



Michael C. Roach  
County Judge  
200 West Walker Street

July 14 20 22  
JACKIE ENSEY  
CLERK OF COUNTY COURT  
STEPHENS COUNTY, TEXAS  
By *Jackie Ensey* Deputy

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**DECLARATION OF DISASTER  
AND ORDER PROHIBITING ALL OUTDOOR BURNING**

**Posted**

**This 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022 at 11:00 A.M.**

**WHEREAS**, Stephens County has not had rainfall for an extended period of time, dry conditions; and

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

**WHEREAS**, such fires have the potential of endangering lives and damaging property on a large scale; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the county judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county "if the threat of disaster is imminent" and

**WHEREAS**, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity with which such a 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 to protect lives and property by mitigating the threat of dangerous fires; and

**WHEREAS**, a local disaster declaration expires seven days after its issuance unless the commissioner's court consents to its renewal or continuance.

**BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED**, that I, Michael C. Roach, County Judge of Stephens County, do hereby declare a local state of disaster based on the threat of large wildfires in Stephens County, Texas.

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above-cited statute, but in no instance will this Declaration continue for more than seven days without being authorized by the County Commissioners Court,

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that all outdoor burning is prohibited in Stephens County, Texas. Including those exceptions to a burn ban found in Chapter 352 of the Local Government Code.

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that any activity that emits a flame or spark(s) and that does not fall within the clear emergency burn ban guidelines stated above must have, in addition to the individual(s) performing the work, a spotter to supervise any activity to prevent a fire or its spreading. A minimum of 50 gallons of water and an adequate dispensing mechanism (pump and hose) must be in the immediate vicinity of the activity where a flame or spark(s) are emitted.

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that any individual who will be conducting any activity that emits a flame or spark(s) and that does not fall within the clear emergency

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**The County of Stephens**  
STEPHENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
Breckenridge, Texas 76424

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burn ban guidelines stated above must provide the address or activity location to the Breckenridge Fire Department at 254.559.6242.

**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, whose purpose is to be taken into account in any enforcement action based upon this order.

**ENFORCEMENT ACTION:** Violation of this order may result in criminal prosecution.

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

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I affix my signature this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022 at 11:00 A.M.

**Michael C. Roach**  
**Stephens County Judge**