

Effective: Feb 27, 2023 to May 28, 2023

**MASON COUNTY BURN BAN
EXECUTIVE ORDER OF COMMISSIONERS COURT**

WHEREAS, due to a continual extreme fire danger due to drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, these hot, dry conditions pose the threat of large, dangerous and fast-moving wildfires, and,

WHEREAS, such fires have the potential of endangering lives and damaging property on a large scale; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Commissioners Court finds that drought circumstances present in all of the County create a public safety hazard that would be greatly exacerbated by outdoor burning of any kind;

WHEREAS, Mason County Commissioners Court exercises its power under Local Government Code Section 352.081(c) to prohibit outdoor burning in general and to prohibit the outdoor burning of particular substances throughout the unincorporated areas of the county by imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of fires; and

WHEREAS, such controls, when implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property by mitigating the threat of dangerous fires;

NOW, THEREFORE, MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT enhances their burn ban with restrictions to include the following:

- A. Outdoor welding and other hot work will only be permitted under certain conditions. These conditions are:
1. A spotter is required for each welder.
 2. 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.
 3. A minimum of 100 gallons of water must be available on site.
 4. A minimum of one water pressure fire extinguisher per spotter is required.
 5. Wind speeds must be no greater than 15 MPH to weld.
 6. Humidity index of 20% or higher as determined by the Texas Forest Service for Mason County.
 7. Welding in an enclosed area is acceptable.
 8. Each site will have cellular telephone or other form of communication for emergency response.

- B. Burning of agricultural crops, prickly pear, and/or brush piles will only be allowed under certain conditions. These conditions are:
1. Prior to beginning a burn in Mason, County Sheriff's dispatcher must be notified each time a burn is needed (each day, and/or period, not to exceed two weeks). Call 325-347-5252.
 2. The requester must identify the area to be burned by describing the pasture or range by address, by location of County Road, or State Highway, and the name of the person requesting the burn.
 3. A water sprayer apparatus or water containers and other fire-fighting tools must be available on site.
 4. Fire guards are to be used wherever possible whether a man-made or natural, i.e. road beds, canyons, cattle trails or wind breaks.
 5. Wind speeds must not exceed 15 MPH.
 6. Humidity index of 20% or higher as determined by the Texas Forest Service for Mason County.
 7. A cellular telephone or other form of communication must be available on site for emergency response.
 8. Coordination of and cooperation with the local volunteer fire department.
 9. An exemption to the burn ban shall be allowed for agricultural use for members belonging to the Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burn Association to conduct 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.
- C. Commercial barbecue establishments from a fixed location and maintain a State sales tax permit, and/or personal barbecue fueled by propane are allowed.
- D. A Precinct Commissioner may exempt a weekend "Benefit" barbecue after a request for permission to and the organization shows evidence that all necessary safety measures have been considered to ensure the safety of the public.

IT IS ALSO HEREBY ORDERED AS TO Section 352.081 (e)(2) the County Judge is hereby designated as the officer authorized to determine whether circumstances no longer exist to prohibit outdoor burning and he may rescind this Order at such time.

Dated this 27th of February, 2023 in Mason Texas.



Sheree Hardin, Mason County Judge



Reggie Loeffler, Commissioner Pct 1



Buddy Schuessler, Commission Pct 3



Fred Estes, Commissioner Pct 2



Dave Underwood, Commissioner Pct 4