



DISASTER DECLARATION RELATED TO DROUGHT AND THE CONTINUING RISK OF WILDFIRES

Whereas, Governor Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas, on the 5th day of August 2022 added Madison County in a declaration of disaster for drought. Madison County has not had significant rainfall for an extended period of time, creating hot and dry conditions which has resulted in widespread and severe damage, and poses additional threats of large, dangerous and fast-moving wildfires; which have the potential of endangering lives and damaging property on a large scale; and

Whereas, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) maintained by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M Forest Service, is an index used to determine fire potential and the current KBDI for Madison County is at an average value of 713 as of July 15, 2022, which is the highest range on the index, indicating that the county is in severe drought and increased risk of wildfire occurrence; and

Whereas, Madison County is currently under a burn ban order for the entire county; and

Whereas, volunteer fire departments in Madison County have been dispatched to 77 grass/wildland fire calls since July 1, 2022, resulting in equipment damage to firefighting apparatus and encumbering extraordinary expenses; and

Whereas, state assets have been requested and utilized to assist Madison County on these fires and future fires; and

Whereas, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the County Judge authority to declare a local disaster within the county "if the threat of disaster is imminent"; and

Whereas, this magnitude of potential damage and the rapidity with which fires could escalate constitute an immediate threat of disaster; and

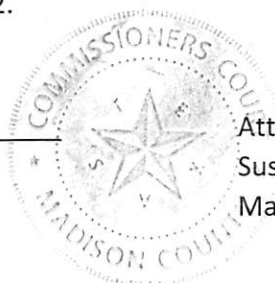
Whereas, a local disaster declaration expires seven (7) days after it is issued, unless commissioners court consents to its continuance or renewal; and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by myself, Clark Osborne, the County Judge of Madison County, that I declare a local state of disaster based on current drought conditions and imminent threat of large wildfires in Madison County, Texas; and this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than seven (7) days without being authorized by the County Commissioners Court.

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

SIGNED on this, the 15th day of August, 2022.

Clark Osborne
Madison County Judge



Attest: Susanne Morris

Susanne Morris
Madison County Clerk