



PROCLAMATION PRO2026-01

City of Dunnellon, Florida Declaration of a Local State of Emergency Railroad Tie Fire

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2026, Marion County Fire Rescue and the Marion County Division of Emergency Management were dispatched to the area of East McKinney Avenue and North Williams Street in Dunnellon, Florida, more specifically, Marion County Parcel ID 33638-000-02, owned by CSX Transportation, in response to a fire involving a large stockpile of chemically treated railroad ties being stored on the property; and

WHEREAS, the fire has resulted in hazardous conditions, including but not limited to heavy smoke, airborne contaminants, threats to public health and safety, potential environmental impacts, and disruption of normal community activities; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of this incident requires the coordinated use of local emergency resources and require assistance from county, state, and other external agencies; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the City of Dunnellon, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, in cooperation with Marion County Rescue and the Marion County Division of Emergency Management, to take every prudent measure to ensure the safety and well-being of its citizens and their property located in Dunnellon; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statute subsection 252.38(3), enumerating the emergency management powers of political subdivisions, provides at subparagraph (a)5, in part, "The duration of each state of emergency declared locally is limited to 7 days; it may be extended, as necessary, in 7-day increments." and

WHEREAS, the State Emergency Management Act [sections 252.31-252.60, Fla. Stat.] defines "Emergency" as "any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether natural, technological, or manmade, in war or in peace, which *results in or may result in* substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property." Sec. 252.34(4), F.S. (Emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of Dunnellon to activate emergency management preparations in order to minimize the hazards and damage that may be created by the active fire; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Dunnellon hereby determines that this active fire qualifies as an "emergency" as defined in F.S. Sec. 252.34(4) within the City of Dunnellon and such fire justifies the adoption of this declaration of state of local emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Walter L. Green, Mayor of the City of Dunnellon, in accordance with the provisions of Florida Statute 252.38 and Chapter 22, Section 22.34 of the City's Code of Ordinances, promulgate the following Declaration:

SECTION 1. A state of local emergency is hereby declared immediately, today, February 1, 2026, due to the active fire involving a stockpile of chemically treated railroad ties.

SECTION 2. The City of Dunnellon Emergency Management Plan is hereby activated, and the Emergency Management Coordinator of the City of Dunnellon 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 Dunnellon.

SECTION 3. The Marion County Sheriff's Office, Division of Emergency Management, shall provide overall coordination for County response, and the City of Dunnellon shall coordinate through the Marion County Sheriff's Office, Division of Emergency Management and Marion County Fire Rescue regarding any assistance to be provided.

SECTION 4. All agencies will provide the necessary assistance as requested by the Marion County Sheriff's Office, Division of Emergency Management.

SECTION 5. The provision of the Declaration is in effect immediately and shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days, unless otherwise extended in seven-day increments as necessary, after determining the need therefore, based on the latest information from the Director of the Division of Emergency Management. Each such extension shall be documented by written memoranda to the Director of the Division of Emergency Management.

DECLARED this 1st day of February 2026.

ATTEST:



Amanda L. Odom, CMC
City Clerk



Walter L. Green
Mayor