



SOUTHERN TIER FLOOD INCIDENT 2017
UPDATE
May 6, 2017, 6:00 PM

<p style="text-align: center;">Current Status</p>	<p>Management of the flood response on the Mark Twain and Shawnee National forests is under the command of Steve Goldman's Type 2 Eastern Area Incident Management Team (IMT). The IMT assumed management responsibility Thursday afternoon, May 4. The IMT is onsite to help the forests manage the work required to assess the damage, prioritize recovery efforts and facilitate communications with communities and cooperators. Damage assessments to facilities and natural resources and initial responses are ongoing on both forests. Some of the assessments continue to be hampered by high waters or flood debris.</p> <p>Some additional resources, including chainsaw and crosscut saw teams, are on order. Equipment is being procured for handling large woody debris and gravel removal from sites where possible.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Background</p>	<p>Between April 28 and May 4 2017, a powerful storm of record proportions brought torrential rainfall and flooding to Missouri, then moved east into Illinois and other states. Rainfall amounts ranged from 4 to 12 inches across Missouri and Illinois. Southern and south central Missouri received between 10-12 inches. This rainfall resulted in widespread and historic flooding. Roads, bridges, trails and structures were damaged or destroyed. Numerous roads were flooded during the rainfall event, including state highways and portions of two major interstates. Over 430 roads and highway ramps were closed as of May 5. Also, five fatalities were recorded.</p> <p>The majority of the 1.5 million acre Mark Twain National Forest lies in southern and south central Missouri where the highest rainfall was recorded. Watersheds in this area are generally fast discharge. The amount and intensity of the rainfall event resulted in extensive damage to many national forest recreation sites and facilities, roads, dams and trails, especially areas located within the watersheds.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Facilities/ Resources Affected</p>	<p>Thirty recreation sites on the Mark Twain NF are currently closed. Several others are de facto closed because they cannot be accessed until roads are cleared of flood debris.</p> <p>The following areas are closed until the areas can be made safe for public use:</p> <p>Eleven Point Ranger District - Eleven Point River sites: Riverton East and West, Thomasville, Cane Bluff, Boom Hole, Greer, Turner Mill North and South, McDowell, Whitten, 142, and Long Hollow. - Current River sites: Dunrovin, Compton, Deer Leap Float Camp, Bay Nothing, Fourche, and Watercress. Other sites: Surprise Schoolhouse, as well as district office (boil order). Contact the District Office at 573-996-2153 for more specific information.</p> <p>Poplar Bluff Ranger District - Markham Springs Recreation Area. Contact the District Office at 573-785-1870 for more specific information.</p> <p>Ava/Cassville/Willow Spring Ranger District - North Fork, Noblett, and Chadwick Motorized Trail System. Contact the District Office at 417-683-4428 for more specific information.</p> <p>Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District - Paddy Creek, Slabtown, and Stone Mill Springs. Lane Springs is now open for public use. Contact the District Office at 417-967-4194 for more specific information.</p> <p>Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District - Red Bluff, Marble Creek, and Silver Mines. Contact the District Office at 573-438-5427 for more specific information.</p>

	<p>Salem Ranger District - Loggers Lake and Forest Service Road 3906 is not passable. Contact the District Potosi District Office at 573-438-5427 for more specific information as phones at Salem Office are out but the Office is open.</p> <p>Assessments of damage and other impacts to active timber sales on the Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District (Willow Springs Unit) are ongoing.</p>
Values at Risk/Affected	Numerous recreation facilities, roads, trails, dams, and active timber sales have been affected.
Resources Assigned	Approximately 75 personnel are working across the forest in the emergency response. There are an estimated 35 personnel assigned to the incident with the IMT. An estimated 40 personnel on districts will be working Monday.
Cooperators	Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri State Emergency Management Agency, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Fort Leonard Wood Fire Department, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers-Wappapello.
Tomorrow/Future Plans	<p>Personnel continue damage assessments and response across the Mark Twain National Forest. Sunday;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District, personnel will continue assessment of Chadwick ATV Use Area trails. On the Potosi/Fredericktown District, personnel continue assessments across the district. <p>Monday;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the Poplar Bluff Ranger District, personnel, including several from the Eleven Point, will also focus on clearing Markham Springs Recreation Area of debris. This effort is expected to take 2-3 days to complete. On the Eleven Point Ranger District personnel, will begin cleanup operations at Float Camp Day Use and Campground, and at Deer Leap Campground and Tuber Launch on the Current River, and clear access to other impacted sites along the Current River and Eleven Point Wild & Scenic River. Salem, Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek and Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger districts will continue assessments and response operations.
Weather	Sunday will be sunny, with highs in the mid-70s. Calm winds in the morning will become southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon. Sunday night will be mostly clear, with lows in the mid-50s. Calm winds. Rain chances and temperatures will increase mid-week.
Information	<p><u>Please remember that the affected areas will remain closed to the public until they can be made safe. For their safety, and that of emergency personnel, the public needs to avoid these closed areas.</u></p> <p>For Mark Twain National Forest flood information, visit our website at https://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/dispatch_centers/MOCC/information/fire_information.htm; or contact Bill Paxton at 573-429-5193. For Shawnee National Forest flood information visit visit their website at https://www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee; you may also contact Pat York at 618-697-4414.</p>