

Saturday, September 21, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE For more information, contact: Wayne McDaniel, County Judge (409) 246-5120

## **Tropical Storm Imelda Disaster Update**

[Kountze, Texas] – Low lying areas of Hardin County continue to be impacted by floodwaters from Tropical Storm Imelda. These areas include all communities along the Pine Island Bayou between Sour Lake and Lumberton/Rose Hill Acres, all of which remain under the Mandatory Evacuation Order issued on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Pine Island Bayou at Sour Lake has crested and that gauge indicates the water has stabilized, and may be beginning to slowly fall. Cresting of Pine Island Bayou at US Hwy 69 south of Lumberton is expected to occur Sunday morning. Floodwaters along Boggy Creek, Keith Road, Cooks Lake Road and Rose Hill acres is expected to continue to rise over at least the next 12 hours.

We continue to strongly discourage travel in the inundated neighborhoods. Not only is traveling through waters dangerous, but the wakes made by vehicles can cause non-flooded residents to take on water. "Turn Around Don't Drown"

If you live in Hardin County and your residence has flooded or does flood during this event, please let us know by sending an email to <u>disaster@co.hardin.tx.us</u> with your name, address and phone number, or you may call (409) 246-5198 to provide us with this information.

If your home flooded, I know you are thinking about debris removal and that is on our mind too. Once the floodwaters recede and we have complete damage assessments, we will determine how that will be handled in the coming days. Until then, please do not place any debris in the County Right-of-way.

Thank you and please continue to be safe.

