



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

ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS
DECLARATION OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, on the 14TH day of **February, 2021**, Orange County, Texas, was in imminent threat of the occurrence of widespread and/or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from severe weather conditions countywide created by a severe winter weather system which is predicted by the National Weather Service and the Texas State Operations Center to produce large amounts of freezing rain, resulting in 0.25" – 0.50" of ice accumulation on trees, power lines, roadways and structures. The approaching winter storm is expected to create excessive sustained periods of below freezing temperatures, freezing rain, sleet, snowfall and high-speed winds in residential, agricultural and commercial areas throughout Southeast Texas. Populated areas of Orange County will potentially be affected by major infrastructure damages preventing access to, or the safe passage on, many roadways, as well as the potential for long-term power and utility outages countywide, thus creating a public safety hazard.

WHEREAS, the Orange County Judge has determined, based upon forecasts issued by the National Weather Service and local news media outlets, extraordinary measures must be taken to protect life, as well as protect or rehabilitate property, and are hereby ordered.

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

- I. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Orange County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
- II. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, This State of Disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this Declaration unless continued or renewed by the Orange County Commissioners Court.
- III. 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 Orange County Clerk.
- IV. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this Declaration of a Local State of Disaster activates the Orange Emergency Management Plan.
- V. This Proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED THIS THE 14th day of February, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Gothia", is written over a horizontal line.

John H. Gothia, County Judge
Orange County, Texas