

State of Texas
County of Polk

FILED FOR RECORD
2020 AUG 26 AM 8: 25

Schelana Hock
POLK COUNTY CLERK



HURRICANE LAURA: ORDER OF MANDATORY EVACUATION FROM

THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF POLK COUNTY, TEXAS AND THE INCORPORATED AREAS OF LIVINGSTON, CORRIGAN, ONALASKA, GOODRICH, AND SEVEN OAKS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020 EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

WHEREAS, the County of Polk on the 26th day of August 2020, is facing significant threats to life, health, and property due to the arrival of Hurricane Laura that is forecast to develop into a category 4 hurricane and impact the Texas coast as a category 3 hurricane and cause torrential rainfalls, high winds, severe thunderstorms, tornadic activity and flash flooding over an extensive period of time county-wide. Populated areas of Polk County will potentially be affected by flooding, property damage, long-term electrical power and utility outages, and major infrastructure damage, preventing access to or safe passage on many roadways, thus creating a public safety hazard.

Whereas, the areas of Polk County were heavily impacted by an EF3 tornado in April 2020 and many homes are still damaged/under repair and residents are still living in substandard housing;

Whereas, many residents reside in substandard housing in Polk County and Polk County is anticipating tropical storm to hurricane force winds from Hurricane Laura and these structures may not be able to withstand these winds;

Whereas, a local state of disaster for Polk County has been declared; and

Whereas, the County Judge is authorized under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Texas to take such actions as the County Judge considers necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.

that:

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

1. The County Judge **FINDS** that a **MANDATORY EVACUATION** of persons residing in substandard housing to include mobile homes and travel trailers in the unincorporated areas of Polk County and the incorporated areas of Livingston, Corrigan, Onalaska, Goodrich, and Seven Oaks, is necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery;

2. **MANDATORY EVACUATION** of persons residing in substandard housing to include mobile homes and travel trailers in the unincorporated areas of Polk County and the incorporated areas of Livingston, Corrigan, Onalaska, Goodrich, and Seven Oaks hereby **ORDERED**;

3. Unless any other order is issued to the contrary, this **MANDATORY EVACUATION** issued herein **SHALL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AUGUST 26, 2020 at 8 A.M.**

4. The issuance of this **MANDATORY 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;

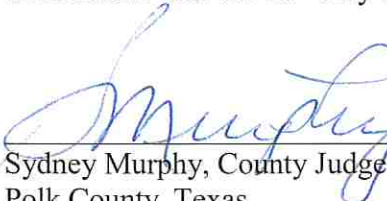
Sec. 418.185. MANDATORY EVACUATION. (a) This section does not apply to a person who is authorized to be in an evacuated area, including a person who returns to the area under a phased reentry plan or credentialing Texas Emergency Management Statutes process under Section 418.050. (b) A county judge or mayor of a municipality who orders the evacuation of an area stricken or threatened by a disaster by order may compel persons who remain in the evacuated area to leave and authorize the use of reasonable force to remove persons from the area. (c) The governor and a county judge or mayor of a municipality who orders the evacuation of an area stricken or threatened by a disaster by a concurrent order may compel persons who remain in the evacuated area to leave. (d) A person is civilly liable to a governmental entity, or a nonprofit agency cooperating with a governmental entity, that conducts a rescue on the person's behalf for the cost of the rescue effort if: (1) the person knowingly ignored a mandatory evacuation order under this section and: (A) engaged in an activity or course of action that a reasonable person would not have engaged in; or (B) failed to take a course of action a reasonable person would have taken; (2) the person's actions under Subdivision (1) placed the person or another person in danger; and (3) a governmental rescue effort was undertaken on the person's behalf. (e) An officer or employee of the state or a political subdivision who issues or is working to carry out a mandatory evacuation order under this section is immune from civil liability for any act or omission within the course and scope of the person's authority under the order.

5. Due to COVID-19, residents in substandard housing who evacuate are encouraged to first seek shelter with relatives, friends, or hotel/motel. Upon arrival at a County shelter, persons will be screened for COVID symptoms and be required to wear a mask.


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 26th day of August 2020.

ORDERED this the 26th Day of August 2020


Sydney Murphy, County Judge
Polk County, Texas




ATTEST: Schelana Hock, County Clerk
Polk County, Texas