



## 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, (2) the Commissioners Court, or (3) the County Judge.

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.



- Controlled burns necessary for the creation or maintenance of actively farmed hay fields with a defensible space around the burn area, presence of fire suppression tools, and personal presence during the entire controlled burn.

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 12 day of March, 2026 by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Sheree Hardin

Sheree Hardin  
Mason County Judge

Effective Date:

March 14, 2026 @ 7 AM

Expiration Date:

June 12, 2026

FILED # 8:13 A M  
3/13/2026  
CHELSA ARMENDARIZ, Clerk  
No Court, Mason County, Texas  
By Chelsea Armendariz