

Wade McKinney
County Judge
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**Department of Emergency Management
Henderson County**

125 N. Prairieville Street, Room 112
Athens, TX 75751

DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, the National Drought Mitigation Center, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association have formed the United States Drought Monitor ('USDM'); and

WHEREAS, the USDM monitors drought conditions across the United States and have classified 100% of Henderson County as severe drought, with almost 97% of Henderson County additionally classified as extreme drought; and

WHEREAS, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index ('KBDI'), maintained by the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M Forest Service, is an index that is used to determine fire potential and the current KBDI indicates a KBDI value of 712 for Henderson County as of July 21, 2022 with a maximum KBDI value of 746; and

WHEREAS, the KBDI value for Henderson County is now within the highest range of the index, indicating a severe drought and increased wildfire occurrence, and

WHEREAS, Henderson County has, and is continuing to experience wildfires across the County, with local fire departments responding to 40 wildfires within the past 7 days and 134 wildfires to date for the month July; and

WHEREAS, the Henderson County is currently under a burn ban order for the entire County, and

WHEREAS, significantly low rainfall and prolonged dry conditions continue to increase the threat of wildfires across Henderson County, and

WHEREAS, the above conditions pose a substantial, significant and imminent threat to persons and property in Henderson County; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with provisions of the Texas Disaster Act of 1975(418.108 Texas Government Code); a state of disaster is being declared due to the extreme drought conditions that exist in Henderson County and present an imminent and substantial danger to the residents of Henderson County; and

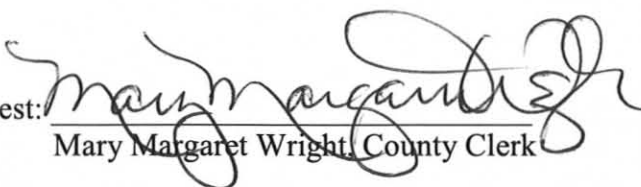
WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency management and Public Health, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED:

1. That a state of disaster is declared for the County of Henderson.
2. That the County's Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
3. That this state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days of the date hereof, unless the same is continued by consent of the Commissioners Court of the County of Henderson, Texas.
4. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.
5. Outdoor burning of combustible materials in an outdoor environment by any person is prohibited. Combustible materials include, but not limited to the use of all fireworks, burning of trash, brush and open campfires and materials used outdoors in activities that could result in a fire.
6. The discarding of cigarettes/cigars or ashes is prohibited unless each cigarette/cigar and ashes are deposited into an appropriate receptacle known to extinguish combustion and customarily use for such purpose.
7. Outdoor welding shall only be allowed under the following circumstances:
 - (i) welding, cutting and grinding associated with welding activities shall not take place when the wind is over 15 miles per hour;
 - (ii) all easily cleared grass, leaves, brush and other easily combustible materials must be cleared with a twenty (20) foot radius surrounding the area where activity is to take place before any welding, cutting or grinding begins; and,
 - (iii) a spotter with water and a ready pressurized delivery system must be on hand before any welding, cutting or grinding begins and remain on hand until the activity is completed.

ORDERED this the 21st Day of July 2022.


Wade McKinney
County Judge

Attest: 
Mary Margaret Wright, County Clerk