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NOTICES

DECLARATION OF DISASTER AND ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING FOR COKE COUNTY, TEXAS

WHEREAS, the Commissioners' Court of Coke County, on this the 12th day of September, 2011, has determined that Coke County, has been affected by recent wildland fires and continues to be threatened by high or extreme wildland fire hazard. This threat is caused by abundant fuel and extreme dry and windy conditions across the State of Texas and in Coke County, and;

WHEREAS, The Commissioners Court of Coke County have determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of people and to protect and/or rehabilitate property;

NOW THEREFORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE COKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT BY SECTION 418.108 and 418.014 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, THE COURT DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH DISASTER AND DIRECT THAT ALL NECESSARY MEASURES BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AS AUTHORIZED BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS BE IMPLEMENTED TO MEET THAT DISASTER:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby proclaimed for Coke County pursuant to Section 418.108 (a) of the Texas Government Code.

2. Pursuant to Section 418.108 (b) of the Government Code, this Declaration of a local state of disaster shall continue for so long as such conditions exist with the exception granted to fireworks under Section

418.108 (I) of the Government Code unless ratified and extended by the Governor of the State of Texas.

3. Pursuant to Section 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 Coke County.

4. Pursuant to Section 418.108 (d) of the Government Code, this Declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Coke County Emergency Management Plan.

5. The purpose of this order is the mitigation of the hazard posed by wildfires by curtailing the practice of outdoor burning, which purpose is to be taken into account in any enforcement action based upon this order.

BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED that the following emergency regulations are hereby established for all unincorporated areas of Coke County, Texas for the duration of the declaration;

(1) Actions Prohibited:

(a) All outdoor burning of any combustible material is prohibited. A person violates this order if he burns any combustible material or orders such burning by others.

(b) The sale and use of all fireworks.

(2) Actions Allowed

(a) Any propane cooking, and outdoor cooking fires as long as they are under the supervision and control of an authorized Volunteer Fire Department.

(3) Enforcement:

(a) Upon notification of suspected outdoor burning, the fire department assigned to the location of the fire shall respond to the scene and take immediate measures to contain and/or extinguish the fire.

(b) As soon as possible, a duly-

commissioned peace officer shall be sent to the scene to investigate the nature of the fire.

(c) If in the opinion of the officer at the scene and/or the Fire Chief, the goal of the order can be attained by informing the responsible party about the prohibitions established by this order, the officer may, at his discretion, notify the party about the provisions of this order and request compliance with it. In such instances, an entry of the notification shall be made into the dispatchers log containing the time, date, and place of the warning, and the name of the person receiving the warning.

(4) At the discretion of the peace officer and/or Fire Chief, subsequent or flagrant violations of this order may be prosecuted in accordance with the statues and procedures governing misdemeanors.

BE IT ALSO ORDERED that this order may be enforced by any duly-commissioned peace officer and that the venue for prosecution of this order will be the Justice of the Peace Court, Coke County, Texas.

This Declaration and Order shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and continue until the conditions requiring this declaration

and order are over, with the exception granted to fireworks under Section 418.108 (i) of the Government Code unless ratified and extended by the Governor of the State of Texas.

DECLARED AND ORDERED THIS THE 12th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2011.

Hon. Roy Blair,
Coke County Judge
Troy Gene Montgomery,
Commissioner, Pct. 1
Wendell Lee, Commissioner,
Pct. 2

Gaylon Pitcock,
Commissioner, Pct. 3
Bobby Blaylock,
Commissioner, Pct. 4

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