

## Red River flooding from Texas storms remains high in Louisiana

With the Red River still swollen from recent storms in Texas and Oklahoma, northwest Louisiana is seeing some of its worst flooding in decades.

The river not only forms the border between Texas and Oklahoma but also marks the boundary between Caddo and Bossier parishes in Louisiana, where it crested Monday at 37 feet. That height is well above the 30-foot flood stage and the highest level since 1945, when it reached 38.3 feet, officials said.

Despite frantic sandbagging by residents and business owners, the river spilled into homes, some of them in newer subdivisions that had never flooded before.

The last time the river shot past flood stage was in 1990, when it reached 34.5 feet, said Bossier Parish Sheriff Julian Whittington.

"Now, it's 37 feet with more homes and more development," he said. "Before, it was pasture and no problem. Now it's \$1 million homes."

Some of those \$1 million homes are in the River Bluff subdivision in Bossier Parish, where the water reached as high as the front door knob on some houses, said Lt. Bill Davis, sheriff's office spokesman.

Whittington estimated Thursday that 500,000 sand bags had been deployed in the parish during the past 10 days. Efforts to keep them filled have continued around the clock with help from prison inmates, National Guard members and volunteers, the sheriff said.

Altogether in Bossier Parish, about 100 people were affected, including some in a recreational vehicle park that was mostly evacuated, officials said.

Caddo Parish is struggling with similar circumstances, including high water in the home of Parish Sheriff Steve Prator, Davis said.

Officials said they are anticipating a soggy summer, with the National Weather Service predicting continued rainy conditions.

"We're not throwing away any sandbags," Whittington said.