
ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, the Cooke County Commissioners' Court has determined that circumstances present in all the unincorporated area of Cooke County, Texas, create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners' Court of Cooke County, Texas, that all outdoor burning is banned in the unincorporated area of Cooke County for 90 days from the date of the adoption of this Order, unless the ban is terminated earlier based on a determination made by this Court. This Order is adopted pursuant to Texas Local Government Code §352.081, and other applicable statutes.

This Order does not prohibit the following outdoor burning activities:

a. Outdoor Cooking with the following restrictions:

- (1) The cooking device is propane, natural gas, wood, or charcoal and has a complete and full enclosure that is utilized at all times,
- (2) The cooking device shall be clear of vegetation and combustible materials or debris for a 10-foot radius, and
- (3) Adequate fire suppression equipment in the form of either a fire extinguisher or water hose attached to a constant water supply that is immediately available.

b. Activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Natural Resources Commission 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 manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Texas Natural Resources Code.

Welding and/or hot work allowed with restrictions listed below:

- (1) All areas where welding, cutting, or grinding operations are being performed will be free of vegetation and combustible materials or debris for at least twenty-five (25) feet in all directions,
- (2) Surface around welding area will be wetted down,
- (3) Wind speeds must be no more than 15 miles per hour while performing welding, cutting, or grinding operations,

- (4) A dedicated fire watch person will attend and monitor each welder, cutter, grinder, or any activity which causes sparks,
- (5) A minimum of 100 gallons of water with a capability to be sprayed will be required at any site where above mentioned activities take place,
- (6) Each site will have communications capability on site to provide emergency notifications,
- (7) At least one member of the work crew will remain on scene, with water stand by, for 30 minutes after operations are completed to ensure no danger exists, and
- (8) If an emergency arises where these activities must be performed and the above conditions cannot be met then the person conducting work shall notify the fire department for that area to request stand-by at the scene until actions are complete plus 30 minutes.

In accordance with Texas 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.

This Order shall remain in effect for 90 days from the adopted date, or prior to such expiration date if this Court by order determines that circumstances present in the unincorporated areas of Cooke County no longer create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning, whichever is earlier. This Court may adopt an additional order that takes effect on the expiration of this order if this Court finds that circumstances present in the unincorporated areas of Cooke County no longer create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning.

ADOPTED this 4th day of August 2023 at 10:04 Am.

John O. Roane
John O. Roane, County Judge
Cooke County, Texas

Gary Hollowell
Gary Hollowell, Commissioner, Pct. 1

Jason Snuggs
Jason Snuggs, Commissioner, Pct. 2

Adam Arendt
Adam Arendt, Commissioner, Pct. 3

Matt Sicking
Matt Sicking, Commissioner Pct. 4

Attest:

Pam Harrison
Pam Harrison, County Clerk

