

For Immediate Release  
From: County Judge's Office  
September 26, 2024

**This news release is being announced by Fayette County Judge's Office for a Burn Ban For Fayette County, effective September 26, 2024.**

At a Regular Commissioners Court meeting an Order was signed by County Judge Dan Mueller restricting outdoor burning. Residents are warned to refrain from burning anything, including kitchen trash and brush piles. Dry vegetation serves as ready, highly volatile fuel for wildfires. Burning trash or brush can provide an ignition source for wildfires, which can spread quickly, destroy homes, and worst of all, endanger lives.

Bans on outdoor burning have proven to be an excellent fire prevention tool. Keeping a fire from ever starting is the key to preventing wildfires. The burn ban in Fayette County will remain in effect until conditions improve and fire danger has diminished. Fire departments will be called to extinguish all fires and violators can be subject to a fine.

Carelessness with other activities can also result in dangerous wildfires. Residents can help themselves and their local fire departments by taking extra precaution to insure that their actions don't spark wildfires.

- Use extreme care when using spark-producing equipment around dry grass.
- Electricity-energized fences should be kept clear of all grass.
- Lubricate farm equipment frequently to reduce the possibility of producing sparks.
- Be careful when towing. Loose chains can cause sparks when dragged on the roadway. Be aware of flat tires as rims can also cause sparks which can ignite grass fires.
- Do not litter. Trash adds to the fuel load, and glass lying in direct sunlight can start a fire.
- Smokers are advised to dispose of smoking materials properly. Use ashtrays. Many wildfires are started by carelessly discarded cigarette butts and matches.
- Motorists are advised not to drive in or park in tall, dry grass. Catalytic converters can be a source of ignition.
- Hikers and campers are asked to use burn pits or grill in designated area where, and if, such fire are permitted.
- Dispose of hot coals from barbecue pits by smothering completely with sand or water, and never leave smoldering coals unattended.
- Use extreme caution when using fireworks during a burn ban

Citizens are also asked to use caution when traveling outside Fayette County as our neighbors are experiencing similar fire hazard conditions.

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STATE OF TEXAS •  
•  
COUNTY OF FAYETTE •

**ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING**

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court finds that circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated area of the county create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Fayette County that all outdoor burning in all the unincorporated area of Fayette County is prohibited for 90 days from the date of adoption of this Order, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service or the Commissioners Court or the County Judge. This Order is adopted pursuant to Local Government Code §352.081, and other applicable statutes. 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; or (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; and this Order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities (4) that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and that meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code; or (5) that are prescribed burns conducted by trained persons in compliance with guidelines set forth by federal or state natural resource agencies and that are conducted in accordance with a burn plan approved by such agencies.

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

ADOPTED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024, by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Dan Mueller  
Dan Mueller  
Fayette County Judge

ATTEST:

Brenda Fietsam  
Brenda Fietsam  
Fayette County Clerk

