

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

**TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, Interim County Administrator**

FROM: Willie Bence, Emergency Management Director

DATE: 11/7/2022

SUBJECT: Emergency Declaration Request for Windstorm Event

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Beginning November 4th, 2022, an intense weather system brought exceptionally strong westerly winds to east Jefferson County, with a maximum wind gust speed of 75MPH. These high winds downed trees and power lines, causing a power outage that affected nearly every resident of the county. As of 11/6, approximately 25% of the county remains without power as Road and PUD crews continue work to clear downed trees and lines, sweep away debris, and ultimately restore power to county residents.

Additionally, with an incoming cold snap, there exists the possibility of precipitation that may lead to snow and/or ice, making travel difficult for county residents. Wet, heavy snow may lead to additional power outages. And finally, those without power and reliant on electricity to heat their homes may need to seek assistance at warming centers or with friends/family.

ANALYSIS:

An Emergency Declaration may assist responding entities additional flexibility in their ability to procure necessary resources to respond to and recover from impacts from the storm.

RECOMMENDATION:

The BOCC declare a State of Emergency regarding recent winter weather activity.

REVIEWED BY:

Mark McCauley, County Administrator

Date

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON**

In the Matter of
Declaration of Emergency
Windstorm Event

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Resolution No. ____ - 22

WHEREAS, a severe weather event, beginning November 4, 2022, has impacted residents of Jefferson County due to strong westerly winds, with maximum wind gust speeds reaching 75mph according to the National Weather Service, leaving nearly every resident of Jefferson County without power at one point in time,

WHEREAS, impacts to life and safety of Jefferson County residents have included long-term power outages, damage to personal property, and closures of critical infrastructure for extended periods of time, and

WHEREAS, additional weather-related impacts may be possible into the week of November 7, 2022, with sub-freezing temperatures and precipitation forecasted early in the week,

WHEREAS, immediate preventative action and repair will be necessary to prevent further damage and to restore essential services, and

WHEREAS, persons and property may be threatened or damaged and access to property will continue to be impaired unless emergency efforts are taken by Jefferson County and other responding agencies to reduce the threat to life and property,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Jefferson County Commissioners hereby declare that a **state of emergency** exists.

1. The County is authorized to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat this emergency to protect the health and safety of persons and property in light of the exigencies of an emergency situation without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law, with the exception of mandatory constitutional requirements.
2. This emergency authority will expire in fourteen (14) days from the date of the adoption of this resolution unless specifically authorized by the Board.

ADOPTED this _____ *day of* _____, 2022

SEAL:

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Heidi Eisenhour, Chair

Greg Brotherton, Member

ATTEST:

Kate Dean, Member

Carolyn Gallaway, Clerk of the Board