



Shane Brassell

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HILL COUNTY JUDGE

(254) 582-4020

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

WHEREAS, the County Judge of Hill County, on the **9th day of February 2026**, determined that Hill County is currently experiencing climate conditions which provide for widespread critically dry surface fuels, conducive to the rapid spread of wildland fires; and

WHEREAS, the dry fuels, and weather conditions pose an imminent threat of large and dangerous wildfires with the potential to spread quickly, endanger lives, and cause large scale property damage, creating a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Disaster Act of 1975 (Texas Government Code: Title 4. Executive Branch; Subtitle B. Law Enforcement and Public Protection; Chapter 418. Emergency Management. Section 418.108) authorizes the County Judge to declare a local state of disaster within the county; and

WHEREAS, a local disaster declaration issued by the Hill County Judge may not be continued or renewed for a period of more than seven (7) days except with the consent of the Hill County Commissioners Court; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge of Hill County has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the threat to people of Hill County and to protect property, and;

NOW THEREFORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE HILL COUNTY JUDGE AND THE HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT BY SECTION 418.108 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, WE DO 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 Hill 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 Hill County.
4. Pursuant to Section 418.108 (d) of the Government Code, this Declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Hill 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 Hill County, Texas for the duration of the declaration;

(1) Actions Prohibited:

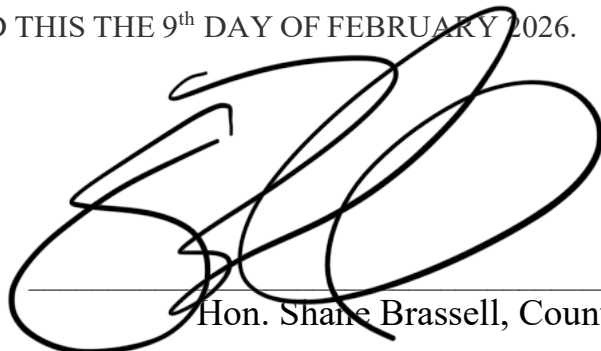
- (a) **All outdoor burning of any combustible material is prohibited.** A person violates this order if he burns any combustible material or orders such burning by others. This Order does not prohibit cooking stoves fueled by "white gasoline" or outdoor cooking grills fueled by propane or natural gas. This Order does not prohibit outdoor cooking events that are continuously monitored and overseen by fire department personnel and equipment capable of extinguishing any fire that may result from such activities

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

- a. **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 **and** attended.) : **AND**
- b. The use of welders or cutting torches is prohibited **unless** the user has on hand adequate fire suppression equipment and personnel, **specifically, this must include,** as a minimum:
 - i. a 2A-20BC fire extinguisher, kept within 30 feet of any outdoor welding activity: **AND**
 - ii. 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 Declaration and Order shall take effect on Tuesday 02/10/2026 at 6:00AM and expiring on 02/17/2026 at 6:00AM. A violation of this order is a Class C misdemeanor enforceable by any Texas Peace Officer.

DECLARED AND ORDERED THIS THE 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Brassell', is written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Shane Brassell, County Judge