

PROCLAMATION OF A COUNTY STATE OF EMERGENCY

Section 1 Pursuant to Section 5-22 of the Rutherford County State of Emergency Ordinance and Chapter 166A of North Carolina's General Statutes, I have determined that a State of Emergency as defined in the County's State of Emergency Ordinance and under N.C. Gen. Stat. §166A-19.3(6) does exist in the County of Rutherford because there is an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from natural weather-related cause due to **winter weather referenced as "Winter Storm Fern" throughout Rutherford County**, beginning the 22nd day of January, 2026.

Section 2 I, thereby, proclaim the existence of a State of Emergency in the County of Rutherford.

Section 3 I hereby order all County law enforcement officers and employees and all other Emergency management personnel subject to my control to cooperate in enforcement and implementation of the provisions of the County emergency ordinance, including as set forth below.

Section 4 In addition to any statutory and ordinance-based authority otherwise granted herein, I do hereby make, as part of this proclamation, the following specific prohibitions and restrictions as set forth in the Emergency Management Ordinance of Rutherford County due to their necessity to maintain an acceptable level of public order and services, and to protect lives, safety of property of the citizens of Rutherford County, the said prohibitions and restrictions being the ones I indicate by initialing as follows:

 XX The State of Emergency and prohibitions and restrictions imposed herein shall apply to the following "Prescribed Area":

 XX **All areas throughout Rutherford County.**

 The following specific areas and locations experiencing damage, casualty events and dangerous conditions due to high winds related to this weather event:

 I direct and compel the evacuation of all citizens within the Prescribed Area using such routes as directed by emergency management personnel subject to my control.



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bryan King, *Chairman* Alan Toney, *Vice Chairman* Michael Benfield Hunter Haynes Donnie Haulk
Steve Garrison, *County Manager* Hazel S. Haynes, *Clerk to the Board* Richard Williams, *County Attorney*

_____ There shall be a curfew affecting all individuals within the Prescribed Area, said curfew being for the period of time commencing at _____ .m each evening and continuing until and through _____ .m the following morning. This curfew shall not apply to emergency management forces, emergency management volunteers, professional law enforcement personnel.

_____ There shall be no possession nor consumption of alcoholic beverages within the Prescribed Area, including beer, wine and spirituous liquor, other than on one's own premises. The transfer, transportation, sale or purchase of any alcoholic beverage, including the transfers of alcoholic beverages by employees of alcoholic beverage control stores, within the prescribed area is hereby prohibited during the State of Emergency.

_____ There shall be no transportation nor possession off one's own premises, nor sale or purchase of any Dangerous weapon or substance as defined in County Ordinance 5-26(b) within the Prescribed Area. This prohibition shall not apply to emergency management forces, emergency management volunteers, professional law enforcement personnel, nor to any other individual specifically deemed necessary by the Sheriff of Rutherford County or his designee.

_____ The Sheriff of Rutherford County, or his designee, may deny or restrict access to such areas as he deems necessary by order, clearly posted notice or barricade indicating access to such areas is denied or restricted. The restriction or denial of access to such areas shall be such as the Sheriff or his designee deem as reasonably necessary to promote efforts being made to overcome the emergency or to prevent further aggravation of the emergency.

_____ There shall be no gathering or movement of two (2) or more people in public places within the Prescribed Area.

_____ The operation of offices, business establishments or other facilities open to the general public within the Prescribed Area shall be restricted as follows:

_____ Such other activities or conditions the control of which may be reasonably necessary to maintain order and protect lives or property during the state of emergency, within the area designated in this Proclamation, as follows:

- Section 5 County personnel are authorized to establish emergency shelters and to expend necessary County funds to provide temporary congregate care for Rutherford County citizens.
- Section 6 County agencies shall work cooperatively to assure the needs of Rutherford County. Citizens are met to the extent possible with those resources under my control.
- Section 7 **EXECUTION OF EMERGENCY PLAN.** All civilians and emergency management personnel are ordered to comply with Rutherford County's All Hazards, Emergency Operations Plan.
- Section 8 This proclamation shall become effective immediately.

Proclaimed this the 22nd day of January, 2026, at 3:59 pm.



Bryan A. King
Chairman, Rutherford County Board of Commissioners