



***Eddie Treviño, Jr.***  
***County Judge***

**For Immediate Release**

February 18, 2021

Contact: Eddie Treviño, Jr.

Cameron County Judge

**UPDATES IN CAMERON COUNTY REGARDING THE  
FEBRUARY WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS**

In preparation and response to the severity of the winter weather conditions, Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. signed a declaration of disaster to protect from the significant threats to life, health, and property of all residents of Cameron County. This declaration was issued after Governor Abbott declared the entire State a disaster area on February 12, 2021.

In the past several days, we have held multiple situational awareness calls regarding the ongoing February Winter Weather conditions with local, state, and federal elected leaders to include electrical power companies and water supply corporations to address the severity of the situation in our County and the much-needed resources for our communities. All students, parents, and employees are encouraged to visit respective school district websites for related news and updates.

We are working diligently across all levels of communication to ensure that our pleas for additional power and resources are heard along with area power companies and water supply corporations to monitor daily outages. Area power companies are working around the clock to ensure homes have power, and some power companies have suspended rotating outages as per the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT).

As ERCOT lifts the controlled outage directive, AEP Texas, BPUB, Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, and other utility companies will restore service to customers and complete any needed repairs. In the meantime, customers can help to ensure a smooth restoration of power by taking the following steps:

- If you lose or have lost power, turn off your heating and large appliances to ensure a smooth service restoration.
- Once power is restored, plug in devices gradually over the next 30 to 40 minutes.

Taking these precautionary steps will help prevent a second surge in demand and avoid additional power outages.

This winter weather storm has not only caused power outages and blackouts, but also severely affected the availability of fuel for our motor vehicles. We recommend that all drivers limit their motor vehicle travel for essential purposes only, remain calm, and fuel up at your earliest convenience.

*Cameron County Courthouse  
Oscar C. Dancy Building  
Phone (956) 544-0830*

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February 18, 2021

Updates in Cameron County Regarding the February Winter Weather Conditions

Temperatures are expected to drop to below freezing tonight and continue through Friday with daytime highs hoping to reach above 50 degrees. All individuals are asked to follow winter safety precautions and never use a generator, charcoal grill, gasoline or propane heater, or camp stove indoors to keep warm. Never use a motor vehicle for personal warming within an enclosed garage as breathing in carbon monoxide at high levels can be fatal.

Please follow the recommendations below to help conserve energy countywide:

- Maintain thermostats at 68 degrees
- Close all shades and blinds to avoid heat loss
- Turn off and unplug non-essential appliances
- Avoid using large appliances
- Wear warm and comfortable clothing at all times

The following emergency warming shelters are available throughout our County:

**City of Brownsville:**

- **Brownsville Dome:** 1000 Sports Park Blvd, Brownsville, TX 78521
  - Open 24 hours
  - Warming center/charging center only
  - Pets accepted in portable crate/carrier

**City of Harlingen:**

- **Harlingen Community Center:** 201 E. Madison, Harlingen, TX 78550
  - Contact: 956-216-5940
  - Open 24 hours through Sunday, February 20, 2021
- **Loaves and Fishes:** 514 E. St., Harlingen, TX 78550
  - Contact: 956-589-8084
  - Open 24 hours
  - 60+ beds available, showers available

**City of La Feria:**

- **La Feria Dome:** 1001 Pancho Maples Dr., La Feria, TX 78559
  - Open from 8:00 p.m. through 8:00 a.m.
  - Warming center/charging center only

**City of Los Fresnos:**

- **Los Fresnos Community Center:** 204 N. Brasil St., Los Fresnos, TX 78566
  - Open 6:00 p.m. through 8:00 a.m.
  - Warming center/charging center only

**City of Port Isabel:**

- **Port Isabel Event Center:** 309 E. Railroad St., Port Isabel, TX 78578
  - Open 8:00 p.m. through 8:00 a.m.
  - Warming center/charging center only

**Town of Rancho Viejo:**

- **Rancho Viejo Town Hall:** 3301 Carmen Ave, Rancho Viejo, TX 78575
  - Rancho Viejo residents only
  - Open 24 hours
  - Warming center/charging center only

“During the early morning hours of today, power companies have finally received approval by ERCOT to suspend power outages throughout our County and provide power to all residents. I along with numerous other elected officials have been pleading for additional power for our communities but this winter storm is a statewide problem that won’t be solved overnight and certainly not while this storm continues over the next several days. There has to be a commitment to invest and upgrade in our electric power infrastructure for the long term, and for the benefit of our residents. Rest assured we are in constant communication with local power companies along with federal and state leaders for updates and immediate responses to our area’s needs. Please continue to remain safe and warm,” stated Cameron County Judge Treviño, Jr.

The Cameron County District Attorney’s Office issued a media notice about price gouging during this inclement weather. It is anticipated that his office will assist the Attorney General’s Office whenever there is reason to believe that a person or business is engaging in, or has engaged in any act or practice that is related to price gouging during the declared emergency.

Under the law, the District Attorney may institute and prosecute actions for violations of the law and may seek any available remedies under the Code. Upon request, the District Attorney may also lend assistance to the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division in the commencement and prosecution of an action pursuant to the Code. To report any alleged price gouging, the public should file a complaint online or call the Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-621-0508. For further assistance call the Cameron County District Attorney’s Office at 956-544-0849.

Cameron County offices will be closed on Friday, February 19, 2021, for safety and protection of all our employees and visitors to our County buildings. The County Judge’s Office will provide updates should ongoing severe weather conditions affect County Operations.

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