

ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 352.081 of the Local Government Code, the Runnels County Commissioners Court has found that dry and windy conditions in the unincorporated areas of Runnels County create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Runnels 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 this Court. This Order is adopted pursuant to Local Government Code Section 352.081, and other applicable statutes.

1. This Order does not prohibit outdoor burning for household trash or rubbish from property that is both designed to be a private residence and used exclusively as a private residence.
2. This Order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Natural Resources Commission 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 standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code.
3. Any individual gainfully employed in a trade or profession that involves the use of combustible materials or use of possible fire sources in the outdoor environment directly related to the successful operation of the business's goals and/or objectives may continue to conduct business as usual utilizing the materials and/or potential fire sources in the outdoor environment as they deem necessary; **provided** that the individual shall take all necessary safety precautions to prevent the ignition of any fire or fires that are not essential to the conducting of day to day business activities and **further provided** that at least two persons are present and a ready source of sufficient water is available to extinguish any fire caused by a spark from such activities.
4. Outdoor cooking in barbeque pits will be allowed so long as the fire source for the pit is completely enclosed. No outside flame is allowed. The barbeque pit shall not be left unattended at any time while there are live coals or wood in the pit.

5. Citizens are advised to contact their local authorities including their sheriff's office, their county commissioner and their fire department.
6. Citizens must take into consideration the forecast according to the National Weather Service Daily Report.

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.

ORDERED AND ADOPTED by the Commissioners Court of Runnels County, Texas, on the 14th day of December, 2021.





Elesa Ocker, County Clerk



Julia Miller, County Judge