

RESOLUTION #2001-26

DECLARATION of LOCAL EMERGENCY
(Idaho Code section 46-1011)

WHEREAS, the 4th of July, 2001 is occurring on a Wednesday, with a weekend on either end of the holiday, and more than 10,000 people from Southwest Idaho will recreate in or transit through Boise County as part of the "normal" 4th of July celebration; and

WHEREAS, the "normal" 4th of July traffic saturates Boise County law enforcement, traffic control, and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Boise County is primary transit route for the group called the RAINBOW FAMILY, or RAINBOW PEOPLE enroute to Bear Valley, Lowman Ranger District, Boise National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the US Forest Service estimates an influx of approximately 20-25,000 RAINBOW PEOPLE to transit Boise County during this same 4th of July period; and

WHEREAS, the increase in vehicle and pedestrian traffic on SR55, SR21, and the County Banks Lowman Road (Old Highway 17), will cause an immense impact on the ability of County and local resources to respond to emergency situations anywhere in Boise County; and

WHEREAS, this vast increase in population puts all Boise County residents, Southwest Idaho recreationists, and the RAINBOW PEOPLE at risk to life, property, and health risk; and

WHEREAS, Boise County is actively participating in and supporting the Unified Incident Command system for the RAINBOW GATHERING 2001 with the US Forest Service, Valley County, Custer County, and various State agencies; and

WHEREAS, the resources of Boise County are insufficient to provide adequate protection to life, property and environment within the affected and threatened areas of Boise County as required by the Unified Incident Command Team and by Idaho Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Boise County has the authority to declare a local disaster emergency pursuant to and consistent with Title 46, Chapter 10, Idaho code; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners of Boise County find that it is necessary to declare that a local emergency now exists by reason of the population and traffic increases, for the purposes of implementing local and/or intergovernmental disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing and receipt of aid and assistance thereunder and as may be available from state and other governmental agencies;