

**POLK COUNTY, TEXAS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: May 1, 2024

Time: 1:30 PM

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



FLOODING, MANDATORY EVACUATION, WEATHER UPDATE

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 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 regards to forecasted rainfall and river flooding for the week.

TRA communicated to Emergency Management that they plan to continue to monitor and lower the lake levels and discharges as inflows and gate operations procedures allow. However, they are monitoring the weather forecast and any substantial local rain received over the next few days could quickly raise the lake levels and require additional increases in discharge. Discharge from the dam is currently 77,865 cfs.

WEATHER FORECAST – MORE RAINFALL & SEVERE WEATHER EXPECTED

Another round of scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms is expected later this evening and into Thursday as a strong disturbance moves through. This system will bring the potential for strong to severe thunderstorms and heavy rainfall across portions of Southeast Texas. Despite a progressive movement of these storms, the bulk of this activity is forecasted to be over areas that recently had significant rainfall and widespread flooding. A few strong to severe thunderstorms will also be possible with damaging winds.

Rainfall Totals: 2 to 4 inches with isolated higher amounts of 5 to 8 inches possible north of I-10.

Polk County is under a Flood Watch until 7 p.m. on May 2, 2024.

A Flood Warning is in effect for the Trinity River near Goodrich. A Flood Warning is in effect for Menard Creek near Rye.

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.**”

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.