's disaster declaration. Bredesen has asked President Obama to provide federal aid to storm ravaged communities across the state. 52 counties are included in Governor Bredesen's request to the White House. And local damage assessments are underway right now so the Mid-South can qualify for as much federal money as possible. "Governor Bredesen did a fly-over today," says Shelby County EMA Director Bob Nations. "I think he came as far as Jackson."

<http://www.myeyewitnessnews.com/news/local/story/Governor-Bredesen-Asks-President-Obama-to-Help/ksCpe89ovUCKUiz8TqUX5g.csp>

**[Tenn representatives Blackburn, Cohen tour Shelby County damages \(CA/Sullivan\)](#)**

U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn spent part of Sunday in flooded parts of Shelby County and this morning joined other federal lawmakers in urging President Barack Obama to declare the weekend's torrential downpour a disaster. Such a declaration would trigger a Federal Emergency Management Agency response to the flooding across the state and in Mississippi and Kentucky. As Gov. Phil Bredesen inspected damage in West Tennessee by air this afternoon, U.S. Reps. Steve Cohen, Jim Cooper, John Tanner, all D-Tenn., and Blackburn, R-Tenn., sent a letter asking him to expedite a preliminary damage assessment and were planning to follow up with a letter to President Obama. Bredesen's spokesman Michael Drescher said the governor plans to sign a letter asking the president for a disaster declaration sometime this afternoon once he returns from his flyover of the damage.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/may/03/tennessee-representatives-blackburn-cohen-tour-she/>

**[President Calls Governors Beshear, Bredesen \(WPXY-TV\)](#)**

Monday, President Obama made calls to Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear and Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen. The President expressed his deepest condolences for the tragic loss of life and suffering caused by flooding in their states. President Obama also pledged that the federal government will respond quickly to requests for support as the states work to assess damage and plans for recovery.

<http://www.lex18.com/news/president-calls-governors-beshear-bredesen>

### **[FEMA Chief Joins Aerial Survey of Tennessee \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)**

Craig Fugate, the administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, was one of the officials who flew over flooded parts of Tennessee Monday. He says it will be hard to put a dollar value on the damage. "You know, it's bad, and my experience tells me that with flood damages, because you're so focused on response, you're still going to probably be several days in discovering how bad it is. But we're not going to wait until everything is counted up. We're going to act upon the governor's request that he put in today." Governor Phil Bredesen actually handed the paperwork for a federal declaration of disaster status to the regional administrator for FEMA, Phil May. Fugate, the chief in D.C., says the agency will act expeditiously. Disaster status helps to soften financial damages that follow such a natural event. Fugate says it offers access to not only to FEMA programs but also those from the Small Business Administration.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17034>

### **[Governor Says 14 Dead In Tenn Flooding \(Associated Press\)](#)**

Fourteen storm deaths are confirmed in Tennessee as floodwaters from the Cumberland River in Nashville near their crest. Gov. Phil Bredesen said Monday afternoon after touring the hardest hit areas that all but one were water related. He also said all interstates had reopened in the aftermath of more than 13 inches of rain over the weekend in Nashville. Mayor Karl Dean called on Nashville residents to use water only for cooking and drinking because one of the city's two water treatment plants is flooded. Downstream, Clarksville may have historic flood levels. The main street along the river is closed, and two of the three bridges between downtown Clarksville and Fort Campbell are closed by the flooding Red River.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?clid=tennessean&sParam=33444909.story>

### **[Storms and Floods Kill 28 in South \(Wall Street Journal\)](#)**

Heavy storms and flooding over the weekend and Monday killed at least 28 people in Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky, damaged thousands of homes and threatened the heart of Nashville's tourism district. Tennessee was the hardest hit, as muddy waters continued rising Monday in the central and western parts of the state after as much as 18 inches of rain fell over the weekend. Eighteen deaths had been reported in Tennessee alone, reported the Associated Press late Monday. Most were water-related. Throughout the region, roads were blocked, businesses closed and classes canceled. Emergency workers in Nashville and surrounding Davidson County had made more than 1,000 water rescues as of late Monday. One of Nashville's two water-treatment plants flooded, prompting city officials to ask residents to use water only for drinking, cooking and hand-washing. More than 20,000 people in Tennessee were without power late Monday, according to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704342604575222002973128496.html#mod=todays\\_us\\_page\\_one](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704342604575222002973128496.html#mod=todays_us_page_one)

### **[At Least 27 Dead As Storms Pound Southeast \(CNN\)](#)**

Much of downtown Nashville remained under a blanket of murky water Monday after a massive system of rain and thunderstorms pounded much of Tennessee over the weekend. The severe weather was blamed for at least 27 deaths -- 18 in Tennessee -- across the Southeast between Saturday and Monday, emergency officials said. Ten of those deaths occurred in Davidson County including Nashville, the Nashville mayor's office said. Nashville residents said that despite forecasts of rain going into the weekend, they had little time to prepare for the floodwaters that crept into homes, washed away roads, prompted evacuations of hotels and displaced thousands of people. "We all knew that there was going to be heavy rains this weekend, but Nashville normally gets about 5 inches of rain in the month of May and nobody could have predicted 15-16 inches of rain in 48 hours," resident John Rives said. CNN iReporter Tom Frundle said the flooding is as bad as he's ever seen.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/weather/05/03/tennessee.flooding.deaths/?hpt=C1>

### **[Shelters, Help Available For Evacuees Across Mid-State \(WTVF-TV Nashville\)](#)**

Flood waters have forced many people to leave their homes or abandon their cars. Several shelters have opened for people who have no place to go. Governor Phil Bredesen said Monday evening that there are around 1,100 people in the shelters, and there are five other shelters on standby. If you have questions or need non-emergency assistance finding a shelter, call the Emergency Operations Center community hotline at (615) 862-8574. In an emergency, call 911. The Red Cross and Congressman Jim Cooper will hold a press conference Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. They will provide an update on the Red Cross including information on resources and available aid.

