



CHAD SIMS  
HARRISON COUNTY JUDGE

**ORDER BANNING OPEN FIRES  
AND PROHIBITION OF OUTDOOR BURNING**

**February 24, 2026**

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, the undersigned as County Judge of Harrison County, Texas hereby finds and declares that a state of disaster exists in Harrison County based on the imminent threat of wildfire and recommendation of the County Fire Marshal, James McConnell; and

WHEREAS, declaration of such a disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of such fires; and

WHEREAS, the normal danger of fire in Harrison County at this time is greatly enhanced by the unusually dry conditions and low humidity for Harrison County at this time;

BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED that the following emergency regulations are hereby established for all unincorporated areas of Harrison County, Texas, with this Order being in effect for a period of no more than seven (7) days from the date of this Order being February 24, 2026:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that outdoor burning is prohibited in unincorporated areas of the county, with the following exceptions; (1) outdoor cooking only in enclosed pits or grills for seven (7) days from the date of adoption of this Order, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by: (1) the Commissioners Court or (2) the County Judge based on a determination that the circumstances that required the Order no longer exist. Further, it is the intent of this ORDER to include the prohibition of burning in barrels and fireworks.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that person commits an offense if he/she violates this Order and such an act shall be an offense under this Order punishable as a misdemeanor by fine up to \$500.



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This Order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for: (1) firefighter training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or, (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Natural Resources Code Section 153.048 and meet the standards of Natural Resources Code Section 153.047.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Order shall be enforced by any duly commissioned peace officer and that the venue for prosecution of violations of this order will be in Harrison County, Texas.

BE IT ALSO ORDERED that the purpose of this Order is the mitigation of the hazard posed by wildfires during the current dry and windy weather by curtailing the practice of outdoor burning, which purpose is to be taken into account in any enforcement action based upon this Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Order is entered and effective from this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. until expiration or termination of this Order by the Court.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chad Sims".

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Chad Sims, Harrison County Judge