

STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF SABINE

§

**DISASTER DECLARATION**

**RELATED TO RISK OF WILDFIRES AND EXCESSIVE DROUGHT**

**WHEREAS**, Sabine County is experiencing drought conditions along with a series of projected extreme daytime temperatures and significant southerly winds; and

**WHEREAS**, severe and widespread drought conditions are having a catastrophic impact on crops, grazing acres, livestock and agricultural operations countywide; and

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

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

**WHEREAS**, such fires have the potential of endangering lives and damaging property on a large scale; 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 the County Commissioners Court of Sabine County, declare a local state of disaster based on the threat of excessive drought and excessive high temperatures in Sabine County, Texas.

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded by the County Commissioners Court.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, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.



Daryl Melton, County Judge

Filed with the Clerk of Sabine County this 14<sup>th</sup> of August, 2023.

  
Jamie Clark, County Clerk  
Brent Cox, Pct. 1  
Keith Nabours, Pct. 2  
Stanley Jacks, Pct. 3  
James Lowe, Pct. 4