<http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=12419998>

### **[City's Only Operational Water Treatment Plant At Risk \(City Paper/Woods\)](#)**

Jail inmates piled sandbags Monday in a desperate 11th-hour attempt to save Nashville's only operational water treatment plant from the overflowing Cumberland River, and the state issued a mandatory order for residents to cut their water use in half. After surveying the damage by helicopter, Gov. Phil Bredesen signed documents asking President Obama to declare a disaster in 52 Tennessee counties, the first step in obtaining federal assistance for victims of the weekend flood that claimed 14 lives—six in Davidson County. Rep. Jim Cooper, who joined Bredesen on the flight, called it a “multibillion-dollar disaster.” Bredesen said the president phoned him and “offered his and Michelle’s sympathies and prayers for the people of Tennessee going through this.” “We’re going to need a lot of help to get out of this,” the governor said. “There’s been an enormous amount of property damage here.”

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/citys-only-operational-water-treatment-plant-risk>

### **[Officials Field Water Flow Questions \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)**

Metro and State officials are asking Nashville residents to cut their water usage in half. One of the city's waste water plants is flooded and out of operation. Nashville Mayor Karl Dean said sheriff's prisoners and city employees of the water and public works departments were at that moment shoring up flood barriers at the Omohundro Drive water plant. “As a precaution...precautionary measure, our office of emergency management has deployed resources to begin sandbagging, and other flood mitigation measures, at the Omohundro Water Treatment Plant. That is the remaining plant that produces drinking water for Davidson County. And so sandbagging activities are occurring there now.” Governor Phil Bredesen said that several towns are without water treatment plants in the wake of widespread flooding – water plants are typically built on the banks of the rivers that supply them. A flood inundating a water plant is not unusual. But the governor said most smaller cities can be supplied by tanker trucks if necessary,.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17023>

### **[Attorney General Warns Of Price-Gouging In Wake Of Flood \(City Paper/Woods\)](#)**

The state attorney general warned Monday he will prosecute price-gougers who try to exploit Tennessee's flood victims. “This is a time when our thoughts and prayers are rightfully with those affected by the floods and their potential aftermath,” Attorney General Bob Cooper said. “While most Tennesseans would never take advantage of anyone in this tragedy, we are prepared to enforce the law against anyone who needlessly raises prices to take advantage of our fellow Tennesseans and visitors.” Cooper urged Tennesseans to be on the lookout for businesses or individuals charging exorbitant prices for basic items in high demand during the disaster. He named hotel rooms, fuel, sump pumps, generators, shop vacuums, cleaning products, and building supplies. After Hurricanes Katrina and Ike, the attorney general's office took action against several gas stations and hotels that violated of the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act by inflating prices.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/attorney-general-warns-price-gouging-wake-flood>

### **Floods Prompt Evacuations in Nashville (New York Times)**

Parts of downtown Nashville were evacuated Monday as the rising Cumberland River, swollen by two days of drenching thunderstorms, flowed into streets near the country music joints and honky-tonk bars that have made the city a tourist attraction. Nashville authorities were particularly concerned about a leaking levee that allowed floodwater to spill onto some streets in north Nashville. Flooding also closed First Avenue near the riverfront, and officials feared that it could reach a commuter railroad depot and LP Field, home of the city's N.F.L. team, the Tennessee Titans. Some restaurants and bars near the river were closed. About 1,500 guests at the Gaylord Opryland Resort, which sits alongside the Cumberland, were forced to leave the hotel overnight. They were taken by bus to a high school on higher ground. Gaylord Entertainment, which owns the hotel, said on its Web site that it would probably be closed for several months because of damage from the floodwaters. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/04/us/04flood.html?ref=todayspaper>

### **Cumberland River Crests 12 Feet Above Flood Stage (Associated Press)**

The National Weather Service says the swollen Cumberland River has finally crested at 51.9 feet, nearly 12 feet above flood stage and a level not seen since 1937. National Weather Service meteorologist Mark Rose says the river crested at 6 p.m. CDT Monday night. But the river was moving slowly enough the NWS needed to measure the level over a span of about three hours to confirm the crest. Rose says waters are expected to drop below flood stage or 40 feet Wednesday morning. Eighteen people have died in Tennessee, including 10 in Nashville, due to a severe storm system that caused widespread flooding and tornados. <http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33446159.story>

### **Cumberland River's Crest Revised (WPLN-Radio Nashville)**

National weather officials now say the Cumberland River will crest at 52.5 feet at 8 p.m. on Monday night. The river was originally projected to crest at 51.5 feet at noon on Monday. The Cumberland is already out of its banks in many places from Nashville to Clarksville, seeping into basements and business in both cities' downtown districts. In Nashville, First and Second avenues remain evacuated, along with MetroCenter where a levee is leaking. The Mayor's Office of Emergency Management says they've begun sandbagging at MetroCenter and at the city's remaining water treatment plant, Omohundro. Watkins College of Art, Second Harvest Food Bank, Fox 17 News, and Nashville Public Radio are among the businesses that call MetroCenter home. The Army Corps of Engineers and the National Weather Service are monitoring the Cumberland's water levels. <http://wpln.org/?p=16991>

### **Rivers Spill Over, Nearing Record Levels (Leaf Chronicle)**

The Cumberland and Red rivers spilled over their banks early Monday morning, flooding Riverside Drive businesses and leaving Madison Street the lone entrance to downtown Clarksville in any direction. Rampant flooding across the area shut down several major roads and led the city and county mayors to impose a countywide curfew last night, effective from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m., to keep sightseers away from floodwaters and roads clear for emergency vehicles. Though record rainfalls ceased Sunday evening, the Cumberland continued to rise Monday as water upstream fed its already saturated banks. The Cumberland River had risen to 61.74 feet as of 8:30 p.m. Monday — more than 15 feet above its flood stage. It wasn't expected to crest at until 1 a.m. Tuesday 63 feet, according to the National Weather Service. At a morning news conference, Clarksville Mayor Johnny Piper declared the city to be in a state of emergency, but assured residents the city would bounce back.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/5040308/1002/Rivers-spill-over--nearing-record-levels>

