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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public safety personnel remain vigilant of water levels *Communication with counterparts at county and federal levels continues*

LITTLE ELM (May 29, 2015) Little Elm officials are joining representatives of neighboring towns and cities as well as members of Denton County's Emergency Management staff in closely monitoring lake levels, creating contingency plans and making decisions regarding public safety, says Assistant Town Manager Doug Peach.

"We're in constant communication with our counterparts in the surrounding area, as well as officials with the US Army Corps of Engineers," he said. "The kind of first-hand information we get from these meetings and conversations is critically important in helping us with our planning."

While Little Elm has excellent resources within the staff for dealing with emergencies and other contingencies, creating mutual support linkages with officials from the county, federal authorities and other area entities raises the level of readiness and expands access to valuable additional resources, should they be needed.

"Denton County Emergency Management has an excellent grasp of the current situation because of the real-time input from local cities and towns," he said. "Being closely connected to that particular resource gives us the advantage of obtaining information that we otherwise might not have. We are better prepared and more aware of changing conditions because of that connection."

At the present time, the highest impact of the heavy rainfall has been the closure and partial closure of low water areas of some roadways. Portions of Lakeshore Drive are closed due to rising lake water as is Riney Road and portions of Lobo Lane and Waterside Drive near Little Elm High School. These roads will remain closed until officials deem them safe for use.

In addition, the Little Elm Park beach and marina remain closed due to the high water. Other elements of the park are also closed and will remain shuttered until cleared by public safety personnel.

"While residents will likely see images of people trapped by flash floods on television and social media, Little Elm most likely will not see what is referred to as 'swift water' flooding," he added. "In our case, what will more likely happen is a slow rise in the lake level due to runoff from creeks and overflow from other lakes."

Even so, residents who may feel threatened by the slowly rising water may choose to make arrangements for temporary alternate accommodations. "We do not anticipate an evacuation, but if one occurs, it's far better to stay with friends and relatives than a shelter," said Peach.

Officials will continue to monitor water levels and will remain in constant communication with other public safety personnel throughout the weekend to ensure the safety of residents.

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state's fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm's population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town's footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.