

PRESS RELEASE

May 23rd, 2019, @1500 hrs.

The flooding events across Dickinson County continue with the following details being known at this time.

During the daily status meeting today emergency personnel heard a report from the National Weather Service that storms beginning later this afternoon and continuing for the next few days could result in 2" to 4" of additional rainfall throughout Dickinson County. This water coupled with the existing water in the rivers will maintain the water levels at or even more than they currently are as of today.

Overnight last night the Smokey Hill River at Sand Springs rose roughly one foot over what it was last evening. This rise has resulted in more roads being closed due to water across our county. Currently the main roads that provide access north to south over the Smokey Hill River that are closed are the Solomon Road and Eden Road. K-15, Jeep Road, and K-43 are currently open, however they are all expected to be closed soon as well.

The river levels will continue to rise through Friday evening at which point the level should crest. Current rainfall will have an impact on when the crest occurs and at what level.

In Solomon the flood waters have now made it up Main Street where locals continue to sand bag along Main Street to protect their buildings. Volunteers that wish to help are asked to report to the sand pile at the Solomon Maintenance shop on South Poplar Street.

Chapman has completed bagging 4th and Marshall' Streets, in anticipation of water reaching that area. The City office has begun taking steps to evacuate and move their operations to the municipal golf Course building on Indian Hill. The water currently is close to or around the trailers homes on East 6th Street. The residents of those homes are encouraged to evacuate while they can as the water rises.

Individuals needing sand and sand bags can still obtain them from any of three locations. Locations of the bagging sites are as follows:

Solomon – City Maintenance Shop at Main and Poplar Streets

Chapman – Chapman Elementary parking lot at 500 Irish Drive

Abilene – Dickinson County Highway Yard, 408 SE 2nd Street

Bags and sand are provided at no cost to those who need them. We ask that anyone coming to get bags or sand be a resident of Dickinson County and that they take only what they need.

These bagging operations will be open as long as the flooding threat persists. Anyone wishing to volunteer their services to help fill sand bags should report to any one of these sites to assist.

In preparation of flood waters rising to the levels that would cover the north/south highways in Dickinson County, emergency personnel have taken steps to place one of their EMS crews in the City of Enterprise in temporary quarters to allow them to respond to locations south of the Smokey Hill River. Also, the rural fire departments have taken steps to cover their districts should flood waters separate their personnel and resources.

Anyone with information regarding a road closure or high water should report that information to the Dickinson County 911 Center at 785-263-4041.

Any pertinent information, to include road closings, flooding predictions, or other information relating to this incident will be posted on the front page of the Dickinson County website at www.dkcoks.org.

And last, DO NOT DRIVE INTO WATER. It is unlawful to drive around a barricade or road closed sign, and very hazardous to drive into water. You have no way of knowing if the road is washed out under the water or not, so abide by the signs and turn around.