



Town of Little Elm
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Water forces Little Elm to close portion of Lakeshore

High water and floating debris cause street closure

LITTLE ELM (May 18, 2015) Public safety personnel from the Town's Fire Department have determined that the area bordering the 1300 block of Lakeshore Drive must be closed to through traffic, says Fire Chief Joe Florentino.

"Water is rising in that particular stretch of road to a hazardous level," he said. "We've actually been monitoring it very closely for the last several days, and decided that closure this evening is the best alternative."

The street on either side of the 1300 block of Lakeshore will be barricaded at 5:30 p.m. today and remain closed until further notice. Message boards warning drivers of the closure will be placed at Lakeshore Drive and Parkside Drive as well as Lakeshore Drive and Faye Circle.

In addition to public safety officials, personnel from the Streets Department within Public Works are working in close coordination to monitor the situation and provide support with barricades and signage.

Water from recent rains, along with the intermittent release of water from Lake Ray Roberts has inundated the street, bringing dangerous and unpredictable undercurrents which can carry enough strength to wash cars off the road.

"In addition to the water and its unpredictable properties, there is a fair amount of debris and driftwood in the water," added the Chief. "While we may be able to see the portion of it that is above the water, we cannot determine the dimensions of the debris below the surface. That, in itself, is extremely dangerous."

The closure will remain in place until safety personnel from the Fire Department, in conjunction with officials from the US Army Corps of Engineers, determine that the street has reached a safe level.

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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.