



STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF BLANCO §

DISASTER DECLARATION RELATED TO RISK OF WILDFIRES

WHEREAS, Blanco County has not had significant rainfall for an extended period of time, creating dry conditions; and

WHEREAS, the dry conditions pose the threat of large, dangerous and fast-moving wildfires; and

WHEREAS, multiple fires have occurred in Blanco County each day for the past several days causing first-responder personnel in Blanco County and our surrounding County partners to activate numerous times under hazardous conditions; and

WHEREAS, some of the fires that occurred have emanated from controlled burns and other sources that are sometimes exempted from burn bans; and

WHEREAS, such fires have the potential of endangering lives and damaging property on a large scale; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the county judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county “if the threat of disaster is imminent”; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity with which fire could escalate to major proportions constitute an imminent threat of disaster; and

WHEREAS, declaration of such disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of fires; and

WHEREAS, such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property by mitigating the threat of dangerous fires; and

WHEREAS, a local disaster declaration expires seven days after its issuance, unless the commissioners court consents to its renewal or continuance;

BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED that I, Brett Bray, County Judge of Blanco County, declare a local state of disaster based on the threat of large wildfires in Blanco County, Texas.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than seven days without being authorized by the County Commissioners Court.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that the purpose of this order is the mitigation of the hazard posed by wildfires by curtailing the practice of outdoor burning, which purpose is to be taken into account in any enforcement action based upon this order.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that a violation of this Disaster Declaration is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or as authorized by Government Code §418.173 and adopted in the county's emergency plan by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, whichever is greater.

1. Actions Prohibited:

A person violates this order by burning any combustible material, outside of an enclosure which serves to contain all flames, and/or SPARKS, or orders such burning by others. This order also prohibits any activity that can reasonably be expected to produce sparks in proximity to combustible material.

This declaration shall be promptly publicized and filed with the County Clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 19th day of February, 2022.


County Judge

Filed with the Clerk of Blanco County on February 19, 2022.