

**POLK COUNTY, TEXAS  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: August 23, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Polk County Office of Emergency Management  
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**HURRICANE MARCO & TROPICAL STORM LAURA**

The most significant impacts from Hurricane Marco are expected across the State of Louisiana; however, Marco is forecast to become a tropical depression after making landfall and then arrive in our area by Tuesday evening.

Laura's track has shifted farther west since yesterday. Southeast Texas is well inside the forecast cone. Laura is forecast to become a hurricane (possible Category 2), and according to the forecast cone, Laura could arrive in our area on Thursday.

According to the National Weather Service, we have a 50-70% chance of seeing tropical storm force winds from Laura. The arrival of tropical storm force winds on the Texas coast is expected Wednesday evening.

Please keep in mind there is still uncertainty in the track and intensity of both storms, but we encourage you to make preparations.

We will continue to monitor Hurricane Marco and Tropical Storm Laura closely.

Please review the following hurricane preparedness tips:

- Know your hurricane risk: Our area is at risk for high winds, thunderstorms, tornados, flooding, and power outages during a hurricane.
- Have an evacuation plan that you have discussed with your family. The evacuation routes in Polk County are: State Highway 146, US Highway 59, and US Highway 287 West.
- Assemble disaster supplies including food, water, medication, batteries and cash \*before\* an emergency. Be sure to keep your gas tank full through the hurricane season which ends November 30<sup>th</sup>. Watch this video to prep a Go Bag, it's scary simple: <https://youtu.be/Htgqb0pwrlQ>.
- Prepare financially: Set aside a small amount from each paycheck for your emergency savings.
- Check your insurance coverage: Are you covered for high winds, damage, and flooding? It takes 30 days for flood insurance to begin <https://www.floodsmart.gov/>. Don't wait until it's too late! Flood insurance is also an option for renters.

- Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place to access during an emergency. <https://youtu.be/i3MfRpND5gk>.
- Snap photos of your home and property prior to the arrival of a forecasted storm.
- Strengthen your home: Trim trees and shrubs. High winds can turn branches into projectiles during a storm. Make sure the roof of your home and business is properly maintained. When constructing consider elevating, using flood damage resistant materials, and installing storm shutters. Prepare now by cleaning out drains, gutters, and ditches to keep water from backing up into your home.
- Check on your neighbors: Almost half of Americans expect to rely on their neighbors after a disaster...do you know yours?
- Make an emergency plan: Preparing the family for an emergency is as simple as a conversation over dinner. Get started now.
- Sign up for local emergency alerts: Visit <https://alertmepolkcounty.bbcportal.com/> today to sign up for alerts from Polk County.

Please look for further updates on the Polk County Emergency Management Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/PolkCountyEmergencyManagement](http://www.facebook.com/PolkCountyEmergencyManagement)).