



JOHN H. GOTHIA
COUNTY JUDGE
ORANGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 123
SOUTH 6TH STREET
ORANGE, TEXAS 77630

**ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS
DECLARATION OF DISASTER**

WHEREAS, the County of Orange, Texas, on the 24th day of January, 2026, has suffered severe damage from the weather event identified as Winter Storm Fern; and

WHEREAS, the accumulation of ice and freezing rain, and low temperatures has caused extensive and widespread damage to public and private property, disruption of utility service, and general endangerment of the health and safety of the residents of Orange County; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge of Orange County, Texas, has determined, based upon information and reports received from officials and personnel within the County, that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect life, as well as to protect or rehabilitate property, and such measures are necessary and hereby ordered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Orange County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Orange County, Texas.
3. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
4. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Orange County Emergency Management Plan.
5. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED on this the 24th day of January, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Gothia".

John H. Gothia, County Judge, Orange County, Texas