

**POLK COUNTY, TEXAS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: August 1, 2023

Time: 4 p.m.

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



BE PREPARED FOR WILDFIRES
ELEVATED WILDFIRE RISK

Hot and dry weather conditions in the State are expected to continue with no substantial precipitation in the immediate forecast to bring relief. The National Weather Service and Texas Forest Service warn that an increase in fire activity is possible for our area late this week as high temperatures persist, winds increase, and soil moisture is depleted.

According to the Texas Forest Service, isolated thunderstorms in East Texas and the Trans Pecos mountain ranges on Monday may produce ignitions from lightning. On Tuesday and Wednesday, wildfires due to lightning may emerge in dry fuels, and could be difficult to contain and extinguish.

Residents are encouraged to prepare a go-bag should you need to evacuate your home. Plan evacuation routes, and know where you will go to seek shelter and safety.

Know how to obtain information:

- Follow us on Facebook for notifications and updates.
- Visit our website www.PolkCountyOEM.com for information.
- Register for AlertMePolkCounty to receive emergency alerts from OEM, by visiting <https://polk.genasys.com/portal/en>.

For more information on Wildfire Tips see below:

Prepare for Wildfires:

1. Inform everyone in your household about the evacuation plan.
2. Update important documents and store copies securely online.
3. Ensure insurance policies and IDs are current.
4. Locate an outdoor water source with a long hose.
5. Create a 30-foot fire-resistant zone around your home.
6. Practice evacuation routes with family and pets.
7. Decide on a safe evacuation location.
8. Keep your vehicle fueled and ready for quick departure.
9. Follow local authorities' instructions and safety guidelines.
10. Prepare a go-bag with ample supplies, including a first aid kit.
11. Gradually stock up on essentials to minimize shopping trips.
12. Handle flammable household products with care.
13. Keep your cell phone charged and have backup charging devices.

Wildfire Response Tips:

1. Pay attention to emergency alerts and notifications for information and instructions.
2. Evacuate immediately if authorities tell you to do so.
3. Check local authorities' updates for public shelter information.
4. Consider sheltering with friends or family for safety and comfort.
5. If trapped, call 9-1-1, turn on lights to signal rescuers.
6. Use an N95 mask to limit smoke exposure.