



**NOAA**

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 9, 2017

**National Weather Service Establishing Service at the Leaf River near New Augusta, Mississippi**

The NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office in Mobile, Alabama, and the NOAA National Weather Service Lower Mississippi River Forecast Office in Slidell, Louisiana, in coordination with Perry County, Mississippi, Emergency Management officials will begin issuing forecasts for the Leaf River gauge near New Augusta, Mississippi. These forecasts will be issued when water levels begin to approach flooding levels established for this point.

Effective at noon on February 7, 2017, water level forecasts will begin to be issued when the water level reached 17 feet at the New Augusta gauge. As water levels begin to rise to the newly established flood stage of 27 feet, water begins to impact lives, property and commerce along the river. The new Moderate Flood Stage will be 30 feet. At this stage, inundation of roads and structures occurs along with evacuation to higher elevations. The Major Flood Stage will be 35 feet. This stage is characterized by extensive inundation of roads and structures and significant evacuations to higher elevations. Population and construction has increased in the area recently and the new stage levels will allow more time for evacuation following a flood warning.

The NWS Mobile Forecast Office provides all weather services for 20 counties in inland Southeast Mississippi, southwest Alabama and the western Florida Panhandle. The office collects meteorological data; prepares and disseminates weather forecasts, river and flood forecasts and warnings; and issues severe weather watches and warnings to the public.

The NWS Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center prepares river stage forecasts for nearly 200 locations along the lower Mississippi River and its tributaries in the south-central portion of the United States draining into the Gulf of Mexico. This covers approximately 210,000 square miles, including areas ranging from eastern Tennessee to southeastern Missouri to Mississippi and Louisiana.. These forecasts are then forwarded to National Weather Service forecast offices throughout its service area for dissemination to the public.

The National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. It operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Visit us online at [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) and on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/US.National.Weather.Service.gov>.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources.

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