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PRESS RELEASE

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City makes adjustments after 38 solid waste workers take sick day

About half of the Shreveport residents who normally get their garbage picked up on Mondays will have to wait until Tuesday after nearly 40 solid waste workers called in sick.

City officials learned on Monday morning that 38 employees would not be reporting for duty and they would have to find another way to make trash pickups along the massive southeast Shreveport corridor that covers thousands of homes east of Youree Drive to the Red River and Flournoy Lucas Road. About half of that route was serviced but residents in Highland and parts of South Broadmoor likely won't see garbage trucks roll through their neighborhoods until Tuesday.

Normally, 35-40 trucks hit the streets first thing Monday morning to collect trash. Today only 14 trucks were deployed.

“This isn't something that we anticipated would happen but we do have contingency plans that we can activate if it happens again,” said Stan Harris, director of Shreveport Public Works. “On the bright side, all of the appointments for bulk collection were completed today and we expect to fully meet Tuesday's schedule of 60 pickups as well.”

The city adopted several changes last month to the way it collects large items such as tree limbs, appliances, furniture and tires. The most significant change requires residents to schedule appointments to get such items picked up, rather than simply leaving them curbside for extended periods. The new system reduces the amount of time large piles of trash sit outside and allows supervisors to customize the routes for the specialty trucks needed to haul the items away.

On Tuesday, the priority will be to finish Monday's remaining pickups and then move to areas in the central portions of the city, south of Kings Highway toward Line Avenue and Ellerbee Road.

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