



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Friday, April 6, 2012; 12:00 a.m.

Contact: Alicia Hills-Oyedele
Assistant to the City Manager/PIO
(972) 218-2641 office
aoyedele@lancaster-tx.com

Lancaster Emergency Operations Commander Recounts Tornado

LANCASTER, TX - In the wake of the April 3rd tornado devastating communities in the City of Lancaster, the Emergency Operations Commander Fire Chief Thomas Griffith is taking a brief moment to recount all that has taken place in response to the tragedy. Lancaster Fire Department personnel tracked the tornado as it ravaged the community as seen in video.

“Battalion Chief Robert Franklin and Assistant Fire Chief Pat Adamcik tracked the tornado as it traveled northeast across the community. We could see the devastation as it took place and responded immediately” stated Chief Griffith. “We prepared, but no one anticipates the full impact of an incident like this. We are fortunate for all the support and work of our mutual aid organizations and neighboring cities. They have answered the call for assistance above and beyond expectations.”

As of 6:00 a.m. on Friday, April 6th all restrictions and checkpoints to the most impacted areas of the city have been removed. Residents are still encouraged to practice extreme caution when entering damaged areas and residences. Those traveling within the affected area are asked to refrain from parking in the streets to allow for disaster recovery vehicles to continue recovery efforts.

At present, the number of uninhabitable structures has held at approximately 150. There have been no additional reports of injuries and no fatalities. The City of Lancaster continues to mobilize all available resources for affected residents.

The Donations & Assistance Center (DAC) at 200 E. Wintergreen Road is serving affected individuals and families while also processing community donations. Their hours of operation are as follows: Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday - 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Easter Sunday - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Tuesday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Volunteers can register at the Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library located at 1600 Veterans Memorial Parkway from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Once registered, volunteers will be contacted

and assigned areas in which to assist.

More than 2,000 structures were potentially damaged. With 300 homes experiencing significant damage, Chief Griffith is encouraged to see the amount of progress being made in the disaster area. "It's going to be a long haul, but we will recover as a stronger city and community."

For more information contact the City of Lancaster Emergency Operations Center Public Information Office at 972-218-2641 or visit the website at www.lancaster-tx.com.

#