

# BURKE COUNTY

Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chair  
Phil Smith, Vice Chair  
Brian Barrier, Commissioner  
Randy Burns, Commissioner  
Mike Stroud, Commissioner



# ALL ABOUT ADVANCING

Brian C. Epley, County Manager  
Kay H. Draughn, Clerk to the Board  
Destin Hall, County Attorney  
Kania Law Firm, P.A., Tax Attorney  
[www.burkenc.org](http://www.burkenc.org)

## BURKE COUNTY DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, a major winter storm is forecast to impact Burke County and the State of North Carolina, with widespread power outages and hazardous travel conditions expected due to significant ice accumulation, ongoing winter precipitation, and extreme cold; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the above-described emergency, I have determined that there is an imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or will cause, widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, and public safety authorities will be unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the County of Burke under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Chapter 20 of the Burke County Code of Ordinances:

**Section 1.** A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the County of Burke as more particularly described in Section 2.

**Section 2.** The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be *(check box)*:

☐ All areas within the jurisdiction of Burke County.

☒ The following specific areas within the jurisdiction of the unincorporated areas of the County of Burke, the City of Morganton, the Town of Drexel, the Town of Glen Alpine, the Town of Rhodhiss (Burke County portion only), the Town of Connelly Springs, the Town of Hildebran, the Town of Valdese, the Town of Rutherford College and the Town of Long View (Burke County portion only).

**Section 3.** The following restrictions and prohibitions are imposed *(check all that apply)*:

☐ Evacuation: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Curfew: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **Restricted** Access: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Business** Operations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Alcohol:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Dangerous Weapons & Gasoline:** Except for lawfully possessed firearms (handgun, rifle, or shotgun) and ammunition, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☒ **No restrictions or prohibitions are imposed at this time.**

**Section 4.** I hereby order all Burke County law enforcement officers and employees and all other emergency management personnel subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Burke County Emergency Operations Plan.

**Section 5.** I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Board; and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

**Section 6.** This declaration shall take effect on January 24, 2026, at 8:00 a.m., and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

*Jeffrey C. Brittain*

Jeffery C. Brittain, Chairman  
Burke County Board of Commissioners