### **[River Rises As Nashville Treads Water \(Commercial Appeal/Locker\)](#)**

It was a tale of two cities here Monday: higher elevations began drying out under sunny blue skies but urgent rescue operations were still under way in vast swaths of the city and its suburbs covered in floodwater that won't begin receding until later this week. The death toll in Davidson County reached 10. And the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency raised the statewide death toll to 17. The Cumberland River crested at about 52 feet downtown Monday evening, nearly 12 feet above flood stage. Most of the central business district is on higher ground and unaffected but water covered Riverfront Park and restaurants, tourist shops and apartment buildings near the new Country Music Hall of Fame. At the nearby Bridgestone Arena, where the NHL's Predators play, the main event floor was submerged. North of the State Capitol, untouched atop the highest hill downtown, Bicentennial Mall and the Farmers Market were flooded.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/may/03/many-nashvilles-low-lying-areas-still-under-water/>

### **[How High's Is The Water Rising? \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Crisp\)](#)**

As Nashville flailed in its highest floodwaters in 50 years, Chattanooga's most flood-prone areas buckled down this weekend for a similar onslaught of heavy rain and torrential storms -- but this area and North Georgia escaped unscathed. "We were notified that we had a potentially dangerous weather situation coming," said East Ridge police spokesman Officer Erik Hopkins. "We were ready because these areas in East Ridge are so prone to flooding." City leaders had a fleet of rescue boats and emergency personnel at the ready, but when just 2 1/2 inches fell over the weekend, the area ended up with swollen creeks and light flooding. No water entered homes, traffic was briefly interrupted and even the high creeks and patches of standing water were expected to be gone by Friday. A few miles away, Kim Geselbracht stood on his back porch at Battlefield Golf Course in Ringgold, Ga., pointing to a pond of water that had gathered between the Nos. 10 and 11 holes. "If it rains hard for more than two days, this is going to happen," he said.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/may/04/more-area-rivers-expected-to-crest-above-flood/>

### **[Duck River Level Now Dropping \(Times-Gazette\)](#)**

Duck River crested in late afternoon, with identical readings of 21.69 feet at 4:30 and 5 p.m., and has been dropping since that time, according to official measurements. The official forecast now calls for the river to continue to fall overnight. At 10:30 p.m. Monday, the river had dropped to 20.26 feet. The "action stage" level is 21 feet; flood stage is 25 feet. Bedford County Schools are closed today due to high water. The Duck River at Shelbyville began rising again after dropping for most of the day Sunday. The river reached a stage of 19.36 feet at 3 a.m. Sunday but had dropped to as low as 11.39 feet as of 6:30 p.m. Sunday. It has been rising again since that time and was at 20.53 feet at 9:30 a.m. Bedford County Highway Superintendent Stanley Smotherman said at about 4:40 on Sunday afternoon that rural roads were primarily in good shape and he knew of none that were still blocked by flood water. "The good Lord just spared us, that's all you can say about that," said Smotherman. Bedford County Emergency Management Agency director Scott Johnson reported in an e-mail to the Times-Gazette that almost 200 people took advantage of local storm shelters during Saturday's severe weather.

<http://www.t-g.com/story/1631306.html>

### **[Duck River has crested \(Columbia Daily Herald\)](#)**

The Duck River crested to near 45 feet Monday as authorities went door-to-door Monday in the Riverside Community to urge residents near the river to evacuate. "It looks like it won't get any worse," Mark Blackwood, director of the Maury County Office of Emergency Management, said about 5 p.m. Monday. Columbia Mayor Dickey said as many as 50 homes were threatened by the swollen river, but emergency officials won't have a firm idea as to the scope of the damage until the water recedes. No problems have been reported with the old Columbia dam. Only a small portion of the structure could be seen from Riverside Drive. Damage from this weekend's historic flood will likely mount into the millions of dollars for the Columbia area alone, with the Duck River rising to levels not seen in more than a decade and flash floods wreaking havoc across the region.

[http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/05/03/top\\_stories/01update.txt](http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/05/03/top_stories/01update.txt)

### **[Some Still Fighting Off Water after Historic Flooding \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)**

Tennessee officials are requesting federal aid after a weekend of record-breaking floods that killed at least 18 people in the state. Thousands had to evacuate homes and hotels. As some begin to assess the damage, others continue efforts to hold back rising flood waters. For nearly two days, David Ellis has been right here in the cellar of the Big River Grill in downtown Nashville. He's trying to pump out water from the Cumberland River that's coming in faster than it's been going out. ELLIS: "The basement is done. It's toast right now. The switchgear, electrical gear, it's all underwater." The overflowing river was swelled by 14 inches of rain over two days. Many of the swollen creeks that swallowed homes flow directly into the Cumberland. Compounding the problem is a move by the Army Corps of Engineers. It's releasing water from upstream lakes that are at record-breaking levels.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17013>

### **[Massive Flooding Hits Nashville \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)**

Thousands of Middle Tennessee homeowners and business owners will spend this week — and in some cases much longer — working to recover from a weekend of widespread flooding that came as the result of two days of record-setting rainfall in Nashville. Nashville's tourism industry has taken a huge one-two punch: Gaylord Opryland is inundated and likely won't reopen for months, and flooding has also shut down downtown attractions like the Wildhorse Saloon. Damage estimates aren't yet available, but are expected to be high thanks to the historic nature of the flooding. Building inspectors with the codes and fire departments will join property assessors today to begin making damage assessments. Inspectors from the public works and water departments will begin assessing roadways, bridges, drainage and other waterway systems.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/03/daily1.html?surround=fn>

### **[Sumner Evacuations Continue \(Tennessean/Mitchell\)](#)**

'That's a little island in there now'; evacuations continue Some neighborhood evacuations continued in Sumner County on Monday. In Twelve Stones subdivision off Center Point Road, neighbors, the Coast Guard and county and city officials were busy helping residents evacuate and assisting others on Joshua's Run move belongings before the water came into their homes. County Executive Anthony Holt said the situation is worse than the 2006 tornadoes. "That's a little island in there now," Holt said. He said rescuers had already made 200 rescues in the county since the flooding began. "They need medical care, and they just need to get out as soon as possible." John Isbell, property assessor for Sumner County, sent four trucks and manpower to the Twelve Stones area, as water began creeping up into resident's back yards. Resident Angela Suddarth was still unsure whether to evacuate or stay, with water nearing the first step of her deck. The frantic homeowner said she wished she could get more information about what was happening.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/5040331/1001/NEWS/Sumner+evacuations+continue>

