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Dallas County: 214-282-8851
American Red Cross: 214-678-4800
JASDFW: 214-342-2022

News Release

Dallas County Adopts Resolution for Flood Safety Awareness Week

National Weather Service and Red Cross urge citizens to make sure they are prepared now for potential disasters

Dallas, Texas – Citizens are encouraged to prepare now for potential severe weather disasters in the future, especially with the high threat of flooding and tornados in North Texas. Dallas County Judge Clay Lewis Jenkins proposed this resolution in Dallas County Commissioners Court to increase public awareness for national Flood Safety Awareness Week, March 14-18.

The Dallas County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the National Weather Service, and representatives from the Dallas Chapter of the American Red Cross and Japan-America Society of Dallas Ft. Worth gathered together today at the Dallas County Commissioners Court to speak about the importance of preparedness in disaster situations on all levels. Bill Bunting, Chief Meteorologist for the National Weather service, North Texas office said, “Many people are surprised to learn that deaths and injuries from flooding are much greater than they might think. In fact, since 1990 there have been 33 tornados recorded with three casualties. In the same timeframe there have been 162 floods, resulting in 24 deaths.” Mark Fox, Warning Coordination Meteorologist added, “People must plan today. By the time flood waters rise it is too late to prepare.”

Cheryl Sutterfield-Jones, CEO of the Dallas chapter of the American Red Cross also spoke about the strong relationship Red Cross has with Japan. The American Red Cross recently opened a call center in McKinney, Texas to field inquiries from people seeking information on finding loved ones in Japan. Anna McFarland, the Executive Director of the Japan-America Society of Dallas Fort Worth (JASDFW) mentioned the strong relationship Dallas and Sendai have shown as international friendship cities since 1997. The Japan-America Society recently established a relief fund for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami. “The fund was established in response to the many inquiries our organization has received from people wishing to help,” said McFarland.

Dallas County Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Lisa Chambers added, “We must take precautions on a daily basis to ensure we are prepared for every emergency. As someone who lived in Japan for eight years, I know they are well prepared to handle this devastating situation.”

Tools and resources are available to help you prepare for, respond to and recover from any type of disaster. Visit www.Ready.gov, and the Spanish language site www.Listo.gov. The North Texas regional campaign, www.KnoWhat2Do.com has important tips for flood safety.