

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

WHEREAS, much of the County is experiencing extreme 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 Blanco County Commissioners Court finds that drought circumstances present create a public safety hazard that would be greatly exacerbated by outdoor burning of any kind; and,

WHEREAS, the Blanco County Commissioners Court may exercise its power under Local Government Code Section 352.081 to prohibit outdoor burning in general and to prohibit the outdoor burning of particular substances throughout the unincorporated area 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;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by a majority vote of the Commissioners' Court of Blanco County that all outdoor burning in Blanco County is prohibited until noon on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 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 V.T.C.A. Local Government Code §352.081 and other applicable statutes.

This Order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities:

(1) related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission for:

(A) firefighter training;

(B) public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations; or

(C) planting or harvesting of agriculture crops; or

(2) that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code.

Welding is allowed by commercial/professional welders under the following guidelines only:

- (1) A spotter is required for each welder, each cutter, each grinder, and for any activity that causes or may cause a spark.
- (2) A perimeter around the welding area shall be established of a radius of 25 feet and clear of vegetation, if possible, and kept wet. The welding perimeter must be three times the height of the actual welding. Example: if the welding is occurring ten feet off the ground, a perimeter of thirty (30) feet radius must be protected.
- (3) A minimum of 100 gallons of water must be available on site.
- (4) A minimum of one (1) water pressure fire extinguisher per spotter is required.
- (5) If the perimeter cannot be cleared of vegetation, proper precautionary measures must be taken (Example: protecting brush, etc., by utilizing fire resistant tarps).
- (6) Welding in an enclosed area or underground is acceptable.
- (7) No welding is permitted if winds are 20 mph or greater or relative humidity is less than 30%.
- (8) Welder or Company conducting welding operations must prior to activities file with the Blanco County Sheriff's Office proof of effective liability insurance or be bonded in an amount of at least \$300,000.
- (9) Prior to ANY welding activity a phone call shall be placed by the welder or company conducting welding operations to the Blanco County Sheriff's department relaying the location of the project, cell phone for contact person, name of party responsible, and name of welder.

In accordance with V.T.C.A. Local Government Code §240.906(h), a violation of this Order is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

The County Judge may rescind this Order upon a determination that the circumstances that required the Order no longer exist

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORDER IS THE MITIGATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD POSED BY WILDFIRES DURING THE CURRENT DROUGHT AND SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS BY CURTAILING THE USE OF ALL COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS

Votes: Judge Bray – YES
Commissioner Weir – YES
Commissioner Uecker – YES
Commissioner Liesmann – YES
Commissioner Granberg – YES

Dated this 10th day of November 2020 in Blanco County, Texas


Brett Bray, Blanco County Judge

ATTESTED BY:

Laura Walla, County Clerk