

Michael C. Roach
County Judge
200 West Walker Street



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Disaster Declaration for Stephens County, Texas

Whereas, the Texas Department of Transportation closed the mile-long bridge on US Highway 180 W. This closure has been necessitated by an emergency inspection which revealed significant issues regarding the structural integrity of the bridge and these concerns presented an imminent threat to public safety.

Whereas, the closure of this vital transportation artery has resulted in severe disruptions to the county's emergency services and the well-being of our residents. Approximately 15% of the county's population is now cut off from rapid emergency services, leading to extended response times of 45 minutes or longer. Moreover, residents in the affected areas are facing extended drives for necessities, further exacerbating the situation.

I hereby direct all relevant county departments, agencies, and emergency services to take all necessary measures to mitigate the impact of this emergency situation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF STEPHENS COUNTY: That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for STEPHENS COUNTY pursuant to §418.108(a) of the *Texas Government Code*.

Pursuant to §418.018(b) of the *Texas Government Code*, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the STEPHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT.

Pursuant to §418.018(c) of the *Texas Government Code*, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the STEPHENS COUNTY CLERK.

Pursuant to §418.018(d) of the *Texas Government Code*, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the STEPHENS COUNTY emergency management plan.

That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this 22nd Day of December, 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Roach".

Michael C. Roach
Stephens County Judge



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December 23, 2023

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
c/o Chief
Texas Division of Emergency Management
PO Box 285
Del Valle, TX 78617-9998

Dear Governor,

Stephens County/Breckenridge, Texas is facing significant threats to life, health and property due to the Texas Department of Transportation's closure of the mile-long bridge on US Highway 180 W. This closure has been necessitated by an emergency inspection, which revealed significant issues regarding the bridge's structural integrity, and these concerns presented an imminent threat to public safety.

The potential impact of this threat is that the closure of this vital transportation artery has resulted in severe disruptions to the county's emergency services and the well-being of our residents. Approximately 15% of the county's population is now cut off from rapid emergency services, leading to extended response times of 45 minutes or longer. Moreover, residents in the affected areas face extended drives for necessities, further exacerbating the situation.

I kindly ask for the State of Texas' continued assistance and that successive proclamations be issued and remain in effect until the threat of loss of life, injury, or damage to property is contained.

A timely response to this request would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Roach
Stephens County Judge