



Justin W. Lewis

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HILL COUNTY JUDGE

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**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, after a review of local information relative to drought conditions including information provided by the Texas Forest Service's Keetch-Byram Drought Index 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**

- A. Effective immediately, outdoor burning is prohibited in all unincorporated areas of Hill County, Texas, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code 352.081.

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

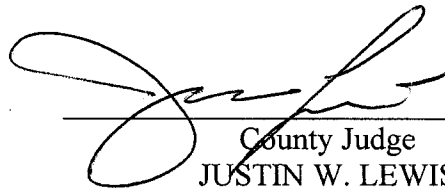
1. All outdoor fires, including fires contained in a container or semi-enclosure, such as a barrel or hopper. (It does not include grills, barbeques, or smokers which are used to cook food and attended.) : AND
2. The use of welders or cutting torches is prohibited unless the user has on hand adequate 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 prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality for: (1) firefighting 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 Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code: AND Recreational Camp fires within the boundaries of a State or Federal Park.

- B. In accordance with Local Government Code Sec. 352.081 (h), a person commits an offense if the person violates the prohibition established by this Order. An offense under this Order is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by fine not to exceed \$500.00

Ordered on this 3rd day of July, 2008.



County Judge
JUSTIN W. LEWIS