

DISASTER RELIEF UPDATE:

I just got off the phone with Chief Kidd's office at the [Texas Division of Emergency Management](#). Below is a link to the press release that Governor Abbott has directed TDEM to request that eight additional counties be added to President Biden's May 16th's Presidential Disaster Declaration so that Individual Assistance can be made available to impacted citizens in those counties. Waller County is one of the 8 counties which Governor Abbott has requested to be added.

“The severe storms that swept across the state caused damage of such severity and magnitude that I am requesting eight additional counties be added to the Presidential Disaster Declaration,” said Governor Abbott. “As we work to receive this crucial assistance, I encourage Texans to continue reporting damages to their homes and businesses through the iSTAT damage survey. With these additional counties added, more Texans that sustained damages from the storm to their homes or businesses will have the financial assistance they need to rebuild and recover. I thank the Texas Division of Emergency Management and our first responders who are working tirelessly to protect their fellow Texans.”

We are hopeful that FEMA will move quickly to approve the addition of these counties per TDEM's request. The Administrator of FEMA will be coming to Texas in two days, so hopefully there will be an announcement soon in that regards.

Governor Abbott's Press Release can be found here:

<https://gov.texas.gov/.../governor-abbott-requests...>

Although we have a county disaster declaration prepared for my signature, I will be waiting to sign it on Wednesday. With Waller County already being included in the Governor's Disaster Declaration, it is not required for me to sign a disaster declaration, but I will do so as a formality. I'm going to wait until Wednesday to sign it, because local disaster declarations are only valid for 7 days, after which the Commissioners Court must approve extending the declaration. Since our next Commissioner's Court meeting will not be held until Wednesday, May 29th, this will enable Commissioners Court to extend the declaration without the need of an emergency court meeting. Regardless, all of the wheels are already in motion through the Governor and TDEM to get Waller County to be added to the Disaster Declaration for the purposes of Individual Assistance. Individual Assistance qualification provides financial and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster, who have uninsured or under-insured necessary expenses and serious needs. For more information on Individual Assistance, visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual/program>

We are currently working on plans for potential debris removal and we will keep people apprised as those plans develop. The [Waller County Fire Marshal's Office and Office of Emergency Management](#) posted earlier today regarding guidelines for burning wood debris, so please take a moment and visit their page for additional information. We are working on plans to remove debris from county ROW and that alone will be an extensive undertaking. To the extent that property owners can reduce the debris amount by burning wood debris where they can do so legally and safely will help us immensely when it comes to debris removal for property owners... We know that there are several areas that are still without power. SBEC is reporting that they only have a few meters in the county without power and that those will take time because they

typically involve a property owner that has electric poles and lines on their property that need to be fixed... Centerpoint still has a ways to go for Waller County - with numerous areas still without power including parts of Prairie View, areas south of Waller, and much of the central part of Waller County. Centerpoint had numerous electric contractors and crews on FM 529 today, so I am hoping that they will begin to move those crews northward once FM 529 is completed... Centerpoint is saying that they hope to have most customers restored by Wednesday. Let's cross our fingers.

Thanks everyone for your attention. We will keep you updated on further developments as they come.

Trey Duhon