



LOCAL MILL
OPERATING AT
FULL CAPACITY

Georgia-Pacific's Naheola mill is at the forefront of the response to the demand for tissue products during the COVID-19 crisis. A log truck is pictured carrying cargo to the mill, where workers are operating at full capacity. (Sun-Advocate file photo)

GP responding to COVID-19 tissue demand

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

NAHEOLA – “We are seeing twice our normal demand on the retail side,” said Scott Posey, Public Affairs Director at Georgia-Pacific. “We are doing our best to meet that demand.

The Naheola mill is at the forefront of the significant increase in demand for bathroom tissue during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Posey said that the mill is operating at full force to meet it.

“We are constantly breaking production records,” he told the Sun-Advocate.

“God bless our workers; they are working hard.”

According to Posey, GP is producing 50,000 to 60,000 cases per day.

The company also recently began an expansion project that includes a \$120-million investment in a new tissue machine.

With the mill operating at increased capacity, Posey said that precautions are being taken to protect workers.

“We are stringently pushing hand-washing, social isolation, promoting the 6-foot rule,” he said. “We’ve issued a lot of guidelines, trying to keep everyone safe.”

Posey said that meetings are being

conducted by video conferencing, meals in the cafeteria are take-out only, and limits have been put in place on the numbers of contractors who come into the mill.

“We are issuing a questionnaire to those contractors who are allowed in, asking if they have been to certain areas, and getting information from them before they are allowed in,” Posey explained.

Posey said that workers are being continually provided with information about the spread of the virus and efforts to halt it.

“We have a task force that is meeting every morning to talk about the most recent information we have, and we are disseminating information to the employees,” he explained. “We have televisions throughout the mill to keep them up-to-date on the news.”

“Right now, there are no cases here,” Posey said. “It takes a team effort to keep it that way. We are hoping that if we do simple things diligently, we can keep it at bay.”

He added that the mill has engaged in planning for different scenarios including ‘worse case’ planning in order to be prepared if the situation changes.

“It’s a big responsibility for us, and we take it seriously,” he said. “We are holding each other accountable for it.”

FOLLOWING MORE RAINFALL

Another flood warning issued for Tombigbee

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

COFFEEVILLE -- More heavy rainfall has led to another flood warning for the Tombigbee River at Coffeeville Lock and Dam.

According to the National Weather Service, river stages at that location stood at 21.38 feet as of 10 p.m. on Tuesday, but the level was expected to rise to flood

stage of 29 feet by Thursday night, March 26. Predictions show a continuing rise to 32.3 feet by the upcoming weekend.

At 29 feet, minor flooding is expected in low-lying areas around the river.

River stages at Demopolis were listed at 52.73 feet as of Tuesday night, with predictions showing a rise to 66.3 feet by Friday night. That level is still under flood stage of 68 feet for that area of the river.

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