



COUNTY OF COLORADO

STATE OF TEXAS

Emergency Burn Ban Declaration

Outdoor Burning Restrictions

WHEREAS, due to the lack of rainfall and forecasted dry wind conditions, outdoor burning has become a public safety hazard which could threaten life and property in Colorado County; and,

WHEREAS, outdoor burning is hereby immediately restricted in the unincorporated areas of the county as follows:

1. **Outdoor burning banned.** Unless an exception appears below, 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, burning of trash, brush and open campfires and materials used outdoors in activities that could result in a fire.
2. **Outdoor cigarette/cigar smoking** is banned unless each cigarette/cigar and ashes are deposited into an appropriate receptacle known to extinguish combustion and customarily used for such purpose.
3. **Exceptions.** The following outdoor activities shall be allowed provided they are attended at all times and all following precautionary rules and measures are strictly followed:
 - **Household Trash.** Burning of household trash in a receptacle that is enclosed and covered with a mesh material with no more than ¼ inch openings and supervised in a safe area clear of debris.
 - **Barbecues** using above-ground grills, with enclosed fireboxes, in a safe area clear of debris or other combustible materials and attended at all times.
 - **Controlled burns** necessary for planting and harvesting agricultural crops with a defensible space around the burn area, presence of fire suppression tools, and personal presence during the entire controlled burn.
 - **Authorized by TCEQ.** This order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for: (1) firefighting training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; (3) planting or harvesting of agriculture crops; or (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resource Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resource Code.
 - **Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge** maintenance activities.

- **Non-Profit & Religious Organizations** shall be allowed to prepare barbecue provided they contact their local fire department in advance for a site visit by a member of the department and follow all precautionary measures directed by such department.
- **Outdoor Welding** shall only be allowed under the following circumstances:
 - (i) welding, cutting and grinding associated with welding activities shall not take place when the wind is over 15 miles per hour;
 - (ii) the welder must notify the Colorado County Sheriff's Department before any welding, cutting or grinding begins;
 - (iii) all grass, leaves, brush and other easily combustible materials must be cleared with a twenty (20) foot radius surrounding the area where activity is to take place before any welding, cutting or grinding begins; and,
 - (iv) 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.

WHEREAS, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418.108 gives the county judge the authority to issue an order if the county judge considers the action necessary for the mitigation of hazardous conditions; and,

WHEREAS, such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property by mitigating the threat of dangerous fires; and,

WHEREAS, a local disaster declaration expires seven days after its issuance, unless the commissioners court consents to its renewal or continuance.

BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED that I, Ty Prause, County Judge of Colorado County, do hereby declare a local state of disaster in Colorado County due to the lack of rainfall and forecasted dry wind conditions over the next few days and the increased possibility of fast moving wildfires caused by these conditions in Colorado County.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this order will continue until rescinded or until it is extended or lifted by commissioners court in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will it continue for more than seven days without being authorized by the County Commissioners Court.

This Declaration and Order shall take effect and be in full force effective as of 8:00 a.m. on February 27, 2026.

This Declaration and Order shall be promptly publicized and filed with the County Clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 26th day of February 2026.

Colorado County Judge