

JOHN COOK
MAYOR



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CITY MANAGER

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Juli Lozano @ 541-4010 or 873-5500 cell
August 3, 2006 @ 6:35 p.m.

City Institutes Mandatory Evacuation for Precautionary Measures

Pursuant to Section 418.108 (f) of the Texas Government Code, John F. Cook, Mayor of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas is ordering the evacuation of the following areas in the City of El Paso, Texas, the area starting on Executive Center following Paisano to Kansas, Father Rahm, St. Vrain and the Border Highway including the neighborhoods of Chihuahuita and parts of the Segundo Barrio as shown on the attached map.

City officials consider this action necessary because of potential breach of a storm water dam located in Cd. Juarez, Mexico whose flow path is directly over the evacuation area. This evacuation is being ordered as a precautionary measure due to the possibility of additional rainfall, as well as the concern of a weakened dam in Ciudad Juarez. The condition of the dam, La Frontera Baja, has been assessed by the Corps of Army Engineers. It was determined that any additional drainage into the dam could compromise the integrity of the structure.

The flow path of the water from the water would be directly into the areas that are being evacuated. The El Paso Police Department along with Fire Medical Personnel began evacuations more than one hour ago. The affected people would be approximately 1,500 to 2,000 residents. These residents will be temporarily housed at the Judson F. Williams Convention Center. Residents that are being evacuated are being asked to only take necessary items with them, such as medications, change of clothes and personal hygiene products.

These actions are being taken at this time as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of the area residents. The Office of Emergency Management will continue to assess and monitor situations around El Paso County and take any and all necessary actions to ensure the safety of the citizens of El Paso County.