

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- February 20, 2021

### **Evening Update - Saturday, February 20, 2021**

**NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS** -- Nacogdoches city and county staff will release one update tomorrow in lieu of the typical morning and evening press releases. We are transitioning into the recovery phase of this event. Please share the following information with others as you are able.

#### Electric Supply

Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative (DETEC) crews are making slow progress restoring power due to outages being scattered across their entire eight-county territory. As of this morning, 5,107 Nacogdoches county meters were without power, and estimates of restoration were not available. Oncor, with its out-of-state mutual assistance contractors, aims for the majority of its restoration to be complete by Sunday evening.

Report tree limbs hanging on power lines or downed power lines, to dispatch at [alldispatch@nactx.us](mailto:alldispatch@nactx.us). Customers must report power outages to their applicable electric company:

- Deep East Texas Electric: 800-392-5986
- Oncor: 888-313-4747, online at <https://stormcenter.oncor.com>, text OUT to 66267, or through the MyOncor Mobile App

#### Water Supply

Most City of Nacogdoches water customers should have water restored to their residences. If you do not have water, it is possible that the meter has been shut off at the curb. Please check the meter and turn it on. If you have a water leak, quickly turn off the water at the meter. For assistance, call 936-559-2900.

You may see firefighters and Public Works employees flushing fire hydrants around town for the next several days. This is an essential part of the restoration process. Lines are being cleared of air and impurities in an effort to restore water utilities to normal.

Some water supply corporations (WSC) in the county are struggling with fuel supply issues and in turn, having difficulty meeting the demand for water. The county has partnered with fuel suppliers to get them back online. It remains important to conserve water (e.g. not running washing machines or dishwashers and limiting showers to five minutes or less).

**A boil water notice remains in effect for those using City of Nacogdoches water and several county WSC.** Contact your particular WSC if unsure of your boil water status. Water for drinking and cooking should be boiled and cooled prior to human consumption. Bring water to a vigorous, rolling boil, then boil for two minutes. The boil water notice will likely remain in effect into the coming week. Public water system officials will issue a notice to customers that rescinds the boil water notice in a manner similar to the initial notice.



The city and county coordinated with the Texas Division of Emergency Management which was able to provide several pallets of bottled water. Those were distributed to the volunteer fire department locations throughout the county.

#### City Permits and Inspections

The City Inspections office is open for online and phone-in permits tomorrow, Sunday, Feb 21 to expedite repairs. Permits may be obtained by calling 936-559-2521 or online at nactx.us. The local disaster declaration has waived permit and inspection fees for necessary storm repair. Residents are urged to utilize licensed contractors only and be aware of out-of-town unlicensed predatory contractors.

#### Water Bills

City Utility bills due on Monday, Feb 22 will not be assessed a late payment penalty due to City facilities being closed the week of Feb 15-19.

#### Warming Shelters

The City and County warming shelters have closed and residents have returned to their homes after Nacogdoches Police Department verified it was safe. The Godtel shelter will remain open; if you are in need of shelter you can call them directly.

#### Roads and Vehicles

Road may be in poor condition, and repair efforts will begin in the coming days. Ambulatory assistance, requested from the state, arrived in Nacogdoches late last night. Citizens may see ambulances from other counties around the area.

#### Restaurants and Grocery Stores

Several restaurants and grocery stores in the Nacogdoches area are now open with limited supply. Please remember when shopping for essential goods to only purchase what you need for your family. City health inspectors have reviewed proper boil water procedures with local restaurants.

#### School & Government Openings

Nacogdoches ISD will return to virtual instruction on Monday, Feb 22 and Tuesday, Feb. 23 while their facility staff assess damages to their campuses.

Stephen F. Austin State University has restored power and water pressure is steadily increasing in most buildings. SFA staff is performing damage assessments on all its facilities.

City and County offices and facilities will open on Monday.



### Trash

Trash services for the city will resume on Monday, Feb 22. If you have immediate trash disposal needs, two rolloff dumpsters are available at the Nacogdoches Recreation Center (1112 North Street). Use these as a resource until normal trash services resume next week.

### Disaster Declaration

Nacogdoches mayor Shelley Brophy and county judge Greg Sowell each signed new disaster declarations for their respective entities yesterday. The City Council will be asked to approve a resolution on Tuesday, Feb 23 extending the declaration. These declarations activate the recovery and rehabilitation aspects of emergency management plans and waive all required permit and inspection fees related to repairs necessitated by storm damage.

### Communication

Contact 936-559-2900 for questions regarding water and water leaks. To report fallen trees, limbs, downed power lines, and blocked roadways email [alldispatch@nactx.us](mailto:alldispatch@nactx.us).

City of Nacogdoches residents are strongly encouraged to sign up for NacWise alerts by visiting [nactx.us/nacwise](http://nactx.us/nacwise).