

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
1 State Highway 150, Room 23  
Coldspring, Texas 77331



FRITZ FAULKNER

March 17, 2020

Phone: 936-653-2199  
Fax: 936-653-3970  
countyjudge@co.san-jacinto.tx.us

**COUNTY JUDGE'S RECOMMENDATION AFFECTING CAMPGROUNDS  
IN THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST**

Now is the time we must do all we can to reduce the spread of CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19) into San Jacinto County. We must protect our citizens at all costs. While some actions are drastic, now, not later, is the time to act and closely follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

For the public's health and safety, I am recommending the closure of the Sam Houston National Forest Double Lake Recreation Area in San Jacinto County. We need to restrict the congregation of individuals in community bathrooms, showers and campgrounds. In the United States Forest Service Sam Houston National Forest Double Lake Recreation Area, only primitive camping should be allowed. All hiking, multiuse and bike trails can remain open.

This recommendation shall extend for the next eight (8) weeks unless rescinded prior to terminal date and may be extended.

Sincerely,

Fritz Faulkner  
County Judge

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAWN WRIGHT  
COUNTY CLERK  
SAN JACINTO COUNTY

FILED FOR  
RECORD  
2020 MAR 17 PM 4:00



## DECLARATION OF DISASTER

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Jacinto on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of people and to protect the widespread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF SAN JACINTO COUNTY;**

**WHEREAS**, the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 13, 2020, there are more than 30 confirmed cases of COVID-19 located in multiple Texas counties; and

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 50 Texans with pending tests for COVID-19 in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, some schools, universities, and other governmental entities are beginning to alter their schedules, and some venues are beginning to temporarily close, as precautionary responses to the increasing presence of COVID-10 in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, costs incurred to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 are beginning to mount at the State and local levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Texas has already taken numerous steps to prepare for COVID-19, such as increasing laboratory testing capacity, coordinating preparedness efforts across state agencies, and working with local partners to promote appropriate mitigation efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring a state of disaster will facilitate and expedite the use and deployment of resources to enhance preparedness and response.

**NOW THEREFORE I, FRITZ FAULKNER, COUNTY JUDGE** of San Jacinto County, do hereby certify that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster. In accordance with the authority vested by the Texas Government Code Chapter 418, in me, I hereby declare a state of disaster for San Jacinto County, Texas, deems it in the public interest to issue the following orders:

- 1) Any event sponsored or permitted by a political subdivision in San Jacinto County shall cease.
- 2) Events greater than 50 persons at all publicly held facilities across San Jacinto County shall cease.
- 3) Any event greater than 50 persons held at private facilities is urged to cancel but should make those determinations within their organizations and with staff of those facilities.

4) Events of 50 persons or more that would include any population at severe risk of severe illness should cease. The population at the greatest risk to anyone over the age of 65 and/or those with severe medical conditions as defined by CDC guidelines.

5) Nursing homes and senior living centers should limit visitation of the public within their facilities.

6) Restaurants, retail stores, private businesses, clubs or civic organizations and religious organizations to include churches, synagogues, mosques or other places of worship are urged to comply with the CDC guidelines related to 50 persons gathering in any one place or at one time. Retail stores who sell groceries or medical supplies are exempt.

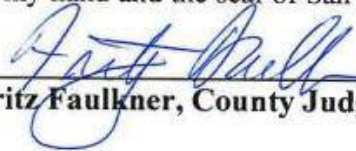
This Order does not extend to law enforcement activities, emergency responses, court operations to include jury operations where necessary, and to all school districts or private school facilities within the jurisdiction of San Jacinto County.

All San Jacinto County Employees must report for work as required by their supervisors.

Effective immediately and through the duration of this Order, All San Jacinto County Employees shall cease any work related travel.

This Order shall take effect at 5:00 p.m., on March 17, 2020, and effective until March 25, 2020, until otherwise rescinded or extended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I set my hand and the seal of San Jacinto County on this the 17 day of March, 2020.

  
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**Fritz Faulkner, County Judge**

Attest: Dawn Wright  
**Dawn Wright, County Clerk**

FILED FOR  
RECORD  
MARCH 17 PM 4:00  
  
Dawn Wright  
County Clerk  
San Jacinto County, Texas