# The Texas Legislature's Report on the July 4, 2025, Guadalupe Flood

The Texas Legislature investigated the response to the July 4, 2025, flood on the upper Guadalupe River that affected several towns, camping and RV areas, residences, and children's camps. The report, issued on June 18, 2026, gave a dramatic recounting of the event and made several recommendations for legislation to help prevent a similar catastrophe. The changes put in place soon after the flood helped prevent large loss of life during the July 4, 2026, Guadalupe flood that was hauntingly similar to the 2025 event.

The Legislature's report focused primarily on the events at Camp Mystic, a girls' camp that had been operating for 99 years and had just opened a summer session with over 600 girls attending. The timeline in the Legislative Report illustrated key failings at the camp:

- The camp director and other camp leaders ignored or were not aware of a National Weather Service Flash Flood Watch issued on July 3rd for the Guadalupe River basin.
- The Flash Flood Warning issued at 1:14 am on July 4th was not heard by anyone at the camp because they were asleep and a weather warning radio was not present.
- Counselors were not allowed to have their cell phones while with the girls in their cabins. They were unable to reach the Camp Director or other leaders for instructions. Nor were they able to receive text notices of the flood issued by the National Weather Service that were received by other adults at the camp in their residences.
- There was no comprehensive emergency action plan in place that included evacuation.
- A public address system was not employed when camp staff began to respond to the rising flood water at about 3:00 am.

By the time camp staff were trying to evacuate the girls, water near the river was already deep and getting deeper by the minute. Some girls were able to wade through the water to higher ground. Some counselors began efforts to evacuate threatened cabins. The Camp director drove his large SUV down to the cabin closest to the river that was beginning to float off its foundation and picked up 11 girls and two counselors. As he tried to drive away the vehicle was overwhelmed, swept away and all fourteen people in the vehicle drowned. One of the girls has never been found.

The response to the flood was amazing with help pouring in from all over. 136 people were lost as well as billions of dollars of property damage to homes and businesses along the banks of the river. The Texas legislature responded to the Flood by providing funding for installation of a warning siren system along the river where no system existed.

Since the initial legislative response other provisions have been enacted including:

- Requirement for all summer camps to have comprehensive emergency action plans in place and provided to local authorities and first responders with annual updates.
- Annual training for all camp staff and volunteers.
- Orientation for campers at the beginning of sessions about emergency plans.
- Notification of parents of any portions of the camp in a flood plain.
- Camp to have a working weather radio capable of receiving NWS alerts.
- An emergency warning system at the camp with public address capability.

There were other recommendations that primarily focused on having an emergency plan and mechanisms for communications during and after an event. The worst case scenario that affected Camp Mystic and so many others along the Guadalupe was the result of extremely heavy rain at night striking when people were asleep and not aware of the impending catastrophe. The events at the camp combined a lack of planning, poor communications, poor or no leadership, and negligence in keeping aware of alerts and warnings. The legislature's report is a riveting account of cascading failures that affected not only Camp Mystic but many others along the river.

Any member with facilities in the flood plains of Texas rivers should examine their emergency response plans, communications capabilities, staff training, and ability to receive emergency warnings. If you need help with any of these responses, Fund Risk Control Consultants can help with emergency plan templates on our websites, review your plans, and help with training.

Since 2025 many camps have reopened, some businesses are being rebuilt, people are assessing whether they should re-build, and efforts to restore the natural vegetation in the scoured area are beginning. Camp Mystic did not reopen and declared bankruptcy in June 2026.