

**ORDER BANNING OPEN FIRES**  
**PROHIBITION OF OUTDOOR BURNING**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code, Section 352.081, the Commissioners Court hereby finds and declares that drought conditions exist in Liberty County; and such conditions create an imminent threat of destruction from wild fire; and,

**WHEREAS**, declaration of such drought conditions authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of such fires; and,

**WHEREAS**, circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated areas in Liberty County create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning;

**BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED** that the following emergency regulations are hereby established for all unincorporated areas of Liberty County, Texas, with this Order being in effect until a determination is made that drought conditions no longer exist; or a public safety hazard will not be exacerbated by outdoor burning and the threat of wild fires ceases.

- A. A person commits an offense if the person engages in burning any combustible material outside of an enclosure which serves to contain all flames and/or sparks or orders such burning by others.
- B. An offense under this Order is a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by fine up to \$500.00.

**BE IT ALSO ORDERED** that this Order may be enforced by any duly commissioned Peace Officer and that the venue for prosecution of a violation of this order be the Justice of the Peace in the precinct in which the alleged violation occurred.

**BE IT ALSO ORDERED** that this Order does not apply to outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized and permitted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for:

- 1. Firefighter training;
- 2. Public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations; or
- 3. Planting and harvesting of agriculture crops.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, this Order is entered this the 15th of October, 2015 and will be in effect until October 27, 2015, or until a determination is made that drought conditions no longer exist.

  
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JAY KNIGHT  
COUNTY JUDGE