

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Copperas Cove

Kevin Keller, Public Relations Director
kkeller@copperascovetx.gov
Fax: (254) 542-8965

508 South 2nd Street
Copperas Cove, Texas
Phone: (254) 547-4221

City of Copperas Cove Winter Storm Uri Update #3

Copperas Cove, Texas – The State of Texas continues to be under a Statewide Disaster Declaration for all 254 Counties, and the City of Copperas Cove remains under a Declaration of Local Disaster due to extreme conditions resulting from Winter Storm Uri.

All City of Copperas Cove facilities will remain closed thru Friday, February 19th, with current anticipation of re-opening on Monday, February 22nd. Many facilities are still without power and a few have sustained internal water damage due to busted pipes. Emergency services will continue to operate without interruption. Essential personnel will also continue to work as they are able to monitor and work to ensure essential services are provided as best possible.

The temporary Warming Center #1 which was previously established at the Public Library has been closed due to lack of water and damage due to a water line break. The sole Warming Center for our residents is now only at Hettie Halstead Elementary. There is plenty of room available for occupancy should any residents need warmth. For residents in need of transportation, you may call Copperas Cove PD at (254) 547-8222 opt. 0 and ask for assistance. Officers will assist as they are able to help get residents to the warming centers:

- **Warming Center #2 – CCISD's Hettie Halstead Elementary – 910 N. Main Street**

The City continues to be in communications with Oncor reference the many power outages throughout the City, however an electricity restoration timeline has yet to be provided by ERCOT. More info as we know it will be posted to the City of Copperas Cove's Official Facebook page.

Freezing conditions continue to exist and streets are being evaluated and addressed as crews are able; at this point we are in very short supply of aggregate and are rationing as we are able to provide necessary resources. Weather conditions continue to be hazardous and freezing temperatures are forecasted for the next day or so. Various streets throughout the City are still marked with barricades and deemed unsafe to traverse; please use caution when driving in these areas. TxDOT and the City encourage all citizens to stay off the streets unless absolutely necessary.

Solid Waste collections have been halted since late last week and the City's contracted landfill is currently non-operational. What does this mean? Essentially Solid Waste is running out of storage space for trash. As the weather clears and streets become safer, operations will continue with an altered schedule. All residential customers are asked to remove any

receptacles from curbside for the safety of all motorists. Once safe conditions allow, a notice will be posted with a collection schedule for all areas. For the past two days Solid Waste has transported a roll off dumpster to the Town Square parking lot and set up a temporary collection site; it is anticipated they will return again tomorrow, Thursday, February 18th, for a similar operation to assist residents in disposal of bagged trash. We will share this information on our social media pages once times are established, weather permitting.

Water Distribution operations were stressed throughout the day and operations are struggling for various reasons. While water is still being delivered to many customers, late last evening we began experiencing pressure loss in various areas, but mainly to the Mountain Top Pressure Plain, which services residents in the Veterans, Skyline and Freedom areas. As of this evening most residents in that area have lost pressure and resources. Various factors have contributed to this, to include reduced water supply coming in from the City's water provider Bell County WCID #1 which in turn decreased volume and pressure in the main lines, the topography of the City which requires water to be 'pushed up' to Mountain Top Storage Tank by pressure, as well as storage tanks freezing from the outside due to power outages. ****Due to significant pressure loss on the Mountain Top Pressure Plain, a Boil Water Notice has been issued for all residents in that area, as detailed in the attached notice.**

The Central Pressure Plain still has substantial pressure, explaining why some residents have water while others do not. The City's recommendation for all customers who have water is to use moderately and open cabinets to provide more warmth for pipes. For those residents experiencing loss of water, the City's recommendation is to leave interior faucets partially open to help the system along once it is pressurized to help push any ice thru the system. Please note we are NOT purposefully turning off water to any residents.

Sewer Department operations are still functional, with some concerns arising due to power outages. Limiting wastewater outflow is highly encourage at this time as residents are able.

Municipal Court scheduled hearings and appearances have been postponed. Anyone having a summons to report should disregard and await further notice.

Utility Administration online and pay by phone options remain available, as internet and phone lines remain active. There will be no late fees assessed and/or disconnections as a result of late payments.

Emergency notifications continue to be distributed to our residents via the CodeRED Emergency Notification System. Citizens not yet registered may enroll at this link: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF83F34F056B>.

(Boil Water Notice Attached)

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