



WHARTON COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

315 EAST ELM STREET
WHARTON, TEXAS 77488

979.532.1123 Voice

979.531.0473 Fax

Phillip Spenrath – Wharton County Judge

County Health Authority – Dr. Jeffrey Gubbels

Andy Kirkland – Emergency Management Coordinator

Debbie Cenko – Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator

Sunday, September 20, 2020 1800 hours

Our Wharton Office of Emergency Mgmt has been carefully tracking Tropical Storm Beta for the past several days. We have been in direct contact with the National Weather Service and the Texas Dept of Emergency Mgmt.

The latest NWS briefing has Beta making landfall at Matagorda Bay in Jackson County which means our rainfall totals and wind speeds could be more intense than first anticipated (yesterday's predictions had landfall in Matagorda Co.)

The storm is predicted to turn and track over the northern edge of Wharton County (through New Taiton around 1:00 pm Tuesday and East Bernard around 7:00 pm Tuesday.)

The most recent NWS predictions show continued daily rainfall through Wednesday evening with our strongest wind gusts in the 40-50 mph range starting tomorrow (Monday) morning and lasting through approximately 9 pm Tuesday.

At this time, we believe County Offices can safely open at regular times Monday morning. As the day progresses and more information is accumulated, County Elected Officials may consider afternoon closures if the winds and rain intensify.

Rains should continue through mid-day Wednesday, and are forecast to total in the 8-12" range. The NWS stated that the Tres Palacios and San Bernard rivers will be closely monitored as flooding, in the minor to moderate range, may be possible.

As always, each elected official is in charge of their office and employees. The County Judge's Office will be open in the morning.

I would encourage each of you to continue checking our County website, our WCOEM FB page, and listen to KULP radio for weather updates and possible road and office closures.

WCJC, Wharton ISD and Boling ISD schools have already announced they are CLOSED ON MONDAY. I believe the other local school districts will be making their operational decisions soon.

Please stay safe and do not take undue risks.

Phillip Spenrath

email: andy.kirkland@co.wharton.tx.us

Wharton County OEM will provide updates at <http://www.co.wharton.tx.us/> and on facebook.