Everman Community Newsletter

2018 Flood Information

October 10th, 2018
City Hall 817-293-0525 www.evermantx.net

2018 Flood Information

Since the flooding on September 21st, 2018, Officials with the City of Everman have been working very closely with several organizations and entities to gain as much assistance as possible with both immediate and long-term needs of the community. This newsletter is designed to inform you of the steps that the City of Everman has taken, is currently taking and also plans to seek out in the future.

Volunteer Organizations

Several volunteer organizations have responded to assist Everman residents with immediate needs. These organizations include the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Team Rubicon, American Red Cross and more. The goal of these volunteer organizations is to assist residents with immediate needs, such as shelter, food and assistance with mucking out homes. Unfortunately, these organizations are unable to provide any type of long-term assistance, such as construction work or rebuilding of homes. Some of these organizations also provide some financial assistance to victims. Although it may not be much, these funds are designed to help residents with things such as groceries and clothing. Residents who need assistance in their homes are encouraged to contact the Catholic Charities of Fort Worth who will be able to help guide you with any assistance that is available. The City of Everman has minimal control over volunteer organizations. Any complaints about a specific organization, or questions as to how they operate, should be directed towards that specific organization.

Insurance

Many residents with insurance notified their insurance companies immediately following the flood. If your insurance claim was denied or you are having difficulty filing your claim, we would recommend that you contact the Texas Department of Insurance Consumer Hotline at 1-800-252-3439. The Texas Department of Insurance handles all consumer complaints and investigations. Victims of this disaster can also contact an Insurance Advocate Company. These companies serve on your behalf in fighting denied claims.

FEMA Assistance

In the moments following the flood, Everman Emergency Management requested the assistance of the Tarrant County Office of Emergency Management in response to this disaster. Upon initial damage assessment, it was discovered that further assistance may be required. The Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) was notified and requested for assistance. During the disaster cleanup, local, county and state officials worked to gather information and perform damage assessments on property. On September 23rd, 2018, Mayor Ray Richardson declared an official State of Disaster for the City of Everman. This was one of many steps that would be necessary in the event a Federal State of Disaster was declared by the President. These same steps were followed in other affected communities around the state over the next several days. On Friday, September 28th, 2018, Governor Greg Abbott declared an official State of Disaster in Tarrant, Ellis and Sutton counties. This was done to allow access to state resources and equipment if needed. This was also another step that was needed in the event of a Presidential Declaration of a State of Disaster which would trigger Federal Assistance. Unfortunately, in the coming days it was learned that the State of Texas minimum damage threshold was not met and that a Presidential Declaration would not occur. Therefore, this tragic incident in our community does not qualify for federal assistance. Currently, neither the City of Everman or Tarrant County has received any State of Federal financial assistance.

Now What?!

Since learning that Federal Assistance is a very unlikely source, officials have been researching and pursuing other avenues that may be available. The City of Everman has requested assistance from

other government organizations who can provide long term disaster loans to residents and businesses to help with recovery. Although this assistance does look promising, the City of Everman has not been told if it is officially available as of yet. We hope to hear official word in the coming days.

Future Mitigation

The City of Everman has requested assistance from other jurisdictions with performing a general clean out of the creek. We hope to begin some of this process in the very near future. However, this does not seem to be a good long-term solution.

A common question that is asked is, “What is the City doing to prevent such an incident in the future?”. Before we can answer that question, we have to identify all potential causes or threats and then identify any and all possible solutions to those specific causes. Currently, the City of Everman is working with Tarrant County and other organizations to get assistance with performing an evaluation of the water ways including the inbound and outbound portions surrounding Everman. The City of Everman is also researching the possibility that local development outside of Everman may have impacted our floodways. The City of Everman is not consulted in anyway during these types of developments that occur outside of our City Limits. This research and determination must be made by qualified engineers and thorough hydrology studies. City Engineers have already begun part of this process.

Everman Emergency Management is working with the North Central Texas Council of Governments as well as the Tarrant County Office of Emergency Management, to complete a Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. Once these potential threats have been identified, the City of Everman can include those in the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. Once included in this plan, the City of Everman plans to apply for Mitigation Grant Funding to assist with completing projects. This process is painstakingly long; however, we are committed to seeing it through.

Our Message

We want residents to know that local, county and state officials have been working on this incident since it occurred. We also have no plans of stopping anytime in the near future. We understand how devastating this event has been for many of our families. We are committed to providing as many resources as possible to our residents. We are also committed to improving life in Everman for the future. If you have a need, please do not hesitate to ask.

Resources

Texas Department of Insurance
www.tdi.texas.gov
1-800-578-4677
1-800-252-3439 (Consumer Hotline)

Catholic Charities of Fort Worth
Catholiccharitiesfortworth.org
817-534-0814

Salvation Army Fort Worth
Fortworth.satruck.org
817-344-1800

Goodwill Fort Worth
Goodwillfortworth.org
817-332-7866

American Red Cross
Redcross.org
1-800-733-2767

Everman Emergency Services
www.evermantx.us
817-293-2923