



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Paul A. Anthony · 830-221-1110 · anthop@co.comal.tx.us

Contact:

Jeff Kelley, Emergency Management Coordinator
830.221.1110
anthop@co.comal.tx.us

Comal County court proceedings canceled; Guadalupe River closed

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUGUST 25, 2017:

NEW BRAUNFELS — Comal County law enforcement, road crews and emergency management officials are getting ready for the arrival of Harvey and its expected heavy rainfall, as well as warning county residents to be alert and cautious once it arrives.

To alleviate pressure on law enforcement potentially responding to storm-related emergencies, the county's district courts and county courts-at-law have canceled Monday proceedings, including jury selection. County Judge Sherman Krause also signed an order essentially closing the Guadalupe River from the county line to New Braunfels.

“Based on the rain and wind forecasts we’re seeing, it’s better to be proactive and make sure our deputies can focus their attention where it’s most needed,” Krause said.

The order prohibits unauthorized use of the river effective at 5 p.m. today until further notice.

Comal County Sheriff Mark Reynolds said all deputies have been called on duty, patrols have been increased for the weekend, emergency vehicles have been deployed across the county, and deputies have begun delivering food and water to residents in flood-prone areas.

“We stand ready to protect and serve Comal County residents throughout this storm, however long it lasts,” Reynolds said.

County crews have staged barricades for possible use at nearly five dozen low water crossings on county-maintained roads, checked high-water systems to make sure they are communicating with the county's website to alert the public of road closures, and set up an on-call system to handle additional road closures and possible repairs over the next 96 hours, said Gene Szakacsy, Comal County road superintendent.

“We’re prepared and executing our established plan for potential emergencies,” Szakacsy said.

Meanwhile, county officials continue to work closely with the Texas Division of Emergency

Management, the National Weather Service, the Comal County Water Oriented Recreation District and others to monitor the storm's progress and plan for a possible emergency response.

“Unfortunately, Comal County has a lot of experience with potential flooding events, and we know never to take the possibility lightly,” said Emergency Management Coordinator Jeff Kelley. “We are working hard to help county residents stay safe if the forecasts are correct and we see significant rainfall this weekend.”

County residents can take several steps to help keep themselves and their families safe this weekend, Kelley said:

- **Stay alert and informed.** Pay attention to weather conditions and updated forecasts. Those in the range of flood-alert sirens: If they sound, seek higher ground.
- **Stay home.** Do not risk driving during the storm unless absolutely necessary.
- **Stay out of water.** Trying to drive through closed low water crossings is not only a crime, it is extremely dangerous. If water is over the roadway, turn around – don't drown!
- **Sign up!** If you have not yet connected your cell phone and home address to the Comal County emergency alert system to receive text, email and phone messages tailored to your location, visit www.comalcountytexas.org/REAN.

Residents are encouraged to bookmark and visit www.comalcountyeoc.org for updated radar, rainfall totals, river and lake levels, and road closures. The county also will post emergency information to its webpage, comalcountytexas.org; its Facebook and Twitter pages; and its emergency alert system.

###

Comal County Public Information Office

830.221.1110

anthop@co.comal.tx.us

www.comalcountytexas.com