



STEPHENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Breckenridge, Texas 76424

Michael C. Roach
County Judge
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Disaster Declaration for Stephens County, Texas

WHEREAS, Stephens County is currently experiencing severe drought conditions, as evidenced by the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) reading of 622, indicating a high risk of wildfires; and

WHEREAS, Stephens County has not had rainfall for an extended period of time, resulting in dry conditions that pose the threat of large, dangerous, and fast-moving wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the forecast predicts multiple days of triple-digit temperatures with no moisture, further exacerbating the fire danger and creating an environment conducive to the rapid spread of wildfires; and

WHEREAS, our county has already faced several severe fires, putting significant strain on our local fire departments and resources; and

WHEREAS, these extreme conditions present a substantial risk to the safety of our residents and to public and private property; 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 such a fire could escalate to major proportions constitute an imminent threat of disaster; and

WHEREAS, the 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 to protect 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Stephens County Commissioners Court declares that a state of disaster exists in Stephens County, Texas, due to the imminent threat posed by fire danger.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above-cited statute, but in no instance will this Declaration continue for more than seven days without being authorized by the County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 FURTHER PROCLAIMED that all outdoor burning is prohibited in Stephens County, Texas, including those exceptions to a burn ban found in Chapter 352 of the Local Government Code. This prohibition includes a RED FLAG DAY prohibition for all outdoor activities that emit sparks, such as shredding and welding.

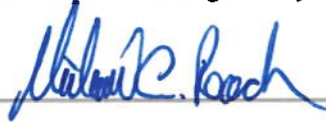
BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that any activity that emits a flame or spark(s), including but not limited to shredding and welding, must have, in addition to the individual(s) performing the work, a spotter to supervise any activity to prevent a fire or its spreading. A minimum of 50 gallons of water and an adequate dispensing mechanism (pump and hose) must be in the immediate vicinity where a flame or spark(s) are emitted.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that any individual conducting any activity that emits a flame or spark(s) and does not fall within the clear emergency burn ban guidelines stated above must provide the address or activity location to the Breckenridge Fire Department at 254.559.6242.

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 and other activities that could exacerbate fire danger. This purpose is to be taken into account in any enforcement action based upon this order.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION: Violation of this order may result in criminal prosecution. This Declaration shall be promptly publicized and filed with the County Clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 19th day of August 2024, at 9:30 A.M. This order will modify and extend for 30 days the current order on the date of its expiration. This order, dated 8.12.24, will expire unless extended by the Stephens County Commissioners Court or until the conditions that necessitated this order have been mitigated by rainfall that lowers the KBDI index below 575 for a period of 7 days or more.



Michael C. Roach
County Judge
Stephens County, Texas



Commissioner, Precinct 1



Commissioner, Precinct 2

Commissioner, Precinct 3



Commissioner, Precinct 4

