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For Immediate Release

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Contact: David R. Krebs, County Judge at 361/364-3901.

San Patricio County staff monitored a conference call with the National Weather Service at 11:00 a.m. this morning, and County Judge David R. Krebs visited with Emergency Operation Center staff.

Tropical Storm Beryl is forecasted to strengthen and it is expected to bring Hurricane Force Winds to portions of the Texas coast, where Hurricane Watches are in effect from the Rio Grande to San Luis Pass. Because Beryl is forecast to become a strong Category 1 hurricane before making landfall on the middle Texas Coast on early Monday morning, wind impacts could include some structural damage to homes and unanchored mobile homes, downed trees and power lines.

Beryl is likewise expected to produce heavy rains across portions of San Patricio County. These rains could result in flash flooding and isolated minor to moderate creek and river flooding. Tropical Storm Force Winds and surge impacts are also expected to begin as early as Sunday afternoon.

The forecast for Beryl includes the possibility of a Category I Hurricane at landfall. Peak Storm Surge Flooding is expected to be 3 to 5 feet above ground level. Impacts could include several evacuations or water rescues and the flooding of some structures.

Strong winds, heavy rainfall and flooding will be the primary concerns. Therefore, voluntary evacuation should be considered by those in low lying areas prone to flooding and those in motorhomes, travel trailers, or other dwellings that might not withstand the projected Tropical Storm Force Winds of 60 to 65 mph. San Patricio County residents in low lying areas subject to flooding must take immediate precautions to plan for such rainfall and flooding to include voluntary evacuation beginning today at noon. Rainfall totals of 5 to 10 inches with locally higher amounts possible up to 15 inches are expected.

Area residents are asked to take necessary precautions to protect lives and secure property. County Judge David R. Krebs is recommending voluntary evacuation of low lying areas, high profile vehicles, and RV's in the eastern portion of the county, in the areas of Aransas Pass, Gregory, Ingleside, Ingleside on the Bay, and Portland. All vehicle travel should be limited beginning midnight 12 am Monday through 6 p.m. Monday evening due to Tropical Storm Force Winds.

San Patricio County will continue to monitor weather conditions and will report as necessary.

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