



Justin W. Lewis

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HILL COUNTY JUDGE

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Press Release

Hill County, TX – The effects from winter storm Uri continue to multiply across Hill County. On Tuesday, February 16th, a broken pipe in the sprinkler system of the historic Hill County Courthouse burst flooding the building. Overnight, another round of freezing precipitation came through and worsened the condition of the roads making emergency services even more challenging to provide through the county.

“Seeing the condition of the courthouse is heartbreaking, but the good news in all of this is that there is no structural damage. All damage is cosmetic or related to the working of our technology and all can be repaired. Our records are safe, and I’m grateful for the enormous outpouring of support and assistance we have received,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “Everyone has stepped up, and we will have operations back up as soon as possible.”

“The other big news of the day is the freezing precipitation that came through last night,” said Lewis. “Road conditions are the worst they have been since the beginning of this event. Please stay off the roads if possible. Our first responders, utility staff and essential workers are maxed out, and they need our help,” stated Lewis.

“People are continuing to be without power, and they are taking measures to keep their homes warm. Sadly, it has resulted in several structure fires across the county, making a bad situation worse,” said Lewis. “My heart goes out to those who have suffered losses, but I want to remind everyone about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and the fire danger that can result from using resources not designed for indoor use. Please take care of one another and check on your friends and neighbors out there. Now more than ever, we need to be taking care of one another and keeping each other safe,” finished Lewis.

Water distribution systems across the county continue to encounter challenges in keeping water moving due to frozen equipment and broken pipes. Individuals are encouraged to conserve water as much as possible. Most utility crews are only able to respond to emergency calls at this point.

Warming Stations in Hill County – **Please call ahead before traveling to a warming station because operations are subject to change depending on power availability.** 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: City of Whitney Annex, 102 N Colorado St, Whitney, TX, Church of the Nazarene
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. Other locations may also be available with various policies in place, so please call ahead before planning to arrive in Hubbard for shelter at any of the warming stations.
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.