

**POLK COUNTY, TEXAS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: May 4, 2024

Time: 7 p.m.

Contact: Polk County Office of Emergency Management
(936) 327-6826; Fax: (936) 327-6890



**FLOODING, MANDATORY EVACUATION, WEATHER UPDATE,
AND REPORTING STORM DAMAGE**

The Mandatory Evacuation Order for the low-lying unincorporated areas along the Trinity River and below the Lake Livingston Dam remains in place. We are expecting another round of severe weather to roll-in tonight and in the early morning hours. Our area may receive up to 1 to 3 inches of rainfall with isolated amounts of up to 4 to 8 inches possible.

Local officials and responders continue to monitor the situation, and local and state resources remain staged in the County should they be needed. The Emergency Operation Center remains activated to assist with communication and resource management.

A shelter is available at Dunbar Gym located at 1103 Dunbar Ave. in Livingston for evacuees that have no other arrangements for shelter. The American Red Cross is caring for persons at the shelter.

Polk County closed the Camp Cho-Yeh shelter today to consolidate resources. Shelter occupants from the Camp Cho-Yeh shelter were sent to the Dunbar Gym shelter if they didn't have other arrangements.

Emergency Management will remain in contact with the Trinity River Authority (TRA) and the National Weather Service in regard to forecasted rainfall and river flooding. Discharge from the dam is currently 118,768 cfs. TRA is communicating to Emergency Management that if upcoming rainfall totals are 3" or below, they should be able to hold at this rate. However, over 3" of rainfall may initiate an increase in discharge from the dam.

A Flood Warning is in effect for the Trinity River near Goodrich and for Menard Creek near Rye. Polk County is under a Flood Watch until 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 5th.

Due to continuous rainfall across East Texas and rising levels in creeks and rivers, flood levels may increase. Please remain aware of changing flood levels along the Trinity River and ALL low-lying areas. Avoid flooded areas and roadways. Be extremely cautious at night when visibility is limited. Remember Turn Around, Don't Drown.

REPORTING STORM DAMAGE TO HOMES AND BUSINESSES

Residents can report storm damage to homes and businesses using the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) damage survey. iSTAT surveys can be filled out in English and Spanish by visiting <https://damage.tdem.texas.gov/> and clicking “**April 26-Ongoing Severe Weather Event.**”

Details provided through the iSTAT damage survey help emergency management officials gain an understanding of the extent of damages that have occurred. The information provided from this process also helps identify immediate resource needs.

Additionally, survey information aids officials in determining whether the state meets federal requirements for various forms of disaster assistance.

Reporting damage through the iSTAT tool is a voluntary activity and is not a substitute for reporting damage to your insurance company. It does not guarantee disaster relief assistance. English and Spanish tutorial videos explaining how to fill out iSTAT surveys are available at <https://damage.tdem.texas.gov/>



TDEM iSTAT

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.