

**POLK COUNTY, TEXAS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: April 29, 2024

Time: 4:30 PM

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Polk County received a tremendous amount of rainfall overnight that caused flooding in low-lying areas and on roadways Countywide. Residents began contacting 911 in the early morning hours requesting evacuation from flooded areas. The Emergency Operation Center was activated to assist with communication and resource management. We have made residents aware that we are operating with communication challenges as the EOC is without phone and main internet service. Our service providers are working to repair phone and internet services.

A shelter has been opened by the County at Dunbar Gym 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, and we would like to thank them for their assistance.

This morning, County Judge Sydney Murphy issued a Local Declaration of Disaster and a Voluntary Evacuation Order for the low-lying unincorporated areas along the Trinity River and below the Lake Livingston Dam. This afternoon County Judge Murphy issued a Mandatory Evacuation Order for these areas, which are vulnerable to flooding as discharge from the Dam is expected to increase throughout the evening. We urge these residents to take precautions and heed the Mandatory Evacuation Order and to avoid travel at night when visibility is limited.

Local and State water rescue resources have been staged in the County should they be needed. Emergency Management will remain in contact with the Trinity River Authority 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. Residents are encouraged to visit the Polk County Emergency Management Facebook page and website for updates.

We would like to thank our responders and emergency partners 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.