



**COUNTY OF BELL, TEXAS
COUNTY JUDGE DECLARATION
OF
LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO DROUGHT
1st AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, the County Judge issued a Declaration of Local State of Disaster Due to Drought ('Declaration') on June 22, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration recognized the severe drought status of Bell County, activated the Bell County Emergency Management Plan and banned the sale and use of fireworks in the County (unless a permit was obtained); and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2022 the Keetch-Byram Drought Index ('KBDI'), maintained by the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M Forestry Service, which is an index used to determine fire potential, set the Bell County mean value for the KBDI index at 619.35 and

WHEREAS, a KBDI value of 619.35, was among the highest danger rating on the index; and

WHEREAS, it is common knowledge that fireworks are a source of ignition for fires and that the presence of fireworks and the use of fireworks in the County with a KBDI rating in excess of 600, would present a clear and present danger to persons and property in Bell County; and

WHEREAS, Bell County experienced 33 wildfires within the 7 days preceding the Declaration and 75 wildfires within the preceding 21 days of the Declaration; and

WHEREAS, Bell County received beneficial rain the evening and night of June 27th; and

WHEREAS, while not all of Bell County received rain, those areas that did receive rain measured amounts, in some locations, up to 3 inches; and

WHEREAS, the KBDI index rating for Bell County has dropped 59.12 points to 560.23 as a result of the rains; and

WHEREAS, the number of wildfires over the past 24 hours has also dropped from an average of almost 5 per day to zero since the rain event; and

WHEREAS, while the above conditions represent a change in conditions that mitigates against an imminent threat existing to persons and property in Bell County that is posed by a fire danger, there

still exists a substantial and significant threat to persons and property posed by drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, some short-term relief in terms of a lessened fire danger may currently exist and warrant some relief from the provisions of the Declaration related to the sale and use of fireworks, the significant and substantial danger posed by the drought remain and residents are urged to exercise extreme caution with the use of fireworks and any other activity that might be the source of a fire; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with provisions of the Texas Disaster Act of 1975(418.108 Texas Government Code); a state of disaster continues in effect due to the extreme drought conditions that exist in Bell County and present a significant and substantial danger to the residents of Bell County; and

WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management and Public Health, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code,

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority granted to me by the Texas Disaster Act (Government Code Chapter 18, paragraph 418.018) and the Bell County Emergency Management Plan and as Presiding Officer for Bell County, I do hereby issue this 1st Amendment to the Local State of Disaster Declaration issued on June 22, 2022:

BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT:


1. That the sale and use of fireworks between July 1 and July 4, 2022, is hereby allowed, save and except the sale of stick rockets and missiles with fins or rudders which are prohibited.
2. The remaining provisions of the Local State of Disaster Declaration issued on June 22, 2022 remain in full force and effect.
4. That this Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED & ORDERED this the 28th day of June, 2022.



D. Blackburn, County Judge

Attest:


Shelley Coston, County Clerk