

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**September 20, 2022**

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**SUBJECT: FLOODING NOTIFICATION**

This report provides background on (i) the City of Fort Worth's (City's) real-time High-Water Warning System (HWWS); (ii) how the City currently communicates flood warning information; (iii) how residents can sign up to receive real-time flood warning notifications; and (iv) discusses plans for future improvements to flood warning notifications.

Each year, more deaths in the U.S. occur due to flooding than any other thunderstorm-related hazard because people underestimate the force and power of water. Specifically, 21 fatalities associated with flooding have been reported in Fort Worth since 1986. Since the City began tracking high water incidents electronically in 2009, 231 high water rescues have been documented. Effective real-time flood warning communications to residents are critical to reducing the risk of flooding-related roadway incidents.

City's High Water Warning System (HWWS)

The Stormwater Management Division (SWM) of the Transportation and Public Works (TPW) Department operates a network of 21 dedicated weather stations and 51 water level sensors in some of the most flood-prone areas to monitor rainfall and water levels across the City. When sensors at hazardous locations determine roadways are close to overtopping, flashers are triggered, warning drivers to turn around and avoid the crossing. Real-time alarms via text and emails are sent to first responders such as Stormwater Field Operations, Fire, Police, and County personnel. Roads that are observed to be overtopped are barricaded. The SWM HWWS webpage <https://cs-029.onerain.com/> is updated in real-time identifying road locations that are overtopping and should be avoided, locations where water is rising, and caution should be exercised, and locations that are currently not flooded.

Current Flood Warning Notifications to the Public

In advance of rain events, the City notifies residents of potential flooding and "Turn Around Don't Drown" messaging via social media such as Facebook, Next Door, and Twitter. Information about flood risk is also mailed out annually in water bills.

Residents can sign up for the City of Fort Worth notification system called Fort Worth Texas Alerts (registration is also available through the CodeRed Mobile Alert app) to receive timely severe weather warnings directly from the National Weather Service via text, email, and/or voice messaging. See attached information about how to sign up. Residents can also download Fort Worth Texas Alerts for a visual map of active alerts and to receive specific severe weather warnings based on their phone location. Sign-up information is available at FortWorthTexasAlerts.gov.

In addition to Fort Worth Texas Alerts, residents can sign up for the CASA Alerts app, which pushes storm notifications using radar estimates across the DFW area based on cell phone location. The City participates in CASA (Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere) through regional collaboration with the North Central Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG).

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The MyFW app cannot push real-time notifications to residents, only to take in information. Residents can report flooding and drainage issues using the MyFW app.

Future Improvements to Flood Warning Notifications

SWM, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and the Communications Department collaborate on improving flood warning notifications. This includes:

- Testing of notifications from Fort Worth Texas Alerts when the user's cell phone is within proximity of a HWWS location during flooding events.
- Updates to the MyFW App to make reporting flooding easier during rain events by adding an alert to the main screen to report flooding that will go live during significant rain events instead of users having to scroll through the menu to look for the appropriate reporting section.
- Annual electronic notification to specific Neighborhood Associations, Alliances, and Homeowners associations within proximity to HWWS flashers with location-specific information about the flashers in their area, Turn Around Don't Drown messaging, and information about how to sign up for flood warning notifications with Fort Worth Texas Alerts.
- Strategic evaluation of the roadside flashers associated with the HWWS locations to determine if they can be used to warn drivers of flooding more effectively.
- Evaluation of adding new/additional HWWS flashers based on flood risk as a part of the Stormwater Program's Hazardous Road Overtopping Mitigation effort.

Questions about this Informal Report can be directed to Ranjan Muttiah, HWWS Manager, at 817-392-7919 or Robert Medford, OEM Emergency Management Coordinator, at 817-392-6173.

David Cooke
City Manager



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To sign up to receive emergency notifications issued by the Fort Worth Office of Emergency Management and weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service, go to FortWorthTexasAlerts.gov.

Fort Worth Texas Alerts

Hay tres formas de recibir una alerta de la **Oficina de manejo de emergencias del Departamento de Bomberos de Fort Worth**. Puede elegir todas las opciones o la que más le convenga.

 <p>MENSAJE DE TEXTO</p> <p>Quando se envía una alerta de "Fort Worth Texas Alerts", puede recibir solo un mensaje de texto en su teléfono para avisarle de la notificación.</p>	 <p>LLAMADA TELEFÓNICA</p> <p>Puede optar por recibir también una llamada telefónica, pero esto no es un requisito. Cuando se registre o actualice su registro agregue o elimine esta opción.</p>	 <p>CORREO ELECTRÓNICO</p> <p>También puede recibir un correo electrónico con detalles sobre la alerta. Su información no se compartirá fuera de "Fort Worth Texas Alerts".</p>
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**Cuando se registre para recibir alertas, asegúrese de registrarse completamente y no registrarse como "invitado". Esto le permite editar su cuenta según sea necesario.

WWW.FORTWORTHTEXASALERTS.GOV

