



**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 on March 4, 2026, 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 7 days effective at 4:00 pm on March 4, 2026, 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, March 4, 2026



JOHN H GOTHIA
County Judge