## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Panola County Establishes Emergency Operations Center for Tornado Response/Relief.

**Panola County, Texas, April 2, 2021** – Panola County Judge, Lee Ann Jones has established an Emergency Operations Center to help coordinate the efforts for response and relief for victims of the March 27<sup>th</sup> Tornadoes. The EOC will be based at the Panola County Exposition Center and operated by East Texas based <u>Hand Up Network</u>.

An Emergency Contact Line has been established 903-263-3653 or you can e-mail <a href="mailto:HelpPanola@gmail.com">HelpPanola@gmail.com</a>. Residents are encouraged to contact these channels before engaging any help or service provider.

Residents that need help with trees, storm damage, etc. should reach out via the contact above. Assessment teams will be sent to determine what can be done to help by volunteer organizations and teams.

Volunteers, Volunteer Organizations, etc. are asked to go to the Panola County Exposition Center for direction. All volunteer activities, organizations, etc. throughout the County are being managed at this location by Hand Up Network in coordination with the Panola County Emergency Manager. If anyone approaches you to help and you have concern, please contact this location immediately!

Those wishing to donate supplies are asked to contact the EOC to determine current needs and to optimize your generosity.

East Texas Residents interested in donating supplies may also do so at Hand Up Network at 200 N. Beckham, Tyler, TX 75702, 903-597-5334, or <a href="mailto:info@HandUpNetwork.com">info@HandUpNetwork.com</a>.