

ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Baylor County, Texas finds that circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated areas of the County create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Baylor County that all outdoor burning is prohibited in the unincorporated area of the County with very specific exemptions: for ninety (90) days from the date of adoption of this Order, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service or this Court. This Order is adopted pursuant to Local Government Code, Section 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 Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standard of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code.

THIS ORDER DOES NOT prohibit burns that are in compliance with a prescribed burn plan written by a certified burn manager.

Specific Exemptions are as follows:

- (1) Notification to the Dispatch (940-889-3333) of any outside burn both before and after the burn is completed.
- (2) No burning during Red Flag Warnings. Check your local weather forecast.
- (3) A fireguard must be established by blading, plowing or back-burn around area before burning.
- (4) Humidity must be above 20%. Check your local weather forecast before calling Sheriff Dispatch per <https://www.mesonet.ttu.edu>
- (5) A minimum of one person on site to monitor the burn for the duration and/or 72 hrs. of the burn.
- (6) Ample water and equipment on site to address any potential problem with the burn.
- (7) A contact phone number (cell phone) on site.
- (8) Wind below fifteen (15) miles per hour per <https://www.mesonet.ttu.edu>
- (9) Burning shall be conducted in compliance according to TCEQ with the following meteorological and timing considerations:
 - 1) The initiation of burning shall commence no earlier than one hour after sunrise. Burning shall be completed on the same day not later than one hour before sunset and shall be attended by a responsible party at all times during the active burn phase when the fire is progressing. In cases where residual fires and/or smoldering objects continue to emit smoke after this time, such as areas shall be extinguished if the smoke from these areas has the potential to create a nuisance or traffic hazard condition. In no case shall the extent of the burn area be allowed to increase after this time.

In accordance with Local Government Code, Section 352.081(h), a violation of this Order is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

ADOPTED this the 13th day of April, 2026 by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays 0 abstain

