

ORDER PROHIBITING
OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, the Texas Forest Service has determined that drought conditions exist in Leon County;

WHEREAS Leon County is under imminent threat of severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from the threat of wildfires due to drought and adverse weather conditions;

WHEREAS a public safety hazard exists in Leon County as a result of the high risk potential for wildfires during the current drought and severe weather conditions;

WHEREAS this public safety hazard would be exacerbated by outdoor burning or by any outdoor activity that may ignite combustible material, and

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Leon County Commissioners' Court that all outdoor burning is hereby prohibited in the unincorporated areas of Leon County with the following exceptions if authorized by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission; to wit;

- A. firefighting training, or
- B. public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations, or
- C. planting or harvesting of agriculture crops

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order does not apply to;

- A. Burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Sect. 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Sect. 153.047, Natural Resources Code; and
- B. State parks are exempt from County burn bans. Burn ban is at the discretion of the park superintendent.
- C. Indoor fireplaces, propane grills, etc.
- D. Fires for recreational ceremonies.
- E. Diseased animal carcasses and deceased animal remains by a veterinarian outside incorporated limit.
- F. Welding operations performed in the field, but only if:
 - 1. All areas where welding, cutting or grinding operations are being performed will be free of vegetation for at least twenty-five feet in all directions;
 - 2. Surface around welding area will be wetted down;
 - 3. All welding, cutting and grinding operations may be performed in a total welding enclosure, or "welding box", that is sufficiently high to control sparks, including a fire retardant cover over the top;

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CHRISTIE MAXWELL
CLERK, COUNTY COURT
LEON COUNTY, TEXAS
JUL 21 2023

4. Sub-surface, or "bell hole", welding and grinding operations within approved excavations are also allowed if all other mitigation efforts are included;
5. A dedicated fire watch person will attend each welder, cutter, grinder and any activity that causes a spark;
6. A minimum of one (1) water pressure fire extinguisher per fire watch person is required;
7. Each site will have cellular telephone communications for emergency response;
8. Winds speeds must be no more than 15 miles per hour

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall remain in effect for 90 days from the effective date of this Order unless terminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service or order of this Court.

In accordance with Local Govt. Code Sect. 352.081(h), a violation of this Order is a Class "C" Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

SIGNED on this the 21st day of July, 2023 and EFFECTIVE on the 21st day of July, 2023.



Byron Ryder, Leon County Judge

Attest by:



Christie Wakefield, Leon County Clerk