

FILED FOR RECORD

AT 1:45 O'CLOCK P. M.

DATE 4/5/22

ZONIA G. MORALES

CLERK COUNTY COURT JIM HOGG CO. TEXAS
BY Zonia G. Morales DEPUTY



STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF JIM HOGG §

DISASTER DECLARATION RELATED TO
WILDFIRE OCCURRING ON MARCH 24, 2022 &
RISK OF ADDITIONAL WILDFIRES UNDER CURRENT
WEATHER CONDITION

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the county judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county upon the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any man-made cause, including fire; and

WHEREAS, declaration of such disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on certain 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 wildfires; and

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Chapter 418 provides that the declaration of a local disaster activates the appropriate recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local or inter-jurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2022, Jim Hogg County experienced a wildfire that initiated on the Miller Ranch Property and consumed an estimated 1,058 acres as reported by the Texas A&M Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, the Miller Ranch Fire caused widespread or severe damage of property in Jim Hogg County; and

WHEREAS, other wildfires have been reported in Jim Hogg County during the month of March and April;

WHEREAS, Jim Hogg County has not had rainfall for an extended period of time, creating hot and dry conditions; and

WHEREAS, weather forecasters offer little promise of a change in the dry conditions in the future; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service predicts the drought will worsen across the Rio Grande Plains/Brush County, which includes Jim Hogg County; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service also predicts the threat of wildfire spread will peak in late March and April and potentially continue into May; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2022, the Texas Weather Connection reports the average Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KDBI) drought conditions for Jim Hogg County is 627; and

WHEREAS, based KDBI levels between 400-600 provide that wildfire intensity begins to increase significantly; and

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

WHEREAS, such fires may endanger lives and damage property on a large scale; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity with which the current conditions in Jim Hogg County could rekindle and escalate the recent Miller Ranch Fire constitutes an imminent threat of disaster; and

WHEREAS, a local disaster declaration expires seven days after its issuance, unless the commissioners court consents to its renewal or continuance; and

BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED that I, Juan Carlos Guerra, County Judge of Jim Hogg County, declare a local state of disaster based on the lives threatened and property damaged in Jim Hogg County, Texas on March 24, 2022, during the Miller Ranch Fire and other wildfires during the months of March and April; and

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that I, Juan Carlos Guerra, the County Judge of Jim Hogg County, do declare a state of disaster based on imminent threat of large wildfires in Jim Hogg County due to current and expected weather conditions in April and May;

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster is being declared for the purpose of implementing controls aimed at mitigating the hazard posed by wildfires during the current dry, windy weather; and

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED, that this order 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 County Commissioners Court; and

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that a purpose of this order is the mitigation of the hazard posed by wildfires by curtailing the practice of outdoor burning, and the sale and use of all fireworks, which purpose is to be taken into account in any enforcement action based upon this order; and

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.

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 5th day of April, 2022.



Juan Carlos Guerra
Jim Hogg County Judge

Attest: 

Zonia G. Morales
Jim Hogg County Clerk

