



**Polk County, Texas**

**DECLARATION OF DISASTER**

WHEREAS, Polk County is in the forecast track cone of uncertainty for Tropical Storm Beryl forecasted to strengthen to a hurricane and make landfall early Monday, July 8, 2024 on the Texas coast; and

WHEREAS, Tropical Storm Beryl poses the threat of severe weather conditions, tropical storm force winds, and flooding; and

WHEREAS, Polk County experienced severe weather and flooding, creating widespread and severe property damage and dangerous conditions in April 2024 and is still recovering from this disaster; and

WHEREAS, significant rainfall from Tropical Storm Beryl would likely result in flooding in the low-lying areas of the County and along creeks and the Trinity River; and

WHEREAS, significant rainfall from Tropical Storm Beryl would likely result in the need for the Trinity River Authority to increase discharge from the Lake Livingston Dam increasing the risk of flooding of properties below the dam; and

WHEREAS, the Trinity River Authority states the Lake Livingston Dam is under repair from damage sustained in the April 2024 flood disaster, but is in no immediate danger of failure; and

WHEREAS, impacts from Tropical Storm Beryl have the potential to endanger lives and damage property on a large-scale countywide; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the county judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county “if the threat of disaster is imminent”; and


WHEREAS, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity with which such severe weather and flooding could escalate constitute an imminent threat of disaster; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF POLK COUNTY, TEXAS:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Polk County, Texas pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Polk County, Texas.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Polk County Clerk.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Polk County Emergency Management Plan.
5. That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this the 6th day of July 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sydney Murphy, County Judge  
Polk County, Texas

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST: Schelana Hock  
County Clerk  
Polk County, Texas