### **[Rutherford County Rescue Crews Stay Busy \(Gannett/Bell\)](#)**

Damage from flood is being assessed Emergency officials monitored water levels, did damage assessments and continued rescues in Rutherford County all day Monday, according to Emergency Management Agency Assistant Director Tim Hooker. About 40 roads in Rutherford County were impacted when the waters were at their worst. Smyrna and La Vergne were heavily hit, along with areas along state Route 840. There were no official numbers on the amount of homes affected. "We were running in rescue mode all the way up until (Sunday) night," Hooker said. "We've been limited in our ability to do any impact studies at this point. We are asking the general public for assistance in putting one together, though. Anyone with flood or storm damage to their home should call our disaster assistance telephone number at 890-5519 or 890-2957." Flooding in Murfreesboro was less severe, said Murfreesboro Police spokesman Kyle Evans.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/5040334/1001/NEWS/Rutherford+County+rescue+crews+stay+busy>

### **Dyersburg And Dyer County Both Declared State Of Emergency (State Gazette)**

The National Weather Service expects water levels in Dyersburg and Dyer County to remain at a major flood stage through Friday, May 7, dipping just under the "major flood" marker of 26.5 feet on Saturday, May 8-the last day projected by the service. The Forked Deer River rose 7 feet overnight on Sunday, measuring 24.56 feet at 5 a.m. on Monday morning. At 4 p.m., on Monday afternoon, the river was 28.86 feet and still rising. The NWS has pushed back its timeline for the crest of the Forked Deer River from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Tuesday, May 4. The river is predicted to crest at approximately 30 feet, a level not seen since Jan. 1, 1937. It was estimated Monday morning that 200 structures and 600 residences will be adversely affected by the floodwaters. Although officials see no signs of distress in any levees protecting the city from the Forked Deer River, emergency responders in Dyer County have been instructed by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency to prepare for the worst. Dyersburg officials are requesting residents in neighborhoods adjacent to the levees to be ready to evacuate if needed.

<http://www.stategazette.com/story/1631577.html>

### **Storms Swamp Columbia (Columbia Daily Herald)**

Maury County emergency personnel had their hands full Sunday as the second consecutive day of record rainfalls pummeled the mid-state. Maury County Emergency Management Director Mark Blackwood said his office spent Saturday and Sunday coordinating efforts of all the county's emergency services. He said most of his time has been spent rescuing motorists from the flooding. "I don't have an exact number, but there have been numerous water rescues," he said. He asked residents to stay in their homes and if they were driving to avoid flooded roadways. As darkness fell, more roads were added to the list of closures, and police and public works employees hurried to cordon off areas. As of 6 p.m. Sunday, the Duck River stood at 36.66 feet, more than four feet above the 32 ft flood stage, according to the National Weather Service's website. The Weather Service predicted the river would rise at least another foot before the waters recede early Tuesday morning. Many places in Middle Tennessee have received more than a foot of rain in the past 48 hours, according to the Weather Service.

[http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/05/03/top\\_stories/03storms.txt](http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/05/03/top_stories/03storms.txt)

### **Gibson Co. Officials Begin Storm Damage Assessment (Jackson Sun)**

Search for missing man continues This morning damage assessment teams will start looking at the areas hardest hit by last week's flooding including Trenton, Rutherford, Kenton and Humboldt, where officials believe a tornado touched down. Officials representing nearly all 10 towns in Gibson County met Monday afternoon to organize their efforts. Gibson County Emergency Management Director Rickey Graves said assessment teams will meet briefly at 8 a.m. today at the county EMA office before they separate into teams and go out into the county. "Once everyone returns, we'll have a solid number of homes and businesses (impacted by the storm)," Graves said on Monday. Gibson County property assessor Gary Paschall said breaks in the levee in Trenton are visible from U.S. 45 Bypass just past Christmasville Road. Flood waters have receded in most areas of the county, but Paschall said that a few bridges need to be replaced. Paschall said the Kelley Mill bridge, which is located east of Dyer, could cost \$600,000 to rebuild. Milan Mayor Chris Crider said 20 to 25 homes and 10 businesses were flooded over the weekend.

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/100504005/Gibson+Co.+officials+begin+storm+damage+assessment>

### **Corps Of Engineers To Open Dams Along Cumberland River (City Paper)**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District is prepared to open dams along the Cumberland River and its tributaries to try to minimize flooding and reduce lake levels in areas north of Nashville. The move comes after record high lake elevations at several dams including J. Percy Priest in Nashville; Old Hickory in Hendersonville; and Cheatham in Ashland City. "Some of these lakes are reaching capacity, and we have a plan to release water from these projects in order to lower those lakes to safe elevations," said Bob Sneed, water manager for the Nashville District "We recognize the impact of releases to communities along the already swollen creeks and rivers, and we will try to balance risks to these communities with risks to those projects whose lakes are reaching capacity," he said. Lt. Col. Anthony Mitchell, commander of the Nashville district, said the primary concern is safety.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/updated-corps-engineers-open-dams-along-cumberland-river>

### **Residents Urged To Conserve Water, Beware Of Contamination (Tennessean/Sarrio)**

Sanitation also a risk, officials say State and city officials urged Middle Tennessee residents to conserve water late Monday as sandbags were being deployed to help keep Metro Water's remaining treatment plant functioning. ... The state's Department of Environment and Conservation said that several communities, including Brentwood, were advising citizens to boil their water before consuming it. All citizens who use well water should be boiling it. Sanitation is also an issue, since floodwaters have overwhelmed sewage systems in many places. In Nashville, officials said a sewage mix was flowing into the Cumberland River and health officials recommended people stay out of floodwaters and keep their hands clean by using alcohol gel. The Metro Public Health Department is also offering tetanus shots for those who have not had them in the last 10 years.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100504/NEWS02/5040347/Residents+urged+to+conserve+water++beware+of+contamination>

### **Nashvillians Not Conserving Enough Water, Metro Says (City Paper/Garrison)**

Davidson County residents aren't doing enough to cut back on their water use. With Metro Water Services' K.R. Harrington Water Treatment Plant submerged following the weekend of flooding, only the Omohundro Water Treatment Plant remains operating in Nashville. Residents have been urged to cut their water consumption in half, but according to Metro Water Director Scott Potter, that's not happening. "Right now, people are not conserving water," Potter said. "I've had reports of people observing car washes in operation. I've seen, myself, people watering flowers. That kind of stuff has to stop. We're in an extraordinary disaster, and we have to have absolute cooperation by our citizens." Potter said residents must end all "frivolous uses of water," which includes outdoor irrigation, car washes and other non-essential uses. "We need to use it only for drinking, bathing and cooking."

