

**POLK COUNTY, TEXAS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: April 30, 2024

Time: 9:30 AM

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Yesterday, County Judge Sydney Murphy issued a Local Declaration of Disaster for Polk County. Additionally, the County Judge issued a Mandatory Evacuation Order for the low-lying unincorporated areas along the Trinity River and below the Lake Livingston Dam. **The Mandatory Evacuation Order remains in place, as flooding is ongoing in these vulnerable areas.**

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. Phones and internet service to the EOC has been restored.

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 and County personnel are caring for persons at the shelter.

Emergency Management will remain in contact with the Trinity River Authority (TRA) throughout the duration of this incident as well as with the National Weather Service in regard to forecasted rainfall and river flooding for the week. TRA communicated to Emergency Management that the lake is starting to level off; however, more rainfall is on the way. Discharge from the dam is currently 98,269 cfs.

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 damage.tdem.texas.gov and clicking “**April 26-Ongoing Severe Weather Event.**”

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 damage.tdem.texas.gov.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Polk County Emergency Management Facebook page and website for updates.

We would like to thank our responders, emergency partners, and local nonprofit organizations for going above and beyond the call of duty.

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.