

**POLK COUNTY, TEXAS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: May 3, 2024

Time: 7:25 PM

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



FLOODING, MANDATORY EVACUATION, WEATHER UPDATE

The Mandatory Evacuation Order for the low-lying unincorporated areas along the Trinity River and below the Lake Livingston Dam remains in place.

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 and County personnel are caring for persons at the shelter.

Emergency Management will remain in contact with the Trinity River Authority (TRA) throughout the duration of this incident as well as with the National Weather Service in regards to forecasted rainfall and river flooding for the weekend.

TRA communicated to Emergency Management that they plan to continue to monitor and lower the lake levels and discharges as inflows and gate operations procedures allow. However, they are monitoring the weather forecast and any substantial local rain received over the next few days could quickly raise the lake levels and require additional increases in discharge. Discharge from the dam is currently 124,267 cfs.

WEATHER FORECAST – MORE RAINFALL & SEVERE WEATHER EXPECTED

The National Weather Service forecasts that isolated showers and storms are possible overnight into tomorrow. Locally, an inch or two of new rainfall is possible in any thunderstorm activity.

Polk County is under a Flood Watch until 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

A few isolated strong/severe storms cannot be ruled out between late Saturday and early Sunday. The main threat is wind gusts, but hail and isolated tornadoes can't be ruled out completely.

A Flood Warning is in effect for the Trinity River near Goodrich. A Flood Warning is in effect for Menard Creek near Rye.

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.

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.