



County Judge Lina Hidalgo
D I R E C T O R

MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDER

WHEREAS, beginning April 30, 2024, Harris County, Texas began experiencing the effects of heavy rainfall and flooding in areas north of Harris County; and

WHEREAS, life-threatening flood waves are being generated on the east fork of the San Jacinto River; and

WHEREAS, rapidly rising waterways could cause damage to structures and prevent access and safe passage on roadways, thus creating a public safety hazard; and

WHEREAS, first responders may not be able to reach residents in the affected areas as conditions worsen; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Disaster Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 418, grants the County Judge of Harris County, Texas the authority to order a mandatory evacuation during a state of disaster; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge of Harris County, Texas has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect lives and property, and a mandatory evacuation of areas in harm's way must be ordered.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS:

1. That a MANDATORY EVACUATION in the Mandatory Evacuation Area listed below is necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery.

2. The Mandatory Evacuation Area consists of the East Fork of the San Jacinto River, from FM 1485 to Lake Houston (up to a half mile from the river), as shown in full detail on www.readyharris.org, the official website of the Harris County Office of Emergency Management. Affected subdivisions include:

- a. **Idle Glen / Idle Wilde Subdivision:** Streets affected include Brookside, Chinquapin, River Side, E. San Jacinto, Glenwood, Dipping, Idlewilde, and Lazy Creek.

- b. Northwood Country Estates: Streets affected include Disher, Bounds, Thomas, and Davidson.
- c. **River Terrace**: Streets affected include River Terrace, Elm, Pine, Cherry Laurel, Holly, and Cypress.
- d. **Cypress Point**: Streets affected include Blue Lake, Oak Knoll, Wild Oak, and Birchwood.
- e. **Commons of Lake Houston** (formerly known as Magnolia Point): Streets affected include Opal Way, Diamond, Mendencino, Lassen Villa, Glen, Magnolia, Hill, Calvins, Collins, and Calaveras Creek.
- f. **South of FM 1485** (on east side of the river): Streets affected include Spalding, Green, Jett, and Casey.

3. The issuance of this MANDATORY 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.

4. This MANDATORY EVACUATION is ordered in accordance with Section 418.185 of the Texas Government Code, as detailed below:

Sec. 418.185. MANDATORY EVACUATION. (a) This section does not apply to a person who is authorized to be in an evacuated area, including a person who returns to the area under a phased reentry plan or credentialing process under Section 418.050.

(b) A county judge or mayor of a municipality who orders the evacuation of an area stricken or threatened by a disaster by order may compel persons who remain in the evacuated area to leave and authorize the use of reasonable force to remove persons from the area.

(c) The governor and a county judge or mayor of a municipality who orders the evacuation of an area stricken or threatened by a disaster by a concurrent order may compel persons who remain in the evacuated area to leave.

(d) A person is civilly liable to a governmental entity, or a nonprofit agency cooperating with a governmental entity, that conducts a rescue on the person's behalf for the cost of the rescue effort if:

(1) the person knowingly ignored a mandatory evacuation order under this section and:

(A) engaged in an activity or course of action that a reasonable person would not have engaged in; or

(B) failed to take a course of action a reasonable person would have taken;

(2) the person's actions under Subdivision (1) placed the person or another person in danger; and

(3) a governmental rescue effort was undertaken on the person's behalf.

(e) An officer or employee of the state or a political subdivision who issues or is working to carry out a mandatory evacuation order under this section is immune from civil liability for any act or omission within the course and scope of the person's authority under the order.

5. Pursuant to Appendix 9 to Annex U of the Harris County Basic Plan adopted by Harris County Commissioners Court on October 29, 2019, and in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.173, any law enforcement agency based or sent to assist in Harris

County is hereby authorized to enforce this order, and the failure to comply with this Order is an offense and is punishable by a fine that does not exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

6. This Order shall be construed in compliance with the requirements of Texas Government Code Chapter 418 and other applicable law.

7. Harris County officials and employees are authorized to take such action as they deem necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of this Order.

8. This Order shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.

9. This Order shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this the 3rd day of May, 2024.



Harris County Judge