

DECLARATION OF DISASTER FOR FALLS COUNTY

WHEREAS, the County of Falls on the 6^{th} day of October 2025, under imminent threat of severe damage, injury of loss of life or property resulting from:

THE THREAT OF WILDFIRES DUE TO DROUGHT AND OTHER WEATHER RELATED CONDITIONS; and

WHEREAS, THE COUNTY JUDGE of Falls County has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of people and to protect or rehabilitate property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF FALLS COUNTY:

- 1. That a local state of disaster is hereby proclaimed for Falls County pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government code.
- 2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government code, this Declaration of a local 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 Commissioners Court of Falls County.
- 3. Pursuant to §418.108(C) of the Government Code, this Declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk of Falls County.
- 4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Government Code, this Declaration of the local state of disaster activates the Falls County Emergency Management Plan.

This Proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance, ORDERED THIS 6th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025.

Jay T. Elliott, Falls County Judge

Elizabeth Perez, Falls County Clerk

ORDER OF THE FALLS COUNTY JUDGE PROHIBITING THE OUTDOOR BURNING IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF FALLS COUNTY

As per THE DECLARATION OF DISASTER for FALLS COUNTY issued by the FALLS COUNTY JUDGE on October 6th, 2025 an OUTDOOR BURN BAN IS ORDERED FOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF FALLS COUNTY as per Texas Government Code 418,108 (a-d).

WHEREAS, local weather forecasts indicates that theses dry, windy conditions are projected to continue, with no reasonable expectations of significant, appreciable rainfall expected in the near future:

WHEREAS, after a review of local information relative to drought conditions including information provided by the Texas Forest Service's Keetch-Byram Drought Index and various individuals who have knowledge of the current dry conditions in the unincorporated areas, the County Judge makes the finding that circumstances exist in the unincorporated areas of Falls County that create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning in all unincorporated areas of Falls County, as per the provision of the Local Government Code 352.081;

NOW, THEREFORE, and after due consideration of same, THE COUNTY JUDGE OF FALLS COUNTY HEREBY ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING ORDER, to be effective immediately upon passage of this order, and continuing for: 7 days from this date <u>or</u> the date Commissioners Court, by official action, terminates this Order:

ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF FALLS COUNTY

A. Effective immediately, outdoor burning is prohibited in all unincorporated areas of Falls County, Texas, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code 352.081.

For purposes of this Order, the term "Outdoor burning" means:

- All outdoor fires, including fires contained in a container or semi-enclosure, such as a barrel or hopper. (It does not
 include grills, barbeques, or smokers which are used to cook food <u>and</u> are fully covered and attended). Open grills,
 barbeques or smokers are prohibited; <u>AND</u>
- 2. The use of welders or cutting torches is prohibited <u>unless</u> the user has on hand adequate fire suppression equipment & personnel, specifically this must include, as a minimum:
 - a) a 2A-20BC fire extinguisher, kept within 30 feet of any outdoor welding activity; AND
 - b) an individual to serve as a "fire monitor" during all welding activities with the monitor remaining on scene for a minimum of 30 minutes after cessation of any outdoor welding activity.

This Order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to: public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for: (1) firefighter training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code.

B. In accordance with Local Government Code Sec. 352.081(h), a person commits an offense of the person violates the prohibition established by this Order. An offense under this Order is a Class C Misdemeanor. Punishable by fine not to exceed \$500.

Ordered on this 6th day of October, 2025, by the FALLS COUNTY JUDGE.

Jay T. Elliott, County Judge