

State of Texas County of Polk



ORDER OF VOLUNTARY EVACUATION FROM

UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF POLK COUNTY, TEXAS IN THE LOW-LYING AREAS ALONG THE TRINITY RIVER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024 EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

WHEREAS, Polk County is facing significant threats to life and property due to the heavy rainfall and flooding that has occurred from storm systems moving across the State;

WHEREAS, Polk County is under a Flood Watch until Thursday, January 25, 2024 at Noon, and a Flood Warning for the Trinity River near Goodrich, and Long King Creek near Livingston;

WHEREAS, The National Weather Service forecasts additional heavy rainfall will occur overnight which may cause further damage to public infrastructure and prevent access and safe passage on many roadways, thus creating a public safety hazard;

WHEREAS, there is concern that first responders may not be able to reach these residents should conditions worsen;

WHEREAS, the County Judge of Polk County, Texas has determined that based on current infrastructure damage in the County and based on forecasts issued by the National Weather Service that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect life, as well as to protect or rehabilitate property, and are hereby ordered.

Now Therefore, it is hereby **ORDERED** by the County Judge of Polk County, Texas,

1. The County Judge **FINDS** that a **VOLUNTARY EVACUATION** of persons residing in the unincorporated areas of Polk County, Texas below the Lake Livingston Dam and along the Trinity River is necessary for the preservation is necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery;
2. A **VOLUNTARY EVACUATION** of persons from the unincorporated areas of Polk County, Texas located below the Lake Livingston Dam and along the Trinity River is hereby **ORDERED**;
3. Unless any other order is issued to the contrary, this **VOLUNTARY EVACUATION** issued herein **SHALL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY JANUARY 24, 2024 at 9:40 P.M.**

4. The issuance of this **VOLUNTARY EVACUATION** shall NOT preclude the County Judge from taking further actions the County Judge considers necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery, and includes the following provisions;

5. Residents who evacuate are encouraged to first seek shelter with relatives, friends, or hotel/motel. If the resident has no other option available, shelter will be available at Dunbar Gym located at 1103 Dunbar Ave., in Livingston, Texas.

6. This **ORDER** shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk of Polk County, Texas; and

7. This **ORDER** shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance. It is hereby **ORDERED** on this, the 24th day of January 2024.

ORDERED this the 24th Day of January 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sydney Murphy", is written over a horizontal line.

Sydney Murphy, County Judge
Polk County, Texas