



**AN ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING IN
UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ORANGE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, there exists a present danger that fires being used to burn debris may not be adequately controlled and spread and ultimately result in extensive damage and losses; and,

WHEREAS, fire departments and emergency responders are not adequately staffed and equipped to respond to fires that are not controlled adequately; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sec. 352.081 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Commissioners' Court, by court order, may prohibit or restrict outdoor burning in all and/or part of the unincorporated areas of the county if the Commissioners' Court makes a finding that circumstances are present in all of the unincorporated areas of the county create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; and,

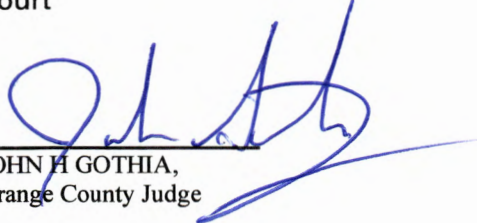
WHEREAS, an order issued under this section shall not apply to outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by Texas Parks and Wildlife for prescribed burns to enhance wetland habitat conditions and control fuel loads; the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for: firefighter training, public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations, or harvesting agricultural crops; and,

WHEREAS, a person commits a Class C misdemeanor if the person knowingly or intentionally violates prohibition or restriction established by an order stopped under Sec. 352.081; and,

WHEREAS, the County Judge of ORANGE COUNTY has entered an Order prohibiting outdoor burning October 21, 2025, and same is hereby amended to correctly reflect that this order does not apply to burns to enhance wetland habitat conditions and control fuel load

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT OUTDOOR BURNING IS PROHIBITED IN ALL UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ORANGE County (except for said exemptions stipulated above) for a period of 30 days effective at 10:00 A.M. on October 21, 2025, unless terminated earlier based on a determination that the public safety hazard no longer exists by the County Judge and/or Commissioners' Court. A violation of this Order is a Class C misdemeanor with a penalty accessible of up to \$500.00.

SIGNED on this day, October 21, 2025, with approval of the Orange County Commissioners Court



JOHN H GOTHIA,
Orange County Judge



JOHN H. GOTHIA
COUNTY JUDGE
ORANGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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Press Release
October 13, 2025

Due to current conditions in the region, County Judge John Gothia has issued an Outdoor Burn Ban, effective 9 am today, for all of Orange County until further notice.

As of 9 am, October 13, 2025 all outdoor burning is strictly prohibited. This action is being taken as a precautionary measure to protect the lives, homes and property of Orange County residents amid increasingly dry conditions that pose a significant wildfire risk.

“This burn ban is necessary to reduce the potential for dangerous wildfires during this period of drought,” said Judge Gothia. “We are asking all residents to comply with the ban for the safety of the community.”

County officials will continue to closely monitor weather and ground conditions and will lift the ban once it is deemed safe to do so.