

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF KNOX §



ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court has determined that circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated area of the county create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoors burning;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Knox County that all outdoor burning is banned 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 § 352.081, and other applicable statutes. 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.

The court hereby places these restrictions on 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, outdoor cooking apparatus 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 and 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 Knox 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. Notwithstanding No. 1 above, outdoor branding shall be allowed under the following circumstances.

- A. The heating method for the brands shall not be from an open wood fire, but from butane/propane unit.
 - B. 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 branding begins; and,
 - C. A spotter with water and a ready pressurized delivery system must be on hand before any branding begins and remain on hand until the activity is completed.
4. Notwithstanding No. 1 above, backyard cooking shall be allowed under the following circumstances.
- A. Outdoor cooking activities shall not take place when the wind is over 15 miles per hour.
 - B. 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 outdoor cooking begins; and,
 - C. A spotter with water and a ready pressurized delivery system must be on hand before any outdoor cooking begins and remain on hand until the activity is completed.

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.

In accordance with Local Government Code § 352.081 (h), a violation of this Order is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00

Approved and so ordered this the 21 day of August, 2023



COUNTY JUDGE

STAN WOJCIK

Attest:



LISA CYPERT, COUNTY CLERK