



**COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

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**New sirens to provide data, warnings along Guadalupe River**

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*NEW BRAUNFELS* — Residents, business owners and tourists along the Guadalupe River now have an extra layer of warning in an area long known as “flash flood alley.”

Crews have installed seven gauges and five sirens along the river between Canyon Lake and downtown New Braunfels, providing the public with data about the height of the river and a possible life-saving wake-up call in the event of a flash flood.

“If you hear the sound, get to higher ground,” said Mike Dussere, general manager of the Comal County Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD). “River Road can be cut off by low water crossings, so residents and businesses should have their plan – and backup plans – in place well before it starts to rain in the watershed. If you hear a siren and you haven’t been told it’s a test, put those plans into action and get as far away from the water as you can.”

The nearly \$310,000 project cost was shared by four entities: WORD (\$119,000), Comal County (\$115,000), the City of New Braunfels (\$60,000) and Guadalupe County (\$14,000).

The system works by using pressure sensors in the water that determine river depth. When the river reaches a pre-set height, the sensors trigger the sirens to sound. The sensors also will transmit real-time data that is publicly available online so residents, business owners, law enforcement and emergency management officials can monitor the river during potential flooding events.

“We encourage everyone along the river to pay attention to weather forecasts and use common sense about the risks for flooding when storms are in the region,” said Jeff Kelley, Comal County emergency management coordinator. “The data this system provides will be significant for local businesses and residents so they can stay informed about what’s coming down the river.”

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