



**ORDER OF THE HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT PROHIBITING
THE OUTDOOR BURNING IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF
HILL COUNTY**

WHEREAS, dry conditions exist in HILL COUNTY and local fire departments are depleting limited resources to protect public health and safety;

WHEREAS, local weather forecasts indicate that these dry, windy conditions are projected to continue, with no reasonable expectation of significant, appreciable rainfall expected in the near future;

WHEREAS, the Keetch-Byram index indicates that drought conditions exist in Hill County;

WHEREAS, after a review of local information relative to drought conditions including information provided by the Emergency Service District No. 1 and various individuals who have knowledge of the current dry conditions in the unincorporated areas, the Hill County Commissioners Court makes the finding that circumstances exist in the unincorporated areas of Hill County that create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning and that Hill County meets the drought criteria necessary to prohibit outdoor burning in all unincorporated areas of Hill County, as per the provision of the Local Government Code 352.081:

NOW, THEREFORE, and after due consideration of same, **THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HILL COUNTY HEREBY ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING ORDER**, to be effective immediately upon the passage of this order, and continuing for: 90 days from this date: or the date Commissioners Court, by official action, terminates this Order:

**ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING
IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF HILL COUNTY**

All outdoor burning of any combustible material is prohibited. A person violates this order if he burns any combustible material or orders such burning by others.

For purposes of this Order, **the term "Outdoor Burning" means:**

1. All outdoor fires, including fires contained in a container or semi-enclosure, such as a barrel or hopper. (It does not include grills, barbeques, or smokers which are used to cook food and attended.) : AND
2. The use of welders or cutting torches is prohibited unless the user has on hand adequate fire suppression equipment and personnel, specifically, this must include, as a minimum:
 - A. a 2A-20BC fire extinguisher, kept within 30 feet of any outdoor welding activity: AND
 - B. an individual to serve as a "fire monitor" during all welding activities with the monitor remaining on scene for a minimum of 30 minutes after cessation of any outdoor welding activity.

This order does not apply to outdoor burning activities:

1. related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for:

- A. firefighter training;
 - B. public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations; or
 - C. planting or harvesting of agriculture crops; or
2. that are conducted by a certified and insured prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code.

This Declaration and Order shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance

Ordered on this 25th day of July, 2023.



County Judge
JUSTIN W. LEWIS