



FILED FOR RECORD

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BY: *Traci Turner*

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF HARDIN §

DECLARATION OF DISASTER


WHEREAS, on the 24TH day of January, 2026, Hardin County, Texas, was in imminent threat of the occurrence of widespread severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from severe weather conditions countywide created by a severe winter weather system which is predicted by the National Weather Service, local seasoned Meteorologists, and the Texas State Operations Center to produce large amounts of freezing rain, resulting in minimum 0.25" of ice accumulation on trees, power lines, roadways, and structures. The approaching Winter Storm "Fern" is expected to create excessive sustained periods of sub-freezing temperatures, freezing rain, sleet, snowfall, and high-speed wind gusts in excess of 30MPH in residential, agricultural, and commercial areas throughout Southeast Texas. Populated areas of Hardin County will potentially be affected by major infrastructure damages preventing access to, or the safe passage on, many roadways, as well as the potential for long-term and widespread power and utility outages countywide, thus creating a public safety hazard.

WHEREAS, the Hardin County Judge has determined, based upon forecasts issued by the National Weather Service, TDEM, and local news media outlets, extraordinary measures must be taken now to protect life, as well as protect or rehabilitate property, and are hereby ordered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE HARDIN COUNTY JUDGE:

- I. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Hardin County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
- II. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, This State of Disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this Declaration unless continued or renewed by the Hardin County Commissioners Court.
- III. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this Declaration of a Local Disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Hardin County Clerk.
- IV. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this Declaration of a Local State of Disaster activates the Hardin Emergency Management Plan.
- V. This Proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this 24TH day of January, 2026.



Wayne McDaniel, County Judge
Hardin County, Texas