

# State of Texas County of Polk



## **HURRICANE LAURA: ORDER OF VOLUNTARY EVACUATION FROM**

### **POLK COUNTY TORNADO IMPACTED AREAS AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF POLK COUNTY, TEXAS**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020 EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

WHEREAS, the County of Polk on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020, is facing significant threats to life, health, and property due to the arrival of Hurricane Laura that is forecast to impact the Texas coast as a major 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 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 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 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 **VOLUNTARY EVACUATION** of persons residing in substandard housing to include mobile homes and travel trailers in the tornado impacted areas of Polk County and in the unincorporated areas of Polk County, Texas, for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery;
2. **VOLUNTARY EVACUATION** of persons residing in substandard housing to include mobile homes and travel trailers in the tornado impacted areas of Polk County and in the unincorporated areas of Polk County, Texas hereby **ORDERED**;

3. Unless any other order is issued to the contrary, this **VOLUNTARY EVACUATION** issued herein **SHALL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AUGUST 25, 2020.**

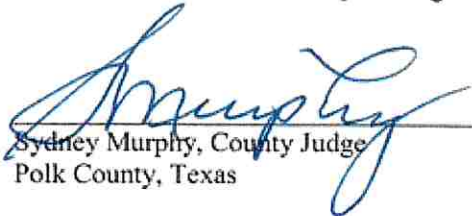
4. The issuance of this **VOLUNTARY EVACUATION** shall **NOT** preclude the County Judge from taking further actions the County Judge considers necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery, including but not limited to issuing an order for mandatory evacuation;


5. Due to COVID-19, residents in substandard housing who evacuate are encouraged to first seek shelter with a 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 25th day of August 25, 2020.

ORDERED this the 25<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2020.

  
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Sydney Murphy, County Judge  
Polk County, Texas

  
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ATTEST: Schelana Hock, County Clerk  
Polk County, Texas

FILED FOR RECORD

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POLK COUNTY CLERK