Do you know what to do if you had to evacuate? Did you know Terrell County has had a plan in place for such an event. Do you know what to do if you hear sirens? Being prepared helps everyone get out of harm’s way safely.

Here are a few guidelines to help you and your families prepare for any emergency. Make a Family Plan, discuss where family members might be if an evacuation were ordered and agree on methods to stay in touch. Agree on a location where your family can meet to be sure that everyone is accounted for. STICK TO THE PLAN! Keep your car full of fuel; it is often impossible to obtain fuel during an evacuation. Don’t forget to plan for your pets, for small pets, always have a carrying container with food and water. Larger pets will have to be taken to an alternate shelter. STAY CALM!

Put together an Emergency Bag which is accessible and know to all family members, the bag should be easy to carry and hold everything you need. Here are some suggested items: Rugged footwear, gloves a change of clothing, an extra set of car keys, cash and checks. Map of the area or road atlas, a liter of drinking water and nonperishable food per person, a blanket or sleeping bag, a flashlight and batteries, a first aid kit, prescription medications, personal hygiene items, a simple tool kit, a list of phone numbers and addresses, insurance policy, mortgage documents, medical records, deeds, birth certificates, Social Security cards, bank account and credit card numbers, and inventory of household belongings.

Notice of Evacuation. Terrell County has two sirens, one located at the east side of town on Legion Street and another one on the Texas Department of Transportation property on Hwy 285. Alert sirens are tested every second Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. during Commissioners’ Court. These test consists of a one minute siren alert. An actual evacuation will be in effect when the sirens are activated and not turned off.

In the event you are notified by a reverse 911 call to evacuate your home due to flooding, the Emergency Disaster Shelter is at the old Sanderson High School Gym. If you are told to leave Sanderson due to flooding, the proper route will be to exit on HWY 90 East towards Del Rio. Do not exit on Hwy 90 West or HWY 285 as this is where the high water will originate from.

In the event of a train accident and hazardous spill, you will be notified where to evacuate to. Just remember you must exit into the wind and away from any smoke or fumes. Avoid this at all cost as toxic fumes will follow the wind's direction.

In the event of any emergencies or disasters, the designated safe shelter will first be the High School Gym and secondly the Terrell County Courthouse. However, if you are told otherwise, please do as instructed to prevent any possible injuries or accidents.

In the event a mandatory evacuation is ever ordered for Sanderson, emergency services such as 911, EMS, Fire Department and Sheriff’s office response may NOT be available. This will never be ordered unless absolutely necessary to preserve lives. If you choose to ignore this warning, you could very possibly be on your own with no help or assistance available. Hopefully, none of this will ever be necessary, but we must all be prepared just in case. Terrell County is dedicated to the safety of our citizens and community. Above all, remember to STAY CALM!

Sincerely,

Santiago Flores
Terrell County Judge