

**DECLARATION**  
**THE STATE OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE**  
**HARVEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

By virtue of the authority vested in the Harvey 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 Harvey County and its citizens are being exposed, and upon advise 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 Harvey 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, hot and windy weather conditions have created an extreme fire hazard in the grasslands and croplands of Harvey County. Fire departments across the County have reported an inordinate number of fires. Once started, these fires are difficult to control and strain both paid and volunteer fire department's manpower and resources. The fire danger is extreme across Harvey County. The dry conditions, extreme temperatures and fire danger will continue unabated until sufficient rainfall occurs in Harvey County.
2. The imminent threat of disaster affecting Harvey County commences March 16, 2018 and terminates March 26, 2018.

FURTHER, effective immediately, we hereby prohibit, by all citizens and visitors in Harvey 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 or campfire except in permanent stove or fireplaces or barbecue grills in developed recreation sites or residential lawns.
3. Prescribed burning of all fence rows, fields, wild lands, ravines, trash and debris. Prescribed burning may be exempted from this order or such burning that is necessary for crop survival and has been specifically approved in writing by the fire chief in a jurisdiction where the burning is taking place. Crop survival is defined as stubble burning in preparation for second crop planting. We hereby direct all law enforcement and fire department agencies in Harvey 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 16, 2018 through March 26, 2018 extended in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 48-932.


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

THEREFORE, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE County Commission so declares that there exists an imminent threat of disaster from fire.

DATED this \_16th\_ day of \_March\_, 2018.

  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Vice-Chair  
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

  
Rick Piepho  
County Clerk

