

**POLK COUNTY, TEXAS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: August 22, 2020

Time: 6 p.m.

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TROPICAL STORM MARCO & TROPICAL STORM LAURA

The storm tracks for tropical storms Marco and Laura have shifted to the east with greater impacts now expected for Louisiana over to the Florida panhandle and less on Texas.

The Polk County Office of Emergency Management will continue to monitor weather forecasts for any changes of the tracks back to the west. There is more uncertainty with Tropical Storm Laura as the storm is farther away.

We encourage you to review the following hurricane preparedness tips:

- Know your hurricane risk: Our area is at risk for high winds, thunderstorms, 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 30th. 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>.
- 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.