

Parker County Issues new 90 day Burn Ban in conjunction with Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Emergency Declaration of a local state of disaster due to fire danger including Parker County.

August 14, 2023 Weatherford, TX

For Immediate Release

Due to the current severe drought conditions and the very dry conditions, The Parker County Commissioners Court issued a 90 day burn ban across Parker County. On Friday, August 11, 2023, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued an Emergency Declaration stating:

“A proclamation declaring a state of disaster in a certain number of counties based on the existence of wildfires that pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property.” Greg Abbott

Those Texas counties include:

“WHEREAS, I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that wildfires that began on July 24, 2023, pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property in Anderson, Andrews, Angelina, Aransas, Archer, Atascosa, Austin, Bailey, Bandera, Bastrop, Baylor, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Borden, Bosque, Brazos, Brewster, Briscoe, Brooks, Brown, Burleson, Burnet, Caidwell, Calhoun, Callahan, Cameron, Cass, Castro, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Concho, Cooke, Coryell, Crockett, Crosby, Culberson, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Dimmit, Duval, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fannin, Fayette, Fort Bend, Freestone, Frio, Gaines, Galveston, Garza, Gillespie, Glasscock, Goliad, Gonzales, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hale, Hamilton, Hardeman, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hill, Hood, Houston, Howard, Hudspeth, Hunt, Jack, Jackson, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Johnson, Karnes, Kaufman, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, King, Kleberg, Knox, La Salle, Lamb, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Llano, Madison, Marion, Martin, Mason, Matagorda, Maverick, McCulloch, McLennan, Medina, Menard, Midland, Milam, Mills, Mitchell, Montague,

Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Nolan, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Polk, Potter, Presidio, Randall, Reagan, Real, Red River, Reeves, Refugio, Robertson, Rockwall, Runnels, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, San Saba, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Shelby, Smith, Somervell, Starr, Stephens, Tarrant, Taylor, Terrell, Throckmorton, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Upton, Val Verde, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Ward, Washington, Wharton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Williamson, Wilson, Winkler, Wise, Yoakum, Young, Zapata, and Zavala Counties;”

This 90 Burn Ban in effect for 90 days and will run through midnight on November 12, 2023. 1

The Parker County 90 day Burn Ban DOES NOT allow individuals to burn household waste or welding, cutting or grinding operations on Red Flag Warning Days by the National Weather Service.

Currently in Parker County, 100% of the county is listed as abnormally dry, and 66.85% of Parker County additionally classified as in severe drought. Also, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI), maintained by Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Texas A&M Forest Service, is an index that is used to determine fire potential and the current KBDI indicates a KBDI of 762 as the average for Parker County as of August 14, 2023.

“Parker County and our surrounding areas are very dry and we all need to be vigilant and cautious, to not allow sparks or flames to start fires.” stated Parker County Judge Pat Deen

“Parker County is very dry and we are concerned about individuals starting fires by discarding their cigarettes and not paying attention to how and where they are welding, which can endanger people, livestock and property. This is a safety measure for all of Parker County and we fully support the Governor Abbott’s Emergency Declaration.” Stated Sean Hughes, Parker County Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Marshal.

All Parker County residents are being asked to be extra vigilant when working, cooking and to not discharge smoking materials from vehicles or near their residences until the county has had a lot more rain. The Parker County 90 day Burn Ban may be lifted and reinstated at any time at the discretion of The Parker County Commissioner’s Court or the Parker County Fire Marshal.

For more information about this declaration and Emergency Declaration from Texas Governor Gregg Abbott should contact the Parker County Fire Marshal’s office at 817-598-0969.

PARKER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

ORDER NO. 23-11

AN ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, Section 352.081 of the Texas Local Government Code provides that the commissioners court of a county by order may prohibit or restrict outdoor burning in the unincorporated area of the county if drought conditions have been determined to exist in all of Parker County, Texas by the Texas Forest Service; or the commissioners court makes a finding that circumstances present in the unincorporated area create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; and,

WHEREAS, the Parker County Commissioners' Court does hereby find that circumstances present in all of the unincorporated area of Parker County create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is **ORDERED** that outdoor burning is prohibited in all of the unincorporated areas of Parker County as follows:

(A) ACTIONS PROHIBITED:

Except as is specifically set out herein, a person violates this order if he burns or otherwise dispenses, emits, explodes, detonates, throws off, or otherwise delivers any spark or fire to, or in the area of any combustible material, including but not limited to all, trash, debris, grass, leaves, trees, paper.

