

RESOLUTION 2006- 159

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY AS PROVIDED IN PART I, CHAPTER 252, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND BY ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA ORDINANCE 94-25, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED.

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2006, the Governor of the State of Florida, promulgated Executive Order No. 06-108, declaring that the ongoing danger of wildfires due to extreme dry weather conditions threaten the State of Florida with a major disaster; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes and St. Johns County Ordinance # 94-25, as previously amended, authorizes St. Johns County to declare a state of local emergency by proclamation; and

WHEREAS, exceedingly hot, dry, parched, and windy conditions have prevailed throughout St. Johns County, Florida (the "County"), for a significant time period; and

WHEREAS, as a result of said conditions, numerous brush and forest wildfires have been ignited or may be ignited throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, because of said conditions, wildfires once ignited, are extremely difficult to control and contain, and therefore the personnel and resources of the County and State battling the same are exposed to high risk, and the spread of said wildfires promotes an ever-increasing threat to the safety of the lives and property of the County; and

WHEREAS, the abatement of said conditions throughout the County is not anticipated in the foreseeable future, and therefore the threat of brush and forest wildfires is expected to continue throughout portions of the Summer; and

WHEREAS, said conditions demand that further precautions be taken to protect the citizens, visitors, and property of the County and to ensure that the health, safety, and welfare of the community is preserved; and

WHEREAS, the potential fires may become beyond the capability of the County to effectively respond and control; and

WHEREAS, certain additional specialized equipment and personnel may be required to assist in evacuation and take protective action with regard to life and property; and

WHEREAS, wildfires in other parts of the State of Florida have depleted regional fire fighting resources that might otherwise be available to assist the County; and

WHEREAS, the County may request assistance from the State.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, that the Board of County Commissioners hereby determines, promulgates and declares the following proclamation, effective immediately:

PROCLAMATION

Section I. It is hereby determined, declared and proclaimed that:

A. A state of local emergency exists within St. Johns County due to the effects of dry conditions that threaten numerous fires in the County.

Section II. The County Administrator and his designees are hereby authorized to take the appropriate emergency measures authorized by Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, St. Johns County Ordinance # 94-25, as previously amended, and as otherwise provided by law.

Section III. The St. Johns County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (the Plan) is hereby activated and the County Administrator and his designees shall have the power, authority and duty to take any and all action under the Plan necessary for the preservation of the health, welfare and safety of the people of St. Johns County.

Section IV. The period of local emergency authorized by this Proclamation shall be continued for a seven (7) day span extended immediately from the effective date of this resolution. The Chair (or in his absence the Vice Chair, or as otherwise provided by ordinance) of the Board of County Commissioners may take action as permitted by State law and local ordinances to extend this period of emergency for additional periods.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, State of Florida, this ___19th___ day of May, 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Cyndi Stevenson
Cyndi Stevenson, Vice Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Jerry Bulla
Deputy Clerk