

CITY OF LA VERNIA
DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER:
RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, the mayor of a municipality may declare a local state of disaster; and

WHEREAS, La Vernia, Texas has not had an extensive amount of rainfall for an extended period of time; and

WHEREAS, these hot, dry conditions pose the threat of large, dangerous, and fast-moving wildfires; and

WHEREAS, such fires have the potential of endangering lives and damaging property on a large scale; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity at which such a fire could escalate to major proportions constitute an imminent threat of disaster; and

WHEREAS, declaration of such disaster authorized the imposition of controls on activities that tend to increase the likelihood of fires; and

WHEREAS, such controls, once implemented, have the potential to protect lives and property by mitigating the threat of dangerous fires; and

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2024, the Governor of the state of Texas Greg Abbott approved a Burn Ban asserting that while the burn ban is in effect, all outdoor burning, except for agricultural purposes, is prohibited in all areas of Wilson County, Texas, which remains in effect and is incorporated by reference herein; and

WHEREAS, The state of Texas has indicated that when a Declaration of Disaster regarding fire danger is in effect, no burning, for any reason may be conducted outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of La Vernia feels that it is in the best interest of the city and its residents to declare this local Declaration of Disaster;

NOW, THEREFORE, A LOCAL DISASTER DECLARATION IS HEREBY DECLARED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA VERNIA: pursuant to the authority granted in the Texas Disaster Act of Chapter 418 Texas Government Code, the following regulations shall take effect immediately upon issuance of this Order and shall remain in effect until the state of disaster is terminated or extended:

1. The exercise and use of outdoor welding and/or other activities utilizing explosives or combustible materials is prohibited unless prior approval of a fire safety plan for the said welding or other activities is obtained from the city of la Vernia and its designated fire inspector prior to engaging in such activity. Said fire safety plan may include but is not limited to the following fire safety measures: saturation of the surrounding ground area with adequate moisture, utilization of adequate personnel to observe and handle the resulting effects from the use of explosive or combustible material, preparation of the ground area to prevent and remove large amounts of cured grass, and fire suppression devices. The fire marshal shall have the final determination as to the necessary fire safety measures for the said welding or other activities. The exercise of outdoor cooking with open flame is prohibited unless using a barbeque pit or similar device, which is manufactured with a lid that when closed will contain all open flame and with legs to keep it off the ground. Said barbeque pit or similar device must be used only for cooking purposes. The following fire safety measures should be implemented for outdoor cooking with open flame, including, but not limited to: saturation of the surrounding ground area with adequate moisture, constant supervision and observation of the barbeque pit or similar device, and fire suppression devices.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster Declaration shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
4. The City Secretary is directed to give prompt and general publicity of the issuance of this DECLARATION and place same before the City Council for consideration for continuation at its next regular meeting.

5. This proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

6. As Mayor, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to this situation.

ORDERED this 1st day of November 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Poore', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

MAYOR MARTIN POORE
City of La Vernia, Texas