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/nashvillians-not-conserving-enough-water-metro-says>

### **Nashville's Water Supply Is Threatened (Tennessean/Schrade, Rau)**

On a day when the Cumberland River continued to rise, crippling Middle Tennessee neighborhoods, businesses and several of Nashville's iconic music, sports and tourist spots, the most critical threat Monday night was that floodwaters would knock out the city's drinking supply. The river crested downtown at close to 52 feet Monday evening — 24 hours after the initial prediction, and four feet higher than expected. That was the highest it has been since 1937. As sandbag crews worked furiously into the evening, the city's remaining water treatment plant, just east of downtown on Omohundro Drive, was perilously close to being flooded. Such a turn would cast the historic flood of 2010 into a new level of crisis for more than 600,000 residents across Davidson County, and Brentwood, which relies on Metro's water. "The next 24 hours are critical," said Scott Potter, head of Metro Water Services. "If the Omohundro goes down, we go to bottled water."

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100504/NEWS02/5040349>

### **Workers Sandbag to Protect Metro Center, Water-Treatment Plant (WPLN-Radio)**

Middle Tennessee continued reeling Monday after a record storm dumped more than 13 inches of rain on the area over the weekend. At least 18 people have died statewide, and more could be found as floodwaters begin to recede. City and state workers were sandbagging a levee Monday in low-lying Metro Center, north of downtown. They're also sandbagging a water treatment plant, which Mayor Karl Dean called a precaution because the city's other drinking-water plant is out of commission. Dean is asking people not to run washing machines or dishwashers. "It is vitally important that as the days ahead the water supply gets tighter that we do everything we can to stretch that out. We are making contact with other utilities to purchase water, and we are in a position to bring water into the county, but it is important that people conserve." Downtown was unusually quiet Monday, with many shops, schools and government offices closed and workers staying home.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17039>

### **[Metrocenter Dry, Pinnacle Tower Swimming; Most Offices Escape Flooding \(NBJ\)](#)**

As commercial real estate pros make their assessment of Nashville, MetroCenter has been at the top of their watch list. It is relatively dry. The Pinnacle at Symphony Place, however, is not, and has been shut down. MetroCenter Randy Parham, a principal with Southeast Venture, which manages a number of MetroCenter buildings, said none of the park's buildings are in water. "That levee has been there for 40 years, and this is not the first time we've had high water," Parham said, adding that the park's run-off system is working as designed — with the park's lake filling up first. The park is designed so that high water would then be forced onto the park's roads, and then into area parking lots. Parham said some of the roads are covered with six inches of water. "You can get anywhere you want to go in MetroCenter," Parham said. "No water got into any buildings."

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/03/daily5.html?surround=lfm>

### **[For Downtown Businesses, Flooding Is Boon Or Bust \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)**

As the Cumberland River was spilling into downtown Nashville Monday, customers were spilling into Riverfront Tavern. "I'd say we're two to three times busier than usual," said Manager Jake Lara. "The people downtown, they need to eat and drink. We're going to stay open until they shut us down." The restaurant and bar is located at the corner of First Avenue and Church Street, which became a prime viewing spot for downtown workers and tourists surveying the rising flood waters. Nearby businesses, most of which remained open, were happy to cater to the larger-than-usual lunch crowds. "It might actually be busier today than a typical Monday," said Andrew Brace, manager of The Beer Sellar on Church Street. Brace said he wasn't concerned about a call from Metropolitan Nashville to cut water usage by half until one of the city's two waste water treatment plants could be restored. His solution?

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/03/daily9.html?surround=lfm>

### **[Gaylord Opryland Resort Closed Due To Flooding \(Associated Press\)](#)**

The sprawling Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville's cornerstone in the travel industry, is closed indefinitely because of floodwaters from the nearby Cumberland River. On Monday, neatly arranged dining tables at the resort east of downtown were sitting in up to 10 feet of dirty water as crates of wine glasses floated by. The resort, which bills itself as the largest non-gaming hotel in the continental United States, announced on its website that it is not accepting overnight reservations for the next few weeks. City officials said it would be closed several weeks to several months. The nearby Grand Ole Opry House, where the famed country music show is presented several times a week, also had water inside.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33443887.story>

### **[Opryland Crippled; Tourism Hurt \(Tennessean/Johnson\)](#)**

The weekend's historic floods struck Nashville's tourism industry at its heart, taking out a signature hotel and other attractions just as the city enters its peak summer visitor season. • The flooded Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center won't reopen for several months, leaving Nashville without 12 percent of its hotel rooms and wiping out as much as a fourth of the convention business that comes to town. • Honky-tonks and shops along Lower Broadway and on Second Avenue, including the Wildhorse Saloon and Hard Rock Cafe, closed Monday and didn't know when they would reopen because of flooding in their basements. • Water damage also shut down major tourist attractions including the Grand Ole Opry and Opry Mills shopping center, the Frist Center for the Visual Arts and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100504/BUSINESS01/5040350/Opryland+crippled++tourism+hurt>

### **[Opryland To Be Closed For 'Several Months' \(Nashville Post\)](#)**

Gaylord has \$50M of insurance coverage, but damages and lost revenue will easily top that number. Gaylord Entertainment officials expect that the Opryland Resort & Convention Center will be out of action until well into the summer as they work to repair the damage from this weekend's floods. The company early this morning safely evacuated 1,500 guests and employees before the local levees gave way to floodwaters. In a statement, officials said "it is too early to determine how long the hotel will be closed, but it is reasonable to conclude that the hotel will likely be closed for several months." Earnings are expected to suffer for the next two quarters. Gaylord has business interruption and flood damage coverage for up to \$50 million in damages. However, over the past three years, the hotel complex generated an average of \$66.7 million in revenue during the second quarter and about \$61 million in the third quarter.

