

Deputy Clerk MBASS

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

No. 2017-021

**A DECLARATION BY LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR A
LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, Levy County ("County"), through its Chair and Board of County Commissioners ("Board"), finds that extreme drought causes an increased potential for brush fires and extreme fire conditions, and creates a serious threat to the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Section 30-32, Levy County Code, authorizes the Chair of the Board, and in the Chair's absence, the Vice-Chair of the Board, to declare that a local state of emergency exists, when a quorum of the Board is unable to meet; and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2017, the Board adopted Emergency Declaration No. 2017-018, declaring a state of emergency due to drought and wildfire conditions in the County; and

WHEREAS, a Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) of 500 or higher (0 represents saturated soil and vegetation conditions; 800 represents extremely dry soil and vegetation conditions) exists in portions of Levy County, with elevated KBDI existing in other portions of Levy County, and forest and brush fires currently burning in the County and surrounding counties, all create immediate danger to the public health, safety and welfare, and a potential natural disaster in and around those areas of the County where fires are located; and

WHEREAS, these conditions have the potential to threaten lives and property, and to cause damage to public streets and roads, public drainage systems, commercial and residential buildings, agricultural operations, and other commercial and private interests; and

WHEREAS, these conditions of extreme drought throughout the County and existing forest and brush fires within certain areas of the County and surrounding counties create an imminent threat of natural disaster to arise in and spread to areas of the County beyond those currently on fire; and

WHEREAS, strict compliance with some procedures and formalities prescribing procedures for the conduct of County business may hinder necessary action in coping with any emergency related to the natural disaster currently existing and with the spread or imminent threat of the spread of such natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, notice of the state of emergency by posting on the County's website, at the Levy County Courthouse, and at libraries throughout the County is fair notice under the circumstances due to the imminent danger to the public health, safety and welfare, and the circumstances of the current emergency in the County due to the drought conditions and existing forest and brush fires; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to be in a position to maximize all resources that may be available; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to insure that all possible efforts are being made to protect human life and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the state of emergency declared for Levy County, Florida, by Emergency Declaration 2017-018 be continued and that the County Coordinator is appointed as the County Coordinating Officer in relation to the state of emergency declared herein, and that the County Coordinator is authorized to take all action necessary and appropriate to secure resources to protect human life and property

and to utilize all lawful authority granted to the County under State and County laws as necessary to accomplish same. Any regulations prescribing procedures for the conduct of County business, if strict compliance would hinder necessary action in coping with emergency, are hereby suspended. Suspension of such procedures shall be at the direction of the County Coordinator upon consultation with State of Florida Forest Service representatives and the County Emergency Management Director, if such consultation is practicable. The Chair of the Board, and in his absence the Vice-Chair, shall have the authority to issue any emergency orders necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare, in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and the Levy County Code.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED this Emergency Declaration No. 2017-021 is effective through the 7th day of May, 2017, and may be extended in seven day increments by the Chair, or in his absence the Vice-Chair, or in both of their absences, the County Coordinator.

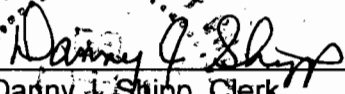
DULY ADOPTED BY THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS this 1st day of May, 2017.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

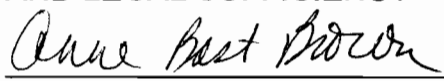
ATTEST:
Clerk of the Circuit Court
and Ex Officio Clerk to the
Board of County Commissioners



John Meeks, Chair



Darny J. Shipp, Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
 **R**

Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney