

STATE OF TEXAS

§

COUNTY OF HILL

§

COMMISSIONERS COURT

ORDER \_\_\_\_\_



## ORDER OF THE COURT

### ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING FOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF HILL COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, Section 352.081 of the Local Government Code provides that the Commissioners' Court of a county, by order, may prohibit outdoor burning in the unincorporated area of the county if the commissioners' court makes a finding that circumstances present in the unincorporated area create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; and, whereas, such a finding authorizes the issuance of an order which prohibits or restricts outdoor burning.

**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 dry fuels, and weather conditions pose an imminent threat of large and dangerous wildfires with the potential to spread quickly, endanger lives, and cause large scale property damage, creating a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; and

**WHEREAS**, after a review of local information provided by the County Emergency Management Coordinator, and other Public Safety Partners, 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

**BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED** that the following emergency regulations are hereby established for all unincorporated areas of Hill County, Texas:

1) Actions Prohibited:

- a. A person violates this order if he or she:
  - i. Knowingly or intentionally engages in any outdoor activities which produces flames or sparks that could result in a fire or orders such activities by others.
  - ii. Knowingly or recklessly discards lighted or burning materials.
  - iii. This Order does not limit the authority granted under other state statutory regulations including reckless damage of property. Damage to property resulting from reckless conduct of burning or discharged of fireworks could result in further violations of Texas statutes.

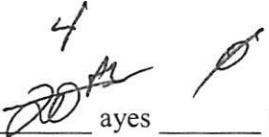
- 2) Enforcement:
  - a. A violation of this Order is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.
  - b. This Order may be enforced by any Texas peace officer.
- 3) This Order is effective and enforceable for thirty (30) days after the date of adoption which is indicated below.
- 4) The Order does not apply to outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for:
  - a. Firefighter training; or,
  - b. Public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations; or,
  - c. Planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or,
  - d. Burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under §153.048, *Texas Natural Resources Code* and meet the standards of §153.047, Texas Natural Resources Code; or,
  - e. Burns that are conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), under training and guidelines of the National Wildlife Coordinating Group (NWCG).
- 5) This Order does not apply to the following outdoor activities:
  - a. Welding, Cutting, or Grinding Operations: This order shall not apply to the outdoor burning of vegetative material caused by welding, cutting, or grinding operations if such burning is not malicious or intentional and the following provisions are followed:
    - i. Wind speeds must be no more than 20 miles per hour while performing welding, cutting, or grinding operations outside of approved barriers or enclosures.
    - ii. Each site in which the welding, cutting, or grinding operations are taking place must have the ability to call 911 for emergency response.
    - iii. A dedicated fire watch person must attend each welder, cutter, or grinder or any activity that causes a spark.
    - iv. A minimum of one (1) 2A-20BC fire extinguisher or pressurized water source is required to be on-hand per fire watch person.
    - v. If an emergency exists where welding must be performed outside these provisions, the County Judge, the Emergency Management Coordinator, a Peace Officer, and/or the Fire Chief may issue a temporary exception to the Order, along with any requirements necessary to reduce the hazards associated with such activities.
  - b. Outdoor Cooking: This Order shall not prohibit outdoor cooking activities when the following provisions are followed:
    - i. All outdoor cooking must be attended to at all times by a responsible party.
    - ii. The responsible party must have the ability to call 911 for emergency response.
    - iii. A minimum of one (1) 2A-20BC fire extinguisher or pressurized water source is required to be on-hand at all times.

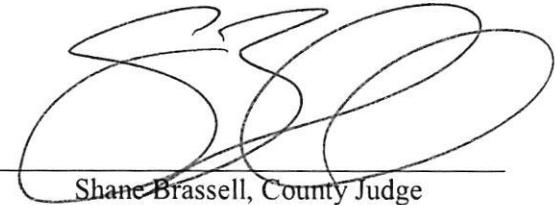
**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this burn ban be in effect for thirty (30) days from the date of adoption of this Order or at an earlier date as determined by the Hill County Commissioners' Court. This order may be rescinded by the County Judge of Hill County, Texas prior to the end of the thirty (30) day period if the County Judge and Hill County Emergency Management Coordinator determines that the circumstances that require the Order no longer exist.

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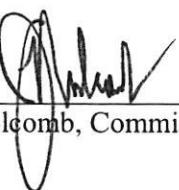
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**BE IT ALSO ORDERED**, that the purpose of this order is the mitigation of the public safety hazard posed by wildfires during the current dry weather period, by curtailing the practice of outdoor burning without specific approval of the Commissioners' Court, or the Commissioners' Court designee which is designated as the Hill County Judge and Hill County Emergency Management Coordinator, or without appropriate licensing from the State of Texas regulatory agency.

**ADOPTED**, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026 by a vote of:  ayes \_\_\_\_\_ nays.



Shane Brassell, County Judge



Jim Holcomb, Commissioner Precinct 1



Larry Crumpton, Commissioner Precinct 2



Scotty Hawkins, Commissioner Precinct 3



Martin Lake, Commissioner Precinct 4

ATTEST:



Nicole Tanner, Hill County Clerk