(B) This order does not apply to the following outdoor burning activities:

- (1) Domestic wastes that normally result from the function of life within a residence—for example, kitchen garbage, cardboard boxes, packaging, clothing, grass, leaves, and branch trimmings, may be burned in compliance with the following requirements creating a controlled environment and safeguards on each day performed:
 - (a) Such material is wholly enclosed in a single receptacle adequate to completely contain all such flames and/or sparks.
 - (b) Begin burning no earlier than one hour after sunrise, end it the same day and no later than one hour before sunset
 - (c) A responsible adult with an operational cell phone is present while the burn is active.
 - (d) Area near burn must be clear of vegetation and/or combustible materials or debris.
 - (e) Adequate fire suppression equipment in the form of either a properly operating fire extinguisher, water tender or water hose attached to a constant supply will suffice for this requirement.

NOTE: No domestic waste burning is allowed on days designated as Red Flag Warning Days by the National Weather Service. Such things as tires, construction debris, furniture, carpet, electrical wire, and appliances are not considered to be domestic waste and cannot be burned.

- (2) Outdoor Cooking allowed with the restrictions listed below:

- (a) The cooking device is propane, natural gas, untreated wood or charcoal and has a complete and full enclosure that is utilized at all times.
 - (b) The cooking device shall be clear of vegetation and/or combustible materials or debris.
 - (c) Adequate fire suppression equipment in the form of either a properly operating fire extinguisher, water tender or water hose attached to a constant supply will suffice for this requirement.
- (3) These prohibitions do not apply to the sale of fireworks or the detonation of fireworks on one's own private property.
- (4) That involve the performance of outdoor combustible operations, including but not limited to, outdoor welding, cutting or grinding operations by any person if the operations are performed in compliance with the following requirements creating a controlled environment and safeguards on each day when operations are performed:
- (a) An additional responsible adult person designated as a fire watcher who remains at all times within 100 feet of any welding, grinding, cutting, or any other activity that emits a spark and who remains on the scene of any such activity for a minimum of 30 minutes after cessation of any outdoor welding, grinding, cutting, or other activity that emits a spark;
 - (b) Each location where outdoor welding, cutting or grinding operations are being performed must have cellular telephone communications for emergency response;
 - (c) Adequate fire suppression equipment which must include, at a minimum, either a properly operating 2A-20BC fire extinguisher, kept within 30 feet of any outdoor welding, grinding, cutting, or other activity that emits a spark, a water tender or a water hose connected to a continuous water source under pressure with sufficient length of hose to reach at least 100 feet beyond any welding, grinding, cutting or activity that emits a spark.

NOTE: No outdoor welding, cutting or grinding operations is allowed on days designated as Red Flag Warning Days by the National Weather Service.

- (5) Related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for:
- (a) firefighter training;
 - (b) public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations;
 - (c) planting or harvesting of agriculture crops, including grazing lands for livestock.
- (6) Burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code.
- (7) Burns, including agricultural burning, must be authorized by Parker County Fire Marshal's Office

(C) ENFORCEMENT:

- (1) Upon notification of suspected outdoor burning, the fire department with jurisdiction for the location of the fire shall respond to the scene and take immediate measures to contain and/or extinguish the fire.

- (2) If the on-scene fire commander determines a prohibited action has occurred, they may request a duly-commissioned peace officer respond to the scene to investigate the said activity.
- (3) If, in the opinion of the peace officer at the scene and/or on-scene fire commander, the goal of the order can be attained by informing the responsible party about the prohibitions established by this order, the peace officer or the on-scene fire commander may, at their discretion, notify the responsible party about the provisions of this order and request compliance with it. In such instances, an entry of this notification shall be made into the dispatchers log containing the time, date, and place of the warning.
- (4) In accordance with Section 352.081 of the Local Government Code, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this order commits a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500.
- (5) This order may be enforced by any duly-commissioned peace officer.

