



# COMMISSIONERS COURT GUADALUPE COUNTY

Guadalupe County Courthouse • 101 East Court Street • Seguin, Texas 78155

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
September 7, 2023

## Guadalupe County Judge Kutscher Signs Local Disaster Declaration

GUADALUPE COUNTY, TX – Guadalupe County Judge Kutscher has issued a declaration of local disaster due to extreme drought and wildfires in Guadalupe County effective September 7, 2023. Guadalupe County has experienced extreme drought and increased wildfires, and these conditions pose a substantial, significant, and imminent threat to persons and property. Wildfires have the potential to endanger lives and damage property on a large scale and continue to be an imminent threat of disaster.

“During this extreme drought, the county has been battling numerous fires that have severely impacted residents with the loss of homes and property damage,” states Judge Kutscher. “This declaration has the potential to protect lives and property as there is little to no rain in the forecast. We urge all citizens to take safety precautions during these severe hot temperatures.”

The Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the county judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county as it indicates, “if the threat of disaster is imminent”. A local disaster declaration expires seven days after its issuance unless the commissioners court consents to its renewal or continuance.

Assistant Fire Marshal Bryce Houlton adds, “In addition to increased fires and notable larger brush fires that burned 332 acres and another 192 acres coupled with the extreme heat and drought, the county fire department as well as volunteer and city fire departments have been overwhelmingly busy. This declaration makes emergency resources available to the county in this time of need.”

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