

Sunday, September 22, 2019

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

Judge Lifts Evacuation Order

[Kountze, Texas] – Judge Wayne McDaniel announces that the Mandatory Evacuation Order issued on September 19, 2019, is lifted effective 2:00PM today. Water is receding in the flooded communities of Countrywood/Pinewood Estates in Sour Lake and those communities are becoming accessible. Floodwaters continue to slowly fall in Rose Hill Acres and unincorporated Hardin County south of Lumberton (Keith Road and Cooks Lake Road).

At this time, Hwy 105 to Beaumont from Sour Lake is still closed and TXDOT anticipates it will remain closed through Monday morning. Keith Road is closed at Boggy Creek, but Park Road remains open and residences are accessible utilizing that detour. Water covers the roadway on Cooks Lake Road just past the bridge. It is passable by most vehicles, but not by low profile cars/vehicles.

BE SAFE traveling within any of these communities and <u>only</u> do so if you live there or are helping a friend/family member with cleanup. Do not drive through any swift moving water nor force any water into any home or structure with your vehicle or boat.

Reminder: Please DO NOT place <u>any</u> debris in the County Right-of-way at this time. We are working to determine how debris will be handled for this disaster and hope to have an answer later today or first thing Monday. The primary reason we do not yet have a decision on debris is due to the absence of a Presidential Disaster Declaration, which triggers funding for this mission.

God Bless Hardin County – Please continue to be safe.

