

**COCHRAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ORDER**

**State of Texas**

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**County of Cochran**

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**ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING**

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court finds that circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated area of the county create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Cochran County that outdoor burning is restricted 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 the Texas Forest Service or this Court. This Order is adopted pursuant to local Government Code §352.081, and other applicable statutes. This Order restricts outdoor burning as follows:

1. The use of combustible materials in an outdoor environment by any person is prohibited. Combustible materials include, but are not limited to the use of all fireworks, burning of trash, brush and open campfires and materials used outdoors in activities such as welding and any other activity that could result in a fire.
2. Notwithstanding No. 1 above, outdoor welding shall be allowed under the following circumstances:
  - A. Welding, cutting and grinding associated with welding activities shall not take place when the wind is over 15 miles per hour;
  - B. The welder must notify the Cochran County Sheriff's Department before any welding, cutting or grinding begins;
  - C. All grass, leaves, brush and other easily combustible materials must be cleared within a fifty (50) foot radius surrounding the area where the activity is to take place before any welding, cutting or grinding begins; and,
  - D. A spotter with water and a ready pressurized delivery system must be on hand before any welding, cutting or grinding begins and remain on hand until the activity is completed.
3. Outdoor use of above ground cooking grills will be allowed in a safe area clear of debris.


4. A **“Controlled Burn”** will be allowed with the following guidelines.
- A. **Notify the Cochran County Sheriff Department** that you are beginning a **Controlled Burn** giving the time and location of the controlled burn.
  - B. **Create a defensible space** around the controlled burn.
  - C. **Have fire tools handy** such as shovel, rake, and water to control the fire.
  - D. A **“Controlled Burn”** means you are **watching the fire the entire time of the burn.**


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) firefighting training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; (3) planting or harvesting of agriculture crops; or (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resource Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resource Code.


In accordance with the Local Government Code § 352.081(h), a violation of this order is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00.


**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 restricting use of combustible materials.**


**Approved and so ordered** on this the 13th day of May, 2024.

  
**Pat S. Henry**  
Cochran County Judge

  
**Timothy Roberts**  
Commissioner Precinct #1

  
**Matt D. Evans**  
Commissioner Precinct #2

  
**Eric Silhan**  
Commissioner Precinct #3

  
**Reynaldo Morin**  
Commissioner Precinct #4