[http://www.nashvillepost.com/news/2010/5/3/opryland\\_to\\_be\\_closed\\_for\\_several\\_months](http://www.nashvillepost.com/news/2010/5/3/opryland_to_be_closed_for_several_months)

### **[Gaylord Opryland Closure May Last 'Months' \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)**

The largest hotel and convention center in Nashville could be closed for several months after the Gaylord Opryland Resort sustained major damage from historic flooding over the weekend, company officials said. Gaylord Entertainment Co. (NYSE: GET), which sits adjacent to the Cumberland River and is protected by FEMA-approved levees built to sustain the 100-year flood standard, suffered major damage early Monday morning when those levees were breached. Gaylord said it is too too early to determine how long the hotel will be closed, but it is reasonable to conclude that the hotel could be closed for several months, a company release said. That closure will have a major impact on the hospitality industry in Nashville; Gaylord has more than 2,000 guest rooms and plays host to dozens of major conference and conventions throughout the year. <http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/03/daily3.html?surround=fn>

### **[Opryland Guests Become Evacuees \(Tennessean/Bliss, Justus\)](#)**

Rising Cumberland clears resort hotel, disrupts getaways Chris Hemmen got to take one bite of his scallops at the Cascades restaurant Sunday night. Then the surprise birthday weekend his wife had planned took an unexpected turn. "We ended up here," he said Monday morning, standing next to a table of doughnuts and Nutri-Grain bars at McGavock High School. "With no truck ... and my birthday's tomorrow. It's not turning out so good." Hemmen, 36, and his wife, Amanda, were two of about 2,000 guests and workers who were evacuated from Gaylord Opryland Hotel on Sunday night. And it's a good thing they were: By 11 a.m. on Monday, the Cascades restaurant was under about 10 feet of rising water. Hemmen's 2009 four-door Dodge is probably underwater as well, along with every other car in the valet parking lot. It's too early to assess the monetary damage, but it could be months before the hotel is restored, according to Peter Weien, senior vice president and general manager of the hotel. Some of the about 500 evacuees who remained at the McGavock shelter Monday morning expressed frustration at how Opryland staff handled the situation, but the scene inside the hotel was clearly unfit for anyone other than critical staff.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/5040327/Opryland+guests+become+evacuees>

### **[Flood Implications On Local Real Estate Still Largely Unknown \(Nashville Post/Lind\)](#)**

North Dakota markets may provide hints on how Nashville will recover The impact of the May Day flood on the local real estate market may not be known for weeks. "There's just no way to know," Greater Nashville Association of Realtors President Lucy Smith said Monday morning. Between calls to friends and fellow real estate agents affected by the weekend's record-breaking deluge, Smith said it was too early to tell even the basics of what the postdiluvian Nashville market will look like. There are doubtless hundreds, if not thousands, of for-sale properties still under the waters of the Harpeth, the Cumberland and their tributaries. "I doubt there's a Realtor that doesn't have someone affected by it," Smith said. "We do know there's a lot. I've heard several stories, but we won't know for a while."

[http://www.nashvillepost.com/news/2010/5/3/flood\\_implications\\_on\\_local\\_real\\_estate\\_still\\_largely\\_unknown](http://www.nashvillepost.com/news/2010/5/3/flood_implications_on_local_real_estate_still_largely_unknown)

### **[Flood Litters Area With Stranded Cars \(Tennessean/Williams\)](#)**

Rental car agencies do brisk business Hundreds of flooded vehicles are victims of the Nashville-area storms, ranging from cars driven through high water to those caught parked in low-lying area. Once a car has been in water at least a foot deep for an hour or more, it's probably not drivable, and trying to start it, even after it has apparently dried out, could cause serious engine or electrical damage, said AAA spokeswoman Angie Plant. "Definitely do not try to start it and drive it out of standing water," she said. "Have it towed to a repair facility to be checked out. Water can affect the electrical system and the gasoline, and muddy water can do damage to the upholstery and carpeting." If the car's insurance policy includes comprehensive coverage, flood damage is covered, Plant said, minus the deductible, which can range from \$50 to \$250.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100504/BUSINESS01/5040328/2221/BUSINESS/Flood+litters+area+with+stranded+cars>

### **[La Vergne Residents Wring Out Their Belongings \(Daily News Journal\)](#)**

The weekend flood water that overtook Parrish Street homes receded by Monday afternoon, allowing families to return and salvage what they could. "You can replace the furniture, but you can't replace the pictures and the memories," Brooke Pope said Monday while helping her parents, Donna and James Hathcock, clean up their La Vergne home that had been 3 to 4 feet deep in water. "We're blessed that nobody got hurt," Donna Hathcock added. For the second time since May 1979, the Hathcocks saw the interior furnishings of their house destroyed. They hired Murfreesboro-based Absolute Restoration to bring out crews to toss waterlogged furnishings into a large steel bin set up under the carport. The company also helped the family collect recoverable items, such as plates, and operated water-extracting machines.

<http://www.dnj.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/100503071/1002/La+Vergne+residents+wring+out+their+belongings>

### **[Purdy, Hardeman Co. Pick Up The Pieces \(Jackson Sun\)](#)**

Joey McDaniel wandered through the heap of splintered boards, pink insulation and broken furniture, trying to find something to salvage from his two-story frame home on Good Hope Road. The only things upright were a few bedroom walls and some pink peonies. "You don't know where to start," McDaniel said Monday. "We were kind of in shock yesterday, but today I am ready to move on, to start with the rebuilding." McDaniel said he and his wife, Michele, had only seconds before the tornado hit their home around 3:30 a.m. Sunday as it tore a more than 30-mile path through Hardeman and McNairy counties, damaging hundreds of homes in Pocahontas, Selmer, Purdy, Leapwood and Milledgeville. "My wife was hollering for me to get in the closet ... I tried to get a mattress but didn't have time so I got on top of her," McDaniel said. "Water and Sheetrock was falling all around us ... we looked up and the whole house was gone."

