

**POLK COUNTY, TEXAS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: May 5, 2024

Time: 5 p.m.

Contact: Polk County Office of Emergency Management
(936) 327-6826; Fax: (936) 327-6890



**FLOODING, MANDATORY EVACUATION, WEATHER UPDATE,
RECOVERY PARTNERS, AND REPORTING STORM DAMAGE**

The Mandatory Evacuation Order for the low-lying unincorporated areas along the Trinity River and below the Lake Livingston Dam remains in place.

Local officials and responders continue to monitor the situation, and local and state resources remain staged in the County should they be needed. The Emergency Operation Center remains activated to assist with communication and resource management.

A shelter is available at Dunbar Gym located at 1103 Dunbar Ave. in Livingston for evacuees that have no other arrangements for shelter. The American Red Cross is caring for persons at the shelter.

Emergency Management will remain in contact with the Trinity River Authority (TRA) and the National Weather Service in regard to forecasted rainfall and river flooding. Discharge from the dam is currently 115,467 cfs.

TRA has communicated to Emergency Management rainfall received last night and this morning did not initiate an increase in discharge from the dam, but it did slow their progress going down on releases from the dam.

Polk County is under a Flood Watch through this evening.

A Flood Warning is in effect for the Trinity River near Goodrich, Menard Creek near Rye, and for Long King Creek near Livingston. Polk County is under a Flood Watch until 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 5th.

Please remain aware of changing flood levels along the Trinity River and ALL low-lying areas. Avoid flooded areas and roadways. Be extremely cautious at night when visibility is limited. Remember Turn Around, Don't Drown.

Polk County non-profits, Polk County Recovers and the Polk County Center of Hope are preparing to provide recovery resources to the residents of Polk County impacted by the severe weather and flooding.

Polk County Recovers, is the County’s Long-Term Recovery Organization, and will be available at 933-933-2735 to assist residents with their iSTAT damage reports and clean-up assistance requests. For more information about the iSTAT damage survey, please see below.

The Polk County Center of Hope located at 600 S. Washington in Livingston will extend their operating hours to 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to distribute food, water, clothing, and flood clean-up kits.

REPORTING STORM DAMAGE TO HOMES AND BUSINESSES

Residents can report storm damage to homes and businesses using the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) damage survey. iSTAT surveys can be filled out in English and Spanish by visiting <https://damage.tdem.texas.gov/> and clicking “**April 26-Ongoing Severe Weather Event.**” Be sure to upload photos of interior damage to your home or business including any flood level waterlines.

Details provided through the iSTAT damage survey help emergency management officials gain an understanding of the extent of damages that have occurred. The information provided from this process also helps identify immediate resource needs.

Additionally, survey information aids officials in determining whether the state meets federal requirements for various forms of disaster assistance.

Reporting damage through the iSTAT tool is a voluntary activity and is not a substitute for reporting damage to your insurance company. It does not guarantee disaster relief assistance. English and Spanish tutorial videos explaining how to fill out iSTAT surveys are available at <https://damage.tdem.texas.gov/>



TDEM iSTAT

Please look for further updates on the Polk County Emergency Management Facebook page (www.facebook.com/PolkCountyEmergencyManagement) and the Polk County Emergency Management website www.PolkCountyOEM.com.