

State of Texas §
County of Wichita §

DECLARATION OF DISASTER AND ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, in accordance with provisions of the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, a state of disaster has been declared based on the imminent threat of disaster from wildfire; and

WHEREAS, declaration of such disaster authorized the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of such fires.

BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED that the following emergency regulations are hereby established for all unincorporated areas of Wichita County, Texas for the duration of the above mentioned declaration:

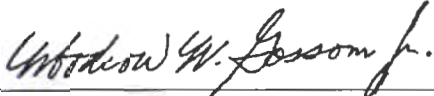
- (1) **Action Prohibited:**
 A person violates this order if he burns or orders such outdoor burning of any combustible material.

- (2) **Exception By Order:**
 This Order does not ban outdoor burning activities:
 A) related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for:
 - (1) firefighter 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 Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code.
 B) Commercial or professional welding operations that are authorized by the attached Burning Guidelines During Emergency.

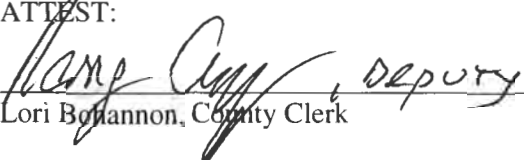
- (3) **Enforcement:**
 Persons violating this order may be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days. This order may be enforced by any duly-commissioned peace officer.

This order will remain in full force and effect from the date of this order or until further notice of the Commissioners' Court of Wichita County.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this the 6th day of August, 2018.



Woodrow W. Gossom, Jr., County Judge
County of Wichita, Texas

ATTEST:


Lori Bannan, County Clerk

BURNING GUIDELINES DURING EMERGENCY

1. The use of combustible materials in an outdoor environment by any person is prohibited.
2. Combustible materials include, but are not limited to, restricted fireworks, discarded cigarettes or other flammable materials used in activities such as welding and any other activity that could result in a wildfire.
3. Welding is allowed by commercial/professional welders under the following guidelines **ONLY**:
 - a. A spotter is required for each welder, each cutter, each grinder, and for any activity that causes or may cause a spark.
 - b. A diameter around the welding area shall be a minimum of 25 feet and clear of vegetation, if possible, and kept wet. The welding perimeter must be three times the height of the actual welding. Example: if the welding is occurring ten feet off the ground, a perimeter of thirty (30) feet must be protected.
 - c. A minimum of 10 gallons of water must be available on site.
 - d. A minimum of one (1) water pressure fire extinguisher per spotter is required and one spare. Each extinguisher should be at least 2 ½ gallons.
 - e. Each welding rig must have a Class B Chemical Fire Extinguisher, minimum 10lbs.
 - f. If the work area cannot be cleared of vegetation, proper precautionary measures must be taken (Example: protecting brush, etc, by utilizing fire resistant tarps).
 - g. Welding in an enclosed area is acceptable.
 - h. No welding is permitted if winds are 20 mph or greater.
 - i. Prior to ANY welding activity a phone call shall be placed by the welder or company conducting welding operations to the Wichita County Sheriff's Department (940-766-8276) relaying the location of the project, cell phone for contact person, name of party responsible, and name of welder.

Persons violating this order may be arrested and fined up to \$500.