

RESOLUTION #2018- 5
DECLARATION OF
THE STATE OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY
FOR THOMAS COUNTY, KS

By virtue of the authority vested in the Thomas County Commission by the Emergency Preparedness for Disasters Act, Chapter 48, Article 9, the Kansas Statutes Annotated, to meet the threat of emergency of disaster to which Thomas County and its citizens are being exposed, and upon advice of the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, we hereby proclaim a state of local disaster emergency as follows:

1. Nature of the imminent threat of disaster: The grassland and cropland of Thomas County, Kansas, form an important part of our economy, provide for protection of watersheds, forage for livestock, refuge for wildlife and recreational opportunities. Wildfires endanger these resources, real and personal property, and the lives of residents and visitors in these areas. Extremely dry and windy weather conditions have created an extreme fire hazard in the grasslands and croplands of Thomas County. Once started, fires are difficult to control and strain both paid and volunteer fire department's manpower and resources. The fire danger is extreme across Thomas County. The dry conditions, low humidity levels and fire danger will continue unabated until sufficient rainfall occurs in Thomas County.
2. The imminent threat of disaster affecting Thomas County commences March 5, 2018 and terminates March 12, 2018.

FURTHER, effective immediately, we hereby prohibit, by all citizens and visitors in Thomas County, Kansas, the following:

1. Careless use of smoking materials, including cigarettes, cigars and smoking pipes. Discard shall be in a manner to preclude threat from smoldering remains.
2. Building, maintaining, attending or using an open fire, fire pit, or campfire except for barbecue grills
3. Prescribed burning of all fence rows, fields, wild lands, ravines, trash and debris.

We hereby direct all law enforcement and fire department agencies in Thomas County to enforce this order.

Knowing and willful violation of this act shall constitute a Class A Misdemeanor and any person convicted of such violation shall be punished as provided by law K.S.A. 48-939.

This proclamation shall be in full force and effective for the period of March 5, 2018 through March 12, 2018 extended in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 48-932.

This proclamation shall be filed promptly with the Thomas County Office of Emergency Management, and the Thomas County Clerk. Further dissemination of this proclamation shall occur by means calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public.

THEREFORE, Thomas County Board of Commissioners so declares that there exists an imminent threat of disaster from fire.

DATED this 5th day of March 2018.



ATTEST:

Shelly A. Harms
County Clerk

Mike Baughman
THOMAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER CHAIRMAN