

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION ORDER 2025-01

Windstorm Event 2025

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2025, the City of Hamilton experienced a severe windstorm event, with high winds of 30-40 mph, with gusts of at least 65 mph, as well as rain, snow, and other storm behaviors.

WHEREAS, this event impacted the City of Hamilton starting at approximately 10 am, creating substantial damage to include trees falling in the public streets, on a public school and on parked vehicles and homes, trees falling on power lines, creating interruption in power services for many portions of the City of Hamilton, fallen trees in city parks and other public areas, impact to City services including fallen trees and loss of power to various City facilities. The windstorm event also started structure fires, taxing local volunteer fire services.

WHEREAS, severe windstorm conditions may continue or reoccur and the current emergency response and damage cleanup is expected to over-extend or exhaust local volunteer fire suppression and City police, public works, parks and urban forestry resources and present hazardous working conditions and health risks to responding City personnel, thereby threatening lives and property.

WHEREAS, this event has caused damage and continues to threaten the boundaries of the City of Hamilton as well as the surrounding area of the Hamilton Rural Fire District, which is served under contract by the Hamilton Fire Department.

WHEREAS, under these volatile conditions, Incident Commanders responding to events may need to exercise the powers granted to them through the Ravalli County Emergency Operations Guideline in order to protect lives and property; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Dominic Farrenkopf, the principal executive officer for the City of Hamilton, in consultation with and upon the recommendation of Assistant Fire Chief Tyson Woods of the Hamilton Fire Department, Hamilton Public Works Director Donny Ramer, Parks and Urban Forestry Director Amy Fox, and Erik Hoover, the Director of the Ravalli County Office of Emergency Management, have decided the following response and protective measures are necessary to protect public health, safety and property; and

WHEREAS, MCA 10-3-402 authorizes an emergency proclamation by the principal executive officer of a local government whenever that officer determines there is an emergency; and

WHEREAS, MCA 10-3-404 states that an emergency proclamation by the principal executive officer of a local government shall indicate the nature of the emergency, the area threatened, and the conditions which have brought about the proclamation; and

WHEREAS, an emergency proclamation is necessary in order to activate applicable parts of local emergency planning and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance in accordance with such plans and programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Dominic Farrenkopf, the principal executive officer of the City of Hamilton, pursuant to the above findings, do hereby declare that an emergency exists in the City of Hamilton, Ravalli County, effective December 17, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Proclamation is issued, to the extent possible, in order to protect the lives and property of the people of the City of Hamilton and surrounding Hamilton Rural Fire District, as well as local fire suppression and emergency responders and City staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to bring the contents of this proclamation order to the attention of the general public, copies of this Emergency Proclamation shall be immediately posted on the City of Hamilton website and Facebook page and shall also be filed with the City Clerk and the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division in Helena.

Pursuant to MCA 10-3-402, this Emergency Proclamation shall continue until it is terminated with a disaster declaration or when the principal executive officer determines that the emergency no longer exists.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND SIGNED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:


Rebecca Scoggins, City Clerk



APPROVED


Dominic Farrenkopf, Mayor

THE STATE OF MONTANA, County of _____, do hereby certify that _____ is the duly elected _____ of the _____ Ward of the City of _____, Montana, for the term of _____ years, commencing on the _____ day of _____, 19____, and terminating on the _____ day of _____, 19____.

Witness my hand and the seal of the State of Montana, this _____ day of _____, 19____.

Governor of the State of Montana

County Clerk

ATTEST: _____, Notary Public for the State of Montana.