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/5040316/1002/Purdy--Hardeman-Co.-pick-up-the-pieces>

### **[Bemis Residents, Businesses Recovering From Flood \(Jackson Sun\)](#)**

As flood water rose again Monday in Bemis, employees at the Packaging Corp. of America warehouse on A Street rummaged through piles of cardboard boxes to salvage usable material. Andrew Dearth estimated the water reached 5 feet at its peak, and said the lost material might reach as high as 25 percent of their inventory because the cardboard stacks buckled under pressure. Farther north on U.S. 45, employees and volunteers removed thousands of feed sacks from R & J Feed Supply. Owner Linda Stanford thought the worst had passed by Sunday night, but the sudden rise of the Forked Deer river by Monday morning drowned several tons of feed. "We've been here for 10 years, and the farmers that buy from us pitched in with machines to help us save this feed," Stanford said.

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/5040312/1002/Bemis-residents--businesses-recovering-from-flood>

### **[Nashville Apartment Complex Just One Small Example of Loss \(WPLN-Radio Nash\)](#)**

Flood damage is widespread across West and Middle Tennessee. In Nashville, strong waters hit areas west and south of the city particularly hard. Along with homes, numerous hotels and apartment complexes were forced to evacuate. The Marina Manor apartments sit directly down slope from Ellington Parkway in East Nashville. Late Sunday morning, runoff collecting on the parkway spilled into the apartments. More than fifty families were evacuated. Twenty apartments are now a total loss. Some of the units are Section 8 and many residents don't have renters insurance. Latasha Hall is one of those. She made her way back to her apartment Monday to see what she could salvage and found most everything was destroyed. "I got all my clothes out 'cause I washed them so they're clean. Well most of them. We had a bunch of worms and spiders jump out of my clothes trying to wash them

<http://wpln.org/?p=16992>

### **[Less Than 4,000 Davidson Homes Insured Against Floods \(City Paper/De Lombaerde\)](#)**

Fewer than 4,000 homes in Davidson County were covered by flood insurance at the end of 2009, meaning that the owners of the vast majority of homes damaged or destroyed by this weekend's flooding will not be compensated for their losses. Coverage against floodwater damages must be purchased separately from traditional homeowner's coverage and is backed by the federal government. According to data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Davidson and surrounding counties contain about 9,100 homes with flood insurance. Using the most recent Census population estimates and an average of 2.5 people living in a home, that amounts to less than 1.5 percent of all homes in the region.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/less-4000-davidson-homes-insured-against-floods>

### **[Many Not Insured For Floods \(Tennessean/Snyder\)](#)**

Hundreds of homeowners and businesses impacted by the floods in the Nashville area are calling their insurance companies and finding they are not covered. Although mortgage companies typically require homeowners buy flood insurance in high-risk flood zones, many people outside those areas are finding out they've been flooded, too. That is true throughout the region, including hard-hit Bellevue neighborhoods such as Riverwalk, where Metro council member Bo Mitchell said he would be shocked if any of roughly 150 homes damaged in his subdivision have any flood insurance. One of them is Julie Oaks, who works for the state Department of Transportation and whose new home in Riverwalk is now flooded. "I've cried," she said. "I'm angry and now I'm just ready for this to recede so I can get in and get to work."

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100504/BUSINESS01/5040351/2221/BUSINESS/Many+not+insured+for+floods>

### **[Insurance Expendable, Millington Victims Wade Through Memories \(CA/Callahan\)](#)**

Herb Sullivan died of cancer last October, leaving his granddaughter with photo albums full of memories. So when the weekend flooding struck Millington, Kathy Howard feared losing those precious photos, many showing her grandfather in his old Navy uniform. On Monday afternoon, Howard and friends meticulously pulled photos from soggy albums, spreading them out on a blanket in the yard. The sun beat down, drying the photos, curling them at the edges. "My grandpa lived with me before he passed," said Howard, whose home is in the flood-ravaged Indian Meadows area of Millington. "None of this bothers me unless I can't (save) the pictures." Howard was lucky for another reason, too: She was one of the few people in that area who still had flood insurance. While that will likely cover Howard's losses, most of her neighbors weren't as lucky. A common refrain heard Monday was that most in the area had dropped flood insurance, many citing high premiums.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/may/04/salvaging-lives/>

### **[Thousands Wonder How To Recover \(Tennessean/Echegaray, Vaughn, Ayers\)](#)**

Floodwaters were chest high on Donald Thompson and Linda Russell as their refrigerator and other belongings floated around them in their condo on General George Patton Road in River Plantation. Rescuers saved the Bellevue couple Sunday, but Monday brought new a new set of worries. "We're exhausted," Russell said. "We nearly drowned. We're over 50 years old and we were told there was no flooding in River Plantation. I can't even think about this. What are we going to do?" The couple's fears reflected the uncertainty facing thousands of Nashville residents who struggled to survive the historic flooding in Davidson County. Many neighborhoods in Bellevue, Antioch and North Nashville were still underwater Monday. Some 13,077 NES customers are without power in Davidson County; 7,500 in Bellevue and 1,000 in Antioch. Pockets of North Nashville were left without electricity, and crews had to cut power completely to Metro Center because of safety concerns.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/5040352/Thousands+wonder+how+to+recover>

### **[Flooding Closes More Than 50 Roads In Hawkins \(Times-News\)](#)**

No injuries or private property damage were reported as a result of heavy rains Monday in Hawkins County, but there was significant road damage caused by high waters. That road damage and flooding prompted a two-hour delay for classes in Hawkins County schools due to concerns about bus safety. Hawkins County Emergency Management Agency Director Gary Murrell said there were no injuries reported, and he was not aware of any private property damage. The cost of repairing damaged roads probably won't be known until later this week. "This (Monday) morning between 3:30 a.m. and daylight we had reports of more than 50 roads that were closed, either due to high water or due to trees blocking the entire roadway," Murrell said.

