



Polk County, Texas

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Question:** What do I need to have in my home in order to be prepared for an emergency?

**Answer:** A basic emergency supply kit which includes:

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- A battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- A whistle to signal for help
- Dust masks, to help filter contaminated air, and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps

**For additional information, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).**

2. **Question:** How does the Polk County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provide information to the Public during an emergency or disaster?

**Answer:** Polk County OEM uses the following methods to distribute information to the public during an emergency or disaster:

- Polk County, Texas website ([www.co.polk.tx.us](http://www.co.polk.tx.us))
- Polk County OEM website ([www.oem.co.polk.tx.us](http://www.oem.co.polk.tx.us))
- KETX 92.3 FM, 1440 AM
- KDOL 96.1 FM
- Channel 7 – KETX TV
- Channel 9 – KTRE TV
- Polk County Enterprise
- Corrigan Times
- PolkCountyToday.com ([www.polkcountytoday.com](http://www.polkcountytoday.com))
- Livingston, Texas Area i-TOWN ([www.livingstonitown.com](http://www.livingstonitown.com))

3. **Question:** Do I need to call someone before I dig on my property?

**Answer:** Yes, there are many underground pipelines and utilities in Polk County, Texas. Please call 8-1-1 before you dig.

4. **Question:** When can I burn?

**Answer:** If you live in an unincorporated area of Polk County, please call 1-877-POLKYES or 936-327-6878 to listen to the Polk County burn ban recorded message. Orders preventing outdoor burning can be viewed on Polk County's website at [www.co.polk.tx.us](http://www.co.polk.tx.us). and on the Emergency Management website at [www.oem.co.polk.tx.us](http://www.oem.co.polk.tx.us).

If you live within an incorporated city, please call your local City Hall for information.

5. **Question:** What can I burn?

**Answer:** Effective September 1, 2009, the Polk County Environmental Office issued a notice stating that outdoor burning of household waste is authorized as long as the outdoor burning takes place at the residence where it was generated and as long as the waste results **from the functions of life within a residence. For example, kitchen garbage, untreated lumber, cardboard boxes, packaging, grass, leaves, brush and branch trimmings.**

**The following items are not considered domestic waste and cannot be burned:** Tires, construction debris, plywood, paneling, particle board, furniture, carpet, carpet padding, insulation, insulation on electrical wire, cable, asphalt products such as shingles, plastics, heavy oils, paints and varnishes, potentially explosive materials such as aerosol cans, electronic devices, chemical wastes, or items containing natural or synthetic rubber, vinyl flooring or siding, Freon's and/or refrigerants.

If you are unclear about whether or not you can burn a particular item or items, please contact the Polk County Environmental Office at 936-327-6820 ext. 2.

6. **Question:** When Polk County enacts a burn ban, can I still burn my trash in a burn barrel?

**Answer:** When Polk County enacts a burn ban, the order preventing outdoor burning states whether or not residents may burn in a burn barrel. When an order gives residents authorization to burn in a burn barrel, it requires that a metal grate with openings no greater than ¼ inch be placed on top of the burn barrel to contain sparks.

7. **Question:** How can I find out if my property is in the floodplain?

**Answer:** Although the floodplain map can be viewed on the Floodplain Page of this website, please call 936-327-6820 ext. 1 and ask to speak to the Polk County Floodplain Administrator to **accurately** determine if your property is in the floodplain. An Elevation Certificate and permit is required if building in the floodplain.

[FEMA Flood Map Service Center: Search By Address](#)

This tool tells you if your home is in a flood zone!

8. **Question:** Do I have to install an aerobic system?

**Answer:** A site and soil evaluation will determine what type of system must go into your soil. You must have a site and soil evaluation prepared by a Site & Soil Evaluator, Registered Sanitarian, or Professional Engineer licensed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The evaluation must be reviewed by the Designated Representative of Polk County before the system is installed and the system must be inspected again before it is covered up.

9. **Question:** Do I need an On Site Septic Facility (OSSF) Permit?

**Answer:** If you are the first home on a **single** deeded tract of land 10 acres or larger, you do not have to purchase an OSSF permit, but you are still required to install a septic system that meets or exceeds minimum state standards and file a 10 Acre Exemption Form. An OSSF permit is required for each additional home placed on the tract of land. If you have less than 10 acres, you must **always** purchase an OSSF permit before installing a septic system.

If your property is within 2,000 feet of Lake Livingston call the **Trinity River Authority** at 936-365-2292 for an on-site septic permit.

10. **Question:** How much land is required to install a septic system?

**Answer:** A minimum of ½ acre is required per septic system.

11. **Question:** Do I need a permit for a water well?

**Answer:** Effective January 9, 2009, all potential water wells drilled in Polk County must have a registration permit prior to the drilling of the well. Contact the Lower Trinity Groundwater Conservation District at 936-327-9531 regarding the process. Forms are available at [www.ltgcd.org](http://www.ltgcd.org).

12. **Question:** Do I need a permit to get a 9-1-1 Address?

**Answer:** If there is an existing structure on your property, it may have a 9-1-1 address. Call the Polk County 9-1-1 Addressing Department at 936-327-6826 to determine if your property has an address. If not, a permit is required to establish a new 9-1-1 physical address.

Polk County OEM **does not** address within the city limits of Livingston and Corrigan.