

RESOLUTION 26 - 47

BONNER COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY IN BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO

WHEREAS, Idaho Code 46-1011 - LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCIES states as follows:

(1) A local disaster emergency may be declared only by a mayor or chairman of the county commissioners within their respective political subdivisions. It shall not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven (7) days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision. Any order or proclamation declaring, continuing, or terminating a local disaster emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the local county recorder.

(2) The effect of the declaration of a local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local or intergovernmental disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance thereunder.

(3) No intergovernmental agency or official thereof may declare a local disaster emergency, unless expressly authorized by the agreement pursuant to which the agency functions. However, an intergovernmental disaster agency shall provide aid and services in accordance with the agreement pursuant to which it functions.

WHEREAS, during a scheduled inspection of the Wisconsin Street/Merritt Bridge, a significant infrastructure failure was discovered; two support pilings have been compromised, one of which is completely sheared through underwater; and

WHEREAS, the identified failure may necessitate the closure or load reduction of the Wisconsin Street/Merritt Bridge, a critical public arterial bridge serving the residents and businesses of Bonner County; and

WHEREAS, closure or load reduction of the bridge would have a substantial adverse economic impact on the surrounding community and Bonner County by disrupting commerce, transportation, and access to local businesses; and

WHEREAS, closure of the bridge would significantly restrict access for emergency response agencies, including law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services, resulting in increased response times that could endanger life, property, and public safety;

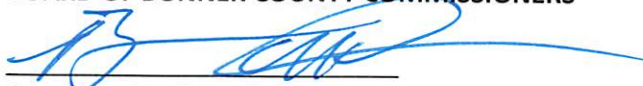
WHEREAS, the Bonner County Board of Commissioners, finds that a disaster emergency, as those terms are defined in Section 46-1011, Idaho Code, was in existence on August 6th, 2026, in Bonner County, which local county and private resources were taxed to control, and that State assistance is requested, pursuant to Title 46, Chapter 10, Idaho Code, and other state laws pertaining to disaster, emergencies and assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED and declared by the Bonner County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to the authority granted in Section 46-1011, Idaho Code, as follows:

1. During a scheduled inspection of the Wisconsin Street/Merritt Bridge, a significant infrastructure failure was discovered.
2. The identified failure may necessitate the closure or load reduction of the Wisconsin Street/Merritt Bridge, a critical public arterial bridge serving the residents and businesses of Bonner County, affecting emergency response agencies, economic commerce, and public safety.

ADOPTED as a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Bonner County, Idaho, upon a majority vote on the 11th day of August 2026.

BOARD OF BONNER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Brian Domke, Commissioner



Asia Williams, Commissioner



Ron Korn, Chairman

ATTEST: Michael W. Rosedale

By 
Deputy Clerk



Bonner County

Board of Commissioners

Brian Domke

Asia Williams

Ron Korn

08/11/2026

Memorandum

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Item # 1

To: Commissioners

From: Bonner County Emergency Management

Re: Disaster Declaration

During a scheduled inspection of the Wisconsin Street/Merritt Bridge, a significant infrastructure failure was discovered: two support pilings are compromised; one is completely sheared through. This failure will necessitate either a significant reduction in access or the closure of the Wisconsin Street/Merritt Bridge.

The Wisconsin Street/Merritt Bridge is a critical public artery serving the residents and businesses of Bonner County. This bridge is not only a significant economic corridor for commercial, public, and private use. The loss of access to this bridge poses a critical threat to life and property for all citizens south of the bridge, as first responders cannot reach that area of Bonner County in a timely manner.

Auditing Review: Auditing Approved

If applicable, an email is attached verifying that auditing has verified that the funds to cover this item are within the budget; this is required for any expenditure/budget adjustment request.

Risk Review: Risk Approved

If applicable, an email is attached verifying that all Risk questions/concerns have been resolved and that it has been approved. This includes new equipment/assets to be insured or contracts requiring insurance for review.

Legal Review: Legal Approved

Email is attached verifying that all legal questions/concerns have been resolved and that it has been approved.

Distribution: _____ Original to
_____ Copy to

A suggested motion would be: Based on the information before us, I move to approve the declaration that the loss of access to the Wisconsin Street/Merritt Bridge in Bonner County presents an imminent threat to life, property, critical infrastructure, and public safety due to the failure of its support pilings, and to have the Chairman sign administratively.

Recommendation Acceptance: ☒ yes ☐ no

Ron Korn
Ron Korn, Chairman

Date: 8-11-26