



**COUNTY OF BELL, TEXAS
COUNTY JUDGE DECLARATION
OF
LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO DROUGHT**

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

WHEREAS, the USDM monitors drought conditions across the United States and has classified 100% of Bell County as abnormally dry, and with almost 70% Bell County additionally classified as in severe drought; and

WHEREAS, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index ('KBDI'), maintained by 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 619.35 for Bell County as of June 21, 2022, with a maximum KBDI value of 667; and

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

WHEREAS, Bell County has, and is continuing, to experience wildfires across the County, with local fire departments responding to 33 wildfires within the past 7 days and 75 wildfires to date for the month of June; and

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

WHEREAS, the above conditions pose a substantial, significant, and imminent threat to persons and property in Bell 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 Bell County and present an imminent and substantial danger to the residents of Bell 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, by the authority granted to me by the Texas Disaster Act (Government Code Chapter 18, paragraph 418.018) and the Bell County Emergency Management Plan and as Presiding Officer for Bell County, I do hereby declare a state of emergency and disaster due to extreme drought conditions. .


FURTHERMORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT:

1. That the sale or use of fireworks in Bell County, without a permit issued by the Bell County Fire Marshal, is hereby prohibited.
2. That the County's Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
3. That this Disaster Declaration, pursuant to the provisions of Section 418.108(i)(1), Texas Government Code, shall be transmitted to the Office of the Governor with a request that this Disaster Declaration remain in full force and effect beyond 60 hours from the date of its issuance and that it be extended until such time as the Bell County Burn Ban Order is lifted.
4. That, pursuant to Section 418.173, Texas Government Code, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates any directive legally authorized and issued by this Declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.
4. That this Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED & ORDERED this the 22nd day of June, 2022.



D. Blackburn, County Judge

Attest: 
Shelley Coston, County Clerk