



Find your dream home...



SUBSCRIBE ONLINE
MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT ONLINE

Local | Nation/World | Sports | Business | Entertainment | Living | Neighborhoods | Opinion | Obituaries | Education | Military | Español

Local

- ▶ 125 years
- ▶ Frontpage.pdf
- ▶ Tip line
- ▶ Search Archives
- ▶ Faces & Places
- ▶ Week's Top Photos
- ▶ Calendar
- ▶ Texas lottery
- ▶ New Mexico lottery

News

- ▶ Local
- ▶ Nation/World
- ▶ Sports
- ▶ Business
- ▶ Entertainment
- ▶ Living
- ▶ Opinion
- ▶ Obituaries
- ▶ Neighborhoods
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Military
- ▶ Español

[Print Article](#) [Email Article](#)

Article Launched: 08/02/2006 12:00:00 AM MDT

Residents evacuate in Vinton, Sunland

Leonard Martinez / El Paso Times

Tuesday's rainstorm and subsequent flooding led to evacuations in some areas of west El Paso County.

The entire village of Vinton -- about 2,100 people -- was asked to evacuate because of the flooding.

"The arroyos have already overflowed and the retention pond is full, and if that spills over, we won't have a way of rescuing them," Vinton Clerk Jessica Garza said.

Canutillo Elementary School and the Canutillo Independent School District's administrative building were designated shelters.

The Sunland Park Fire Department said residents in the Santa Teresita and Gibson-Veck area of Sunland Park were evacuated as a precaution because those areas are near the Rio Grande, where flooding was possible.

Doniphan, from the Canutillo area all the way to Vinton, was underwater. Motorists had to find alternative routes.

Canutillo resident Isabel Figueroa said she has lived near Trans Mountain and Doniphan for nearly 20 years and had never before seen Doniphan suffer so much water damage.

"It looks like a river," she said. "We need the rain. Too bad we are not prepared for it."

At least six streets in Vinton were flooded and impassable, and some homes had as much as five feet of water in them, Garza said.

In Vinton, front-end loaders were used to carry residents to higher ground, El Paso County Sheriff's Office spokesman Rick Glancey said.

Deputies had to look for alternative ways to assist the people because the deputies' vehicles were getting stuck in the wet roads. Some of the deputies even had to be rescued themselves when their vehicles stalled along the flooded roads.

Advertisement

Erika Rizo walked in water that rose up to her thighs to get to the front door of her mother's mobile home in Canutillo.

"She was having a panic attack and called to tell us to come help," said Lilly Herrera, Rizo's sister.

Rizo and Herrera stood in the middle of the street in water well above their knees to take pictures of themselves while Rizo's children splashed in the water.

"This is history. It's the first time I've ever seen this happen. It's amazing," Rizo said.

Ernesto Martinez, whose mother-in-law also lives in Canutillo, was all business. He spent most of the day stacking sandbags near his home's front door.

He also moved items off the floor inside the house.

"The sofas are on top of the kitchen table. We are trying to keep things as dry as possible because the water has gotten into the house," Martinez said.

Leonard Martinez may be reached at lmartinez@elpasotimes.com; 546-6152.

El Paso Times reporter Tammy Fonce-Olivas contributed to this story.

[RETURN TO TOP](#)

More local stories

- [Rio Grande reaches highest level since late '50s](#)
- [Crumbling roads, debris cause havoc for El Pasoans](#)
- [Emergency calls number in hundreds, Bliss soldiers assist](#)
- [TV stations put priority on flood story](#)
- [Weathering the storm](#)
- [Residents are evacuated in Northeast](#)
- [Rain engulfs area, no serious injuries reported](#)
- [Drive to work turns scary on North Mesa](#)
- [Residents evacuate in Vinton, Sunland](#)
- [Most schools in area unscathed by rains](#)

Newspaper

Browse the Classifieds Now for Pets, Electronics, Services & More.

Austin Real Estate

1000's Of Homes In Austin Full Details And Virtual Tours

Apartment Finders Service

Need a new place to live in Austin? Fast. Free. Located near UT.

Current Specials Austin

View photos, specials, floor plans Free apartment locating Austin TX