<http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id=9022746>

### **[Some Tuned Out Continual Tornado Alarms Around Shelby County \(CA/Connolly\)](#)**

The wailing of tornado sirens was a near-constant in Shelby County last weekend as the National Weather Service issued nine tornado warnings between Friday night and Sunday morning. There were no confirmed tornado touchdowns in the county, and some people are now questioning the practice of setting off all alarms in the county when only a small area may be in true danger. Some Memphians ignored the warnings. On Saturday morning, for instance, people at Otherlands Coffee Bar in Midtown continued to sip drinks as the alert sounded outside. The local Emergency Management Agency sets off all available sirens when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for Shelby County. But the county covers a total of 783 square miles.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/may/04/some-tuned-out-continual-tornado-alarms/>

### **[Interstate 40 Reopens From Nashville West \(Associated Press\)](#)**

As tributary flooding began to recede, safety officials reopened Interstate 40 between Nashville and the Tennessee River. The 62-mile stretch had been closed after flooding began Saturday, stopping traffic from the city's western edge on west. Flooding of parallel U.S. 70 left no good alternative route. Tennessee Department of Transportation chief engineer Paul Degges said Monday afternoon that the Tennessee Highway Patrol opened the interstate after water began receding. Degges cautioned there could be pavement and bridge slope damage and said only people who had a serious need to use the route should drive it.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33442159.story>

### **[Highways 412 And 210 Closed; Highway 51 Remains Open \(State Gazette\)](#)**

Tennessee Highway Patrol Capt. Joel Deal announced that both lanes of Highway 412 between Highway 210 and Highway 104 would be closed. Traffic is being rerouted through Trenton. Also, Highway 210 is closed from Highway 51 at Four Points to Highway 412. These highways will remain closed indefinitely. Both lanes of Highway 51 remain open from Dyersburg to Memphis and Union City.

<http://www.stategazette.com/story/1631576.html>

### **[Closures Made Downtown Island \(Leaf Chronicle\)](#)**

Anyone with ideas of getting into or out of downtown Clarksville was in for an ordeal Monday, as every bridge and all but one of the main roads ended up blocked by 6 p.m. Don't expect the situation to improve today. Emergency workers practically marked the time by shutting down traffic on flooded roads, first at 1:30 a.m. on Riverside Drive, then the Bypass, then the intersection of Riverside Drive and North Second Street around 5:10 a.m., cutting off downtown from New Providence and Fort Campbell. Morning rush hour brought the 8 a.m. closure of the Lynnwood Tarpley bridge at College Street, eliminating traffic from St. Bethlehem. Right after some evening rush hour commuters were able to pass through, Highway 48/13 south of Riverside Drive and the Warfield Boulevard bridge over the Red River were closed by 6 p.m., effectively separating Clarksvillians from their neighbors to the north and south.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/5040313/1002/Closures-made-downtown-island>

**[U-Haul Offering Free Storage To Flood Victims \(Memphis Business Journal\)](#)**

The U-Haul Co. of Memphis is offering 30 days of free storage to West Tennessee residents whose homes were affected by damaging storms and flooding. U-Haul has Memphis locations at 5315 Summer and 3551 Mendenhall. It also has a Millington location at 7910 Highway 51 North and a Jackson, Tenn., facility at 173 Airways Blvd. "Floods cause tremendous damage and inflict extreme hardship on the communities we serve," said Carol George, president of U-Haul Co. of Memphis. "I hope this effort will provide assistance to families that may truly need a helping hand. We will continue to help our friends and neighbors in this time of need." U-Haul recently purchased nearly an acre of additional land to expand its Mendenhall location.

<http://memphis.bizjournals.com/memphis/stories/2010/05/03/daily5.html?surround=lfm>

**[Cell Service Spotty, Carriers Working To Restore Networks \(City Paper/Lawley\)](#)**

Following historic rainfall and flooding throughout Middle Tennessee, submerged and damaged infrastructure and power outages are hindering telecommunications service throughout the region. AT&T is reporting landline and wireless outages throughout Middle Tennessee. Spokeswoman Gretchen Schultz said AT&T crews are deployed to assess the situation and begin repairs wherever they can, though floodwaters have prevented access to some areas. "Currently, our heaviest impacted area of service due to flooding is Bellevue, and we have crews on the scene," Schultz said in an email to The City Paper. "In Nashville, we do have sporadic landline and wireless coverage issues, as a whole, services are not as impacted as they are in the rural areas." At this time there's no estimated timeframe for restoring services, Schultz said, though she extended apologies for the inconvenience and said AT&T is working as quickly as possible.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/cell-service-spotty-carriers-working-restore-networks>

**[Schools Escape Big Damage \(Tennessean/Humbles\) with links to extensive daily photos](#)**

2 private academies suffer the greatest flood-related trouble Metro Schools are closed today with more than 50 schools reporting some water or wind damage from the flooding, although none is considered major. The Davidson County school with the most significant damage was the private Donelson Christian Academy, near Stones Creek. DCA is closed today and will have to finish out the year at area churches. "It's adversity, and we're going to rise above it," said DCA athletic director and football coach Dennis Goodwin. "It's a shock to the system, but we talked to the athletic kids about finishing. Now as a school, we have the same philosophy." Lighthouse Christian School, at 5100 Blue Hole Road, lost eight of the 18 buildings that are on the school's Antioch campus. One of the school's buildings floated down Interstate 24 Saturday.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100504/NEWS01/5040355/Schools+escape+big+damage>

**[Clarksville Rivers Wash Over Banks, Strangling City Traffic \(The Leaf Chronicle\)](#)**

The flooding created a number of repercussions today, including the imposition of an 8 p.m. curfew, the closure of Highway 48/13 at 5:45 and the McClure Bridge at 8 p.m., cutting off downtown to the south, and at 6 p.m. the closure of the Warfield Boulevard bridge, leaving only Interstate 24 connecting north and south Clarksville.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100503/NEWS01/100503013/Clarksville+rivers+wash+over+banks+strangling+city+traffic>

**FLOOD Across the State Line****[Piers, Boats Break Loose, Barge Hits Bridge In Lauderdale County \(Huntsville Times\)](#)**

Traffic on U.S. 72, over Shoal Creek Bridge was backed up this morning after two large piers with boats broke free and were wedged under Shoal Creek Bridge...Lauderdale County authorities also said a 30-foot barge struck Happy Hollow Bridge... **(With Photos)**

[http://blog.al.com/breaking/2010/05/piers\\_boats\\_break\\_loose\\_barge.html](http://blog.al.com/breaking/2010/05/piers_boats_break_loose_barge.html)

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