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DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, several wildfires are currently burning in Jackson County and are not contained; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the above-described disaster, I have determined that there is an imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or will cause, widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, and public safety authorities will be unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property; and

WHEREAS, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Emergency Management Ordinance for the County of Jackson:

Section 1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of Jackson County.

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be Jackson County except within the incorporated cities.

Section 3. The following restrictions and prohibitions are imposed:

A. **Restricted Access:** Access to real property, including residences and commercial buildings within 100 feet of an existing wildfire shall be restricted to only the owners and occupants of the residences and buildings as well as law enforcement officers, county employees and all other emergency management personnel fighting the wildfires or their designees.

B. **Evacuation:** The Emergency Management Coordinator, when necessary, may move people in public places, direct and compel the voluntary or mandatory evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area, prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destinations in connection with evacuation, and control the ingress and the egress of an emergency area and the movements of people within the area.

Section 4. I hereby order all Jackson County law enforcement officers and employees and all other emergency management personnel subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Jackson County Emergency Operations Plan.

Section 5. I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

Section 6. This declaration shall take effect immediately, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this the 10th day of November, 2016 at 1:00 am/pm.



Brian Thomas McMahan
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County

ATTEST:


Angela M. Winchester
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County

