



DECLARATION OF DISASTER

&

ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, I, DANIEL D. JONES, County Judge of Gillespie County, Texas, do hereby certify that the County of Gillespie, Texas, on this 15th day of March, 2025, faces a currently burning wildfire and elevated fire weather conditions that pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property due to fire, and such conditions have created a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; and

WHEREAS, extreme fire weather conditions are expected to be widespread in West Texas, Central Texas, and South Texas, including Gillespie County, indicating that high winds with low humidity moving across dry vegetation will result in fire intensities with a very high difficulty of control; and

WHEREAS, wind speeds greater than 30 mph and relative humidity levels below 20 percent are forecast, increasing the potential for fire starts; and

WHEREAS, fire suppression aircraft may be unable to fly in high winds, and additionally, wind gusts over 30 mph may cause a high volume of wildfire response if powerline failures occur.

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, I do hereby declare a local state of disaster in Gillespie County, Texas, based on the existence of such imminent threat of wildfire.

NOW, BE IT PROCLAIMED:

- I. That the local state of disaster hereby declared for Gillespie County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, is effective at 2:47 PM CST on March 15, 2025, and expires at 5:00 PM CST on March 19, 2025.
- II. 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 County Clerk.
- III. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this Declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Gillespie County Emergency Management Plan.
- IV. That the purpose of this Declaration and Order is the mitigation of the imminent threat and hazard posed by wildfires by temporarily curtailing the practice of outdoor burning.
- V. Pursuant to Section 418.108(f) of the Texas Government Code, I hereby find that the evacuation of all or part of the population from a stricken or threatened area, specifically the area affected by the fire currently burning in the vicinity of the 8000 Lower Crabapple Road, in Gillespie County, is necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery.
- VI. Pursuant to Section 418.108(g) of the Texas Government Code, I hereby find that it may be necessary to control ingress to and egress from a disaster area and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that area, specifically the area affected by the fire currently burning in the vicinity of the 8000 Lower Crabapple Road, in Gillespie County.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the acting Incident Commander (IC) for the fire currently burning in the vicinity of the 8000 Lower Crabapple Road, in Gillespie County, may carry out the evacuation of all or part of the population from a stricken or threatened area, specifically the area(s) affected by the fire currently burning in the vicinity of the 8000 Lower Crabapple Road, in Gillespie County, and may additionally control ingress to and egress from said area(s), and may control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in those areas, with prior notice to and consultation with the undersigned County Judge (when feasible).

IT IS FURTHER HEREBY ORDERED that all outdoor burning, including but not limited to outdoor burning of trash, brush, trees, storm debris, construction material debris or open campfires is prohibited until expiration of this Order, unless renewed, continued or rescinded by the Commissioners Court of Gillespie County, Texas, or by further Order of the County Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all outdoor hot work, such as welding or cutting with a torch, should be avoided if at all possible, and any outdoor hot work that must be performed shall only be conducted when adequate water or other appropriate fire suppressant is on site and available for immediate deployment.

Violation of this Order 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.

DECLARED and ORDERED this 15th day of March, 2025, at 2:47 PM CST.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Jones', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel D. Jones, County Judge
Gillespie County, Texas