(D) EFFECTIVE DATE:

This order shall take effect on August 14th, 2023 and shall continue for 90 days until November 12, 2023.

(E) DURATION:

This order shall remain in effect for 90 days from effective date of this order, or prior to such expiration date, the Parker County Fire Marshal may temporarily suspend this order, if they determine that circumstances present in the unincorporated areas of Parker County no longer create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning, whichever occurs earlier. The Parker County Commissioners' Court may adopt an additional order that takes effect on the expiration of this order if the Parker County Commissioners' Court finds at such time that circumstances then present in the unincorporated areas of Parker County continue to create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning.

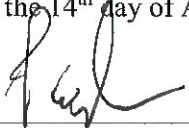
(F) SEVERABILITY:

If any section, article, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word in this order, or application thereto, or any person or circumstance, is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this order; and the Commissioners' Court hereby declares it would have passed such remaining portions of the order despite such invalidity, which remaining portions shall remain in force and effect.

Approved By:

Parker County Commissioners Court on 14th, August, 2023.

Ordered this the 14th day of August, 2023.



Parker County Judge Pat Deen


Attested By: _____





GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

August 11, 2023

The Honorable Jane Nelson
Secretary of State
State Capitol, Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

12:15pm O'CLOCK

AUG 11 2023


Secretary of State

Dear Secretary Nelson:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

A proclamation declaring a state of disaster in a certain number of counties based on the existence of wildfires that pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property.

The original proclamation is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,


Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD:gsd

Attachment

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that wildfires that began on July 24, 2023, pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property in Anderson, Andrews, Angelina, Aransas, Archer, Atascosa, Austin, Bailey, Bandera, Bastrop, Baylor, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Borden, Bosque, Brazos, Brewster, Briscoe, Brooks, Brown, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Callahan, Cameron, Cass, Castro, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Concho, Cooke, Coryell, Crockett, Crosby, Culberson, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Dimmit, Duval, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fannin, Fayette, Fort Bend, Freestone, Frio, Gaines, Galveston, Garza, Gillespie, Glasscock, Goliad, Gonzales, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hale, Hamilton, Hardeman, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hill, Hood, Houston, Howard, Hudspeth, Hunt, Jack, Jackson, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Johnson, Karnes, Kaufman, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, King, Kleberg, Knox, La Salle, Lamb, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Llano, Madison, Marion, Martin, Mason, Matagorda, Maverick, McCulloch, McLennan, Medina, Menard, Midland, Milam, Mills, Mitchell, Montague, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Nolan, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Polk, Potter, Presidio, Randall, Reagan, Real, Red River, Reeves, Refugio, Robertson, Rockwall, Runnels, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, San Saba, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Shelby, Smith, Somervell, Starr, Stephens, Tarrant, Taylor, Terrell, Throckmorton, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Upton, Val Verde, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Ward, Washington, Wharton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Williamson, Wilson, Winkler, Wise, Yoakum, Young, Zapata, and Zavala Counties;

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, I do hereby declare a state of disaster in the previously listed counties based on the existence of such threat.

Pursuant to Section 418.017 of the Texas Government Code, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster.

Pursuant to Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code, any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or any order or rule of a state agency that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this disaster shall be suspended upon written approval of the Office of the Governor. However, to the extent that the enforcement of any state statute or administrative rule regarding contracting or procurement would impede any state agency's emergency response that is necessary to protect life or property threatened by this declared disaster, I hereby authorize the suspension of such statutes and rules for the duration of this declared disaster.

In accordance with the statutory requirements, copies of this proclamation shall be filed with the applicable authorities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto signed my name and have
officially caused the Seal of State to be

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
12:15 PM O'CLOCK

AUG 11 2023

Governor Greg Abbott
August 11, 2023

Proclamation
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affixed at my office in the City of
Austin, Texas, this the 11th day of
August, 2023.

Handwritten signature of Greg Abbott in black ink.

GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:

Handwritten signature of Jane Nelson in black ink.

JANE NELSON
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
12:15pm O'CLOCK

AUG 11 2023