

**DECLARATION OF DISASTER AND ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING
IN
KERR COUNTY, TEXAS**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a wildfire disaster proclamation on October 14, 2024, as renewed and amended in subsequent proclamations, certifying that elevated fire weather conditions pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property in several counties, including Kerr County; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Division of Emergency Management has confirmed that those same elevated fire weather conditions persist in certain counties in Texas, including Kerr County; and

WHEREAS, extreme fire weather conditions are expected to be widespread in West Texas, Central Texas, and South Texas, including Kerr 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 power line 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 Kerr 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 Kerr County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, is effective at 12:00 PM OST on March 17, 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 Kerr 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. In accordance with Sections 418.173 of the Texas Government Code, a person who violates this Declaration and Order commits a criminal offense, which is punishable by a fine that does not exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days.
- VI. In the event the current conditions and the threat of extreme fire hazards diminish between now and the end of seven days of this Declaration and Order, the Kerr County Judge shall reevaluate this Declaration and Order at that time;

IT IS 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 Kerr 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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than seven days without being authorized by the Kerr County Commissioners Court.

This declaration shall be promptly publicized and filed with the County Clerk.

DECLARED and ORDERED this 16th day of March, 2025, at 12:00 PM EST.



Kerr County Judge