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County of Nueces

MIKE PUSLEY
Commissioner
Precinct 1

JOE A. GONZALEZ
Commissioner
Precinct 2

JOHN MAREZ
Commissioner
Precinct 3

BRENT CHESNEY
Commissioner
Precinct 4

CONNIE SCOTT
County Judge
Nueces County Courthouse, Room 303
901 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-3697

ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, the Texas Forest Service has determined that drought conditions exist within the County and the Commissioners Court finds that circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated areas of the county creates a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Nueces County that all outdoor burning, including beach bonfires outside city limits, is prohibited in the unincorporated areas of the county for **60 days from the date of adoption of this Order**, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by the County Judge based on a determination that the circumstances requiring the Order no longer exist.

The County Judge is also hereby authorized to temporarily suspend this Order, in whole or in part, upon a determination that weather conditions or other circumstances warrant temporary relief from the burn ban. If a temporary suspension is issued by the County Judge, it shall:

a. Be issued in writing;
b. Specify the effective dates and times of the suspension;
c. Automatically expire at the end of the stated suspension period unless extended by further Order; and
d. Result in the automatic reinstatement of this Burn Ban Order upon expiration of the suspension period without further action by the Commissioners Court.

The County Judge may also terminate a temporary suspension before its stated expiration date if conditions warrant reinstatement of the burn ban for public safety purposes.

The County Judge shall consult with the Emergency Management Coordinator and/or local emergency services district fire chiefs before issuing a temporary suspension whenever practicable.

This Order is adopted pursuant to Local Government Code §352.081, and other applicable statutes. 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 agricultural crops; or 4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Natural Resources Code §153.047.

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Household trash may only be burned when trash collection services are unavailable. Burning must be conducted in an enclosed container, such as a metal barrel, equipped with a spark- and flame-arresting screen. Non-commercial cooking, including backyard barbecues and cookouts, is permitted. Outdoor welding and other hot work activities are allowed only when conducted in compliance with applicable fire code regulations.

In accordance with Local Government Code §352.081(h), a violation of this Order is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed $500.00.

DULY ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS, ON THIS 19th DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

CONNIE SCOTT, County Judge

Attest:

KARA SANDS, County Clerk