

**BLANCO 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 Blanco County Commissioners Court finds that drought circumstances present in the County create a public safety hazard that would be greatly exacerbated by outdoor burning of any kind;

WHEREAS, Blanco 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 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNTY JUDGE, ACTING TOGETHER WITH THE BLANCO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, hereby orders that:

An Order prohibiting outdoor burning is hereby issued for Blanco County pursuant to Chapter 352.081 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Pursuant to Section 352.081(c) of the Local Government Code, the ban on outdoor burning includes outdoor welding and other hot work except as specifically permitted by this Order.

Pursuant to Section 352.081(c) of the Local Government Code, the ban on outdoor burning includes burning of agricultural crops and prickly pear except as specifically permitted by this order.

This Order shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.

A violation of this Order is a Class C Misdemeanor by a fine of up to \$500.00.

Expiring at noon on March 10, 2026, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by this Court or the County Judge upon a determination that the circumstances that required in the Order no longer exist.

✓ Outdoor welding and other hot work will only be permitted under certain conditions. These conditions are:

✓ A spotter is required for each welder.

✓ The perimeter, defined as all sides of the welding area, 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 Blanco County.

✓ Welding in an enclosed area is acceptable.

✓ Each site will have cellular telephone or other form of communication for emergency response.

_____ Burning of agricultural crops and prickly pear, by someone other than a certified and insured prescribed burn manager, will only be allowed under certain conditions. These conditions are:

_____ Prior to beginning a burn in Blanco, County Sheriff's dispatcher must be notified each time a burn is needed (each day, and/or period, not to exceed two weeks). Call 830-868-7104 extn. 7.

_____ 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.

_____ A water sprayer apparatus or water containers and other firefighting tools must be available on site.

_____ Fire guards are to be used wherever possible whether a manmade or natural, i.e., roadbeds, canyons, cattle trails or wind breaks.

_____ Wind speeds must not exceed 15 MPH.

_____ Humidity index of 20% or higher as determined by the Texas Forest Service for Blanco County.

_____ A cellular telephone or other form of communication must be available on site for emergency response.

_____ 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.

✓ Commercial barbecue establishments operating from a fixed location and that maintain a State sales tax permit are allowed.

✓ Personal fire pits and barbecue fueled by propane are allowed. Charcoal and wood barbecue pits may be used with enclosed fire and embers. Regardless of the fuel source, the barbecue process must be under constant supervision.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ This order does not restrict outdoor burning of household trash in unincorporated areas of the county if the following fire safety guidelines are observed;
1. Use of metal screen over trash receptacle;
 2. Wind speed below 10 miles per hour; and
 3. Have adequate water sources available for rapid fire suppression; and
 4. Continual supervision and observation

There are NO other exceptions to this order other than those specifically granted by State law allowing for: outdoor burning related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for:

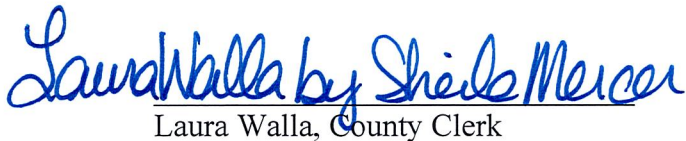
- A: outdoor burning related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for:
1. Firefighter training
 2. Public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations
 3. Planting or harvesting of agricultural crops **OR**
- B: burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048 of the Natural Resources Code and meeting the requirements of the standards of 153.047 of the Natural Resources Code.

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.

Dated this 10 day of February, 2020 in Johnson City, Blanco County, Texas.


Brett Bray, County Judge

ATTEST:


Laura Walla, County Clerk

