

***Orange County Office  
of Emergency Management***



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**Press Release  
October 25, 2023**

Due to current conditions, County Judge John Gothia has issued an Outdoor Burn Ban effective immediately for Orange County until further notice. As of today, all outdoor burning is prohibited. This ban is due to drought conditions that have increased to previous levels in the area. This is an effort to protect lives and properties of the residents in Orange County. Officials will continue to monitor these conditions.



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

**WHEREAS**, there exists a present danger that fire being used to burn debris may not be adequately controlled and spread and ultimately result in extensive damage and loss: and,

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

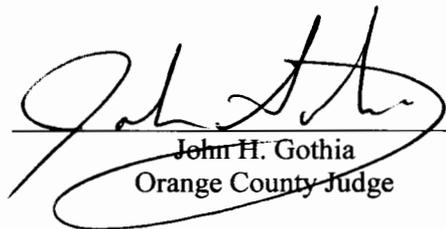
**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Sec.352.081 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Commissioners' Court, by court order, may prohibit or restrict outdoor burning in all and/or part of the unincorporated areas of the county if the Commissioners' Court makes a finding that circumstances are present in all of 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 wetlands 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 does hereby enter an Order prohibiting outdoor burning on October 25, 2023.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that outdoor burning is prohibited in all unincorporated areas of Orange County, except for said exemption stipulated above for a period of 7 days effective 10:00 a.m. on October 25, 2023, unless terminated earlier based upon a determination that the public safety hazard no longer exist by the County Judge/or Commissioners Court.

  
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John H. Gothia  
Orange County Judge