



## ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners Court of Mason County 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 Mason County that all outdoor burning is prohibited in the unincorporated area of the county for 90 days from the date of adoption of this Order, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by: (1) the Texas Forest Service that drought conditions no longer exist; or (2) the Commissioners Court or the County Judge based on a determination that the circumstances that required the Order no longer exist.

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; (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or, (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Natural Resources Code §153.048 and meet the standards of Natural Resources Code §153.047 and/or are conducted by members belonging to a local Prescribed Burn Association and conducts prescribed burns following the proper guidelines for such burns and by filing a properly executed plan with the County Judge's Office before conducting the burn. Additionally, this Order does not prohibit:

- the use of outdoor grills that are lifted off the ground, have a lid/cover, and are fueled by propane or pellets, nor does it prohibit commercial bbq establishments from routine food preparations conducted outdoors;
- outdoor welding and other hot work will be permitted under these conditions:
  - A spotter is required for each welder.
  - The perimeter, defined as all sides of the welding are, shall be clear of vegetation if possible and continued to be kept wet. The perimeter shall be at least 25 feet in all directions.
  - A minimum of 100 gallons of water must be available on site.
  - A minimum of one water pressure fire extinguisher per spotter is required.
  - Wind speeds must be no greater than 15 MPH to weld.
  - Humidity index of 20% or higher as determined by the Texas Forest Service for Mason County.



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 30 day of December, 2024 by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Sheree Hardin

Sheree Hardin  
Mason County Judge

90 Day Expiration:

March 30, 2025

FILED at 8:12 AM  
Dec 30, 2024

PAM BEAM, Clerk

CO Court, Mason County, Texas

By Bonnie Riggs