

## COUNTY OF JIM WELLS

Pedro "Pete" Trevino, Jr. County Judge Фh: 361 668-5706 Fax: 361 668-8671 Cell: 361 219-1045

August 6, 2018

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## Jim Wells County added to the Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance

Disaster Recovery Centers Opening in Jim Wells County

Old Alice Boys and Girls Club of Alice 3001 Old Kingsville Alice, Texas 78332

The Disaster Recovery Center in Alice will open Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at 1pm. The Center will be open from 7a.m.-7p.m. Monday through Friday, 8a.m. to 3p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday.

Distance Learning Center 439 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Street Premont, Texas 78375

The Disaster Recovery Center in Premont will open Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 1pm. Regular hours will start Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The Center will be open from 7a.m.-7p.m. Monday through Friday, 8a.m. to 3p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday.

200 N. Almond St. - Rm. 101 • Alice, Texas 78332 pedro.treviño@co.jim-wells.tx.us Residents of Jim Wells County who suffered damage from the severe storms and flooding that occurred from June 19 - July 13, 2018 might now be eligible for programs that address certain needs.

After conducting Preliminary Damage Assessments in the county, FEMA amended the Major Disaster Declaration of July 6 to include Jim Wells County for its Individuals and Households Program.

FEMA encourages survivors of the flooding to self-assess their situation. For homeowners and renters, first determine if your home is safe, sanitary and functional. If your dwelling fails by any of these measures, you should seek assistance.

If your home suffered serious damage as a result of the floods, and your insurance (homeowner or flood) does not fully cover the cost of repair or replacement, you might consider registering with FEMA or other agencies. Help is available through many federal, state and local entities as well as several nonprofits like the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

To see what federal help for which you might qualify, visit <u>https://www.disasterassistance.gov/get-assistance/find-assistance</u>. Fill out the brief questionnaire and you will be directed to the appropriate sources.

Applying for federal aid is a two-step process that involves registering with FEMA and SBA disaster loans. After you register with FEMA, apply for a low-interest disaster loan with SBA. There is no charge to apply for the loan and if approved, no obligation to accept it.

Residents of Jim Wells County who have already registered with FEMA do not need to apply again, but should follow up with their applications. Registering with other organizations, such as the Red Cross, is not the same as registering with FEMA.

Federal disaster aid does not affect other government benefits, such as Social Security and Medicaid, and is not considered taxable income.

Only one person per household is eligible to register. Survivors must use the name that appears on their Social Security card and have insurance and disaster information available at registration. The deadline for application is Sept. 4, 2018.

To register with FEMA:

- Log onto DisasterAssistance.gov;
- Download the official FEMA app at Google Play or the Apple App Store; Or, visit <u>fema.gov/mobile-app</u>, to download the app.
- Call 800-621-3362. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585. If you use 711 or VRS or require

accommodations while visiting a center, call 800-621-3362. The toll-free numbers are open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

• Visit a disaster recovery center. To locate a center near you visit. Find locations and hours of operation at <a href="https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2018/07/20/disaster-survivors-can-get-rebuilding-tips-local-home-improvement-stores">https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2018/07/20/disaster-survivors-can-get-rebuilding-tips-local-home-improvement-stores</a>

Going to a DRC is not a requirement of registration, but specialists there provide guidance regarding disaster recovery and rental resources, explain written correspondence received from FEMA, inform survivors of the status of their application, make referrals to other organizations and answer questions.

Help is available in most languages, and information on the registration process is available in American Sign Language (ASL) at <u>http://www.fema.gov/media-</u> library/assets/videos/111546.

For more information on Texas recovery, visit the disaster web, Twitter at <u>https://www.twitter.com/femaregion6</u> and the Texas Division of Emergency Management website, <u>https://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem</u>.

Disaster assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status.	Online registration DisasterAssistance gov	<ul> <li>Insurance information, if available</li> <li>Social Security number</li> <li>Phone number where you can be contacted</li> <li>Address where you can get mail</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Please have the following available:</li> <li>Your address with zip code</li> <li>Directions to your property</li> <li>Condition of your damaged home</li> <li>Insurance information, if available</li> <li>Social Security number</li> <li>Phone number where you can be contacted</li> </ul>		1-800-621-FEM/	DISASTER ASSISTANCE To register, call:	
		<b>Stay in touch with FEMA:</b> When you register, you will be given a FEMA registration number. Write down your number and save it. You will need the number whenever you contact FEMA.	<b>Direct Deposit:</b> Disaster assistance funds can be sent directly to your bank account. Please provide your bank account type, account number and bank routing number.	If you use a TTY: 1-800-462-7585 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS): 1-800-621-3362	EMA (3362)	SSISTANCE r, call:	FIERA A

