

ORDER BANNING OPEN FIRES
AND PROHIBITION OF OUTDOOR BURNING

FILED FOR RECORD

WHEREAS, Harrison county has not had rainfall an extended period of time, creating hot and dry conditions that pose a threat of fast moving wildfires creating a disaster and endangering life and property;

2024 OCT -9 PM 2:04
ELIZABETH JAMES
CO CLERK HARRISON CO

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, the undersigned as County Judge of Harrison County, Texas hereby finds and declares that drought conditions exists in Harrison County and the threat of wildfire is imminent, and based on the recommendation of the County Fire Marshal, Jamie McConnell, and the County Judge, Chad Sims, declares a local disaster exists; and

WHEREAS, declaration of such a disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of such fires; and

WHEREAS, the normal danger of fire in Harrison County at this time is greatly enhanced by the unusual deficit in recent precipitation levels for Harrison County;

BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED that the following emergency regulations are hereby established for all unincorporated areas of Harrison County, Texas, with this Order being in effect for a period of no more than seven (7) days from the date of this Order being October 10, 2024:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that outdoor burning is prohibited in unincorporated areas of the county, with the following exceptions; (1) those provided in State Law; (2) outdoor cooking only in enclosed pits or grills for seven (7) days from the date of adoption of this Order, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by: (1) the Commissioners Court or (2) the County Judge based on a determination that the circumstances that required the Order no longer exist.

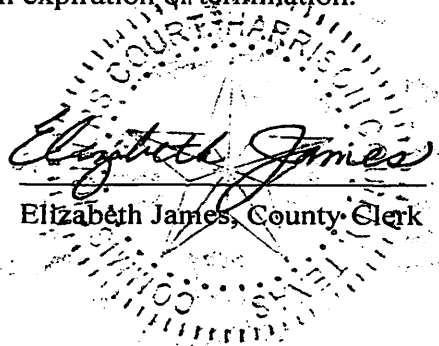
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that person commits an offense if he/she violates this Order and such an act shall be an offense under this Order punishable as a misdemeanor by fine up to \$500.

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 Natural Resources Code Section 153.048 and meet the standards of Natural Resources Code Section 153.047.

BE IT ALSO ORDERED that this Order shall be enforced by any duly commissioned peace officer and that the venue for prosecution of violations of this order will be in Harrison County, Texas.

BE IT ALSO ORDERED that the purpose of this Order is the mitigation of the hazard posed by wildfires during the current dry weather by curtailing the practice of outdoor burning, which purpose is to be taken into account in any enforcement action based upon this Order

IN WITNESS, this Order is entered and effective from this 10th day of October, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. until expiration or termination.



Elizabeth James, County Clerk


Chad Sims, County Judge