

Model
County Disaster Emergency Declaration
For Travel Restriction

_____ County, Indiana
_____, 20__

Authority

Whereas, _____ County, Indiana has been impacted by or is immediately threatened by the following emergency conditions:

(Give date, time, situation assessment and duration of hazard) and;

Now, therefore, we, the _____ County board of Commissioners, declare that a local disaster emergency exists for the next seven (7) days* in the county and that we hereby invoke those portions of the Indiana Code which are applicable to the conditions and have caused the issuance of this declaration to be in full force and effect in the county for the exercise of all necessary emergency measures necessary for protection of lives and property and the prompt restoration of local government services.

The effect of this declaration is to:

- (1) Activate the response and recovery aspects of all applicable county disaster emergency plans.
- (2) Authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under the plans.
- (3) Declare a Travel Warning, during which travel shall be restricted to emergency personnel only. **(Further and more specific restrictions upon travel and parking may be included here.)** During a Travel Warning, all citizens are called upon and directed to refrain from all travel, to comply with necessary emergency measures, to cooperate with public officials and disaster services forces in executing emergency operations plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers.

All public officers and employees of _____ County are directed to limit their travel to that which is essential to the discharge their public safety and essential service duties. Such employees are also hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of duties required of them for the duration of the emergency and in execution of emergency laws, regulations, and directives, state and local.

In accordance with IC 10-14-3-29, (d), this Declaration does not prohibit individuals engaged in employment necessary to maintain a safe rail system, restore a public utility or provide any other emergency public service from traveling within the County during this local disaster emergency.

All operating forces will direct their communications and requests for assistance and operations directly to the _____ County Emergency Operating Center.

Reference is hereby made to all appropriate laws, statutes, ordinances, and resolutions, and particularly to section 10-14-3-29 of the Indiana Code.

There are four travel advisory levels.

- (1) A travel advisory status of "Caution" means that a condition may develop that limits or hinders travel in isolated areas. Under "Caution", no travel restrictions have been placed in effect by county officials but citizens should be alert to changing conditions. The county's travel advisory status begins at a starting level of "Caution," and will remain at that level unless and until it is changed by the EMA office.
- (2) A travel advisory status of "Advisory" means that routine travel or activities may be restricted in areas because of a hazardous situation. Citizens should use caution or avoid these areas. Schools and businesses may begin to implement their emergency action plans.
- (3) A travel advisory status of "Watch" means that conditions are threatening to the safety of the public. Only essential travel is recommended (i.e. to and from work, emergency situation, etc.). Emergency action plans have been or should now be implemented by businesses, schools, government agencies and other organizations.
- (4) A travel advisory status of "Warning" means that travel may be restricted to emergency personnel only. During a Travel Warning, all citizens are called upon and directed to refrain from all travel, to comply with necessary emergency measures, to cooperate with public officials and disaster services forces in executing emergency operations plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers. Further and more specific restrictions may be included.

This Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly in the office of the County Clerk.

In witness, whereof, we have hereunto set our hand this _____ day of _____, 20____ AD.

_____ County Board of Commissioners

President

Member

Member

Attest: _____

_____ County Auditor

*IC 10-14-3-29 states that a local disaster emergency declaration may not be continued or renewed for more than seven (7) days except by or with the consent of the governing body of the political subdivision.