



Justin W. Lewis

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HILL COUNTY JUDGE

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Press Release

Hill County, TX –We have some good news today with temperatures warming slightly and power and water coming back online in several areas of Hill County. However, this is leading to other issues as well. A hard freeze is expected again overnight which could cause extremely treacherous road conditions for travel on Friday morning, and as water begins flowing, leaks and flooding are occurring at an increasing rate.

“We are thankful to see so many residents having power and water services returned to their homes, but we know it is also leading to a number of new challenges as we continue to deal with the effects of this winter storm,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “Work on the Hill County Courthouse is on-going, and over the next couple of days, we will begin releasing information on where and how county offices will be operating in the coming weeks and months as repairs are made, but for now, please know we are working around the clock to have services restored as quickly as possible. We appreciate everyone’s patience and assistance because we know you are dealing with your own challenges as a result of this week’s weather,” stated Lewis.

“In speaking with the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), we have been advised that the disaster declaration currently in place is only at a level to provide government agencies with assistance to repair damages to public infrastructure as a result of the winter storm. Individual assistance has not yet been authorized. Damages have the potential to reach a level that would trigger individual assistance programs be put in place, but we haven’t reached that point yet,” said Lewis.

“TDEM is advising homeowners to reach out to your insurance companies to determine what coverages you have for damage resulting from burst pipes, etc. and they are encouraging everyone to document damage by taking pictures and tracking your expenses as you work to mitigate and make repairs. Having this information will be crucial in applying for assistance if resources become available,” stated Lewis.

Water distribution systems across the county continue to encounter challenges in keeping water moving due to frozen equipment and broken pipes. While many systems are back up and running, most of them have boil water notices in place and are dealing with numerous leaks across the systems. The Cities of Whitney and Hubbard are under system-wide boil water notices, while the City of Hillsboro has some isolated areas where outages occurred that are under boil water directions. Please consult your water supply company directly for specifics on regulations in your area.

As more residents have power returned to their homes, the warming stations in Hill County continue to consolidate and reduce services available. **Please call ahead before traveling to a warming station because operations are subject to change as the need diminishes.** While these

are warming stations, bring blankets with you. Blankets are in limited supply and the buildings may not be as warm as your own personal comfort level.

Location: Hill County Fairgrounds, 205 Stadium Drive, Hillsboro, TX

Need to Know: Bring food and water if possible. Pets are only allowed if in a crate

Contact Information: Hill County, 254-582-2023

Location: Church of the Nazarene 1103 N Brazos St, Whitney, TX

Need to Know: Bring food that does not require cooking and water if possible. No pets allowed.

Contact Information: Whitney Police Department, 254-694-2638

Location: First Baptist Church, 501 N Magnolia Ave, Hubbard, TX and First United Methodist Church Harrelson Center, Hubbard, TX

Need to Know: Bring food that does not require cooking and water if possible.

Contact: City of Hubbard, 254-205-6211

People interested in monitoring updates from Hill County on the situation will find the most current information on the Hill County Emergency Management Facebook Page. The County will also provide regular updates to *KHBR 1560 AM Radio* and the *Hillsboro Reporter*.

In addition, the County has an emergency notification system. If you would like to receive phone call, text or email updates as warranted, you can register with the Hill County Emergency Notification System. Visit the Office of Emergency Management website at www.hilloem.com, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on emergency alerts. Follow the prompts to set up your account.