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of Emergency Management

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Press Release
October 23, 2026

Due to current conditions in the region, County Judge John Gothia has issued an Outdoor Burn Ban, effective 3pm today, for all of Orange County until further notice.

As of 3pm, October 23, 2026 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.

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

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 October 23, 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 3:00 pm on October 23, 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, October 23, 2026

JOHN H GOTHIA
County Judge