

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF VAN ZANDT

**ORDER PROHIBITING THE OUTDOOR BURNING OF
COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS**

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court has determined that circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated areas of Van Zandt County create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning;

IT IS HEREBY **ORDERED** by the Commissioners Court of Van Zandt County that all outdoor burning is banned for 60 days in the unincorporated area of the County or until further consideration by the Van Zandt County Commissioners Court ordered this day on **August 10, 2026**.

This Order is adopted pursuant to Section 352.081 of the Texas Local Government Code, and other applicable statutes. Pursuant to said statute, 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: firefighter training, public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations, or planting or harvesting of agriculture crops or to outdoor burning activities 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.

It is further **ORDERED** that: 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, discarded cigarettes, outdoor cooking apparatus and materials used outdoors in activities such as welding and any other activity that could result in a fire.

Notwithstanding above, residential burning of household waste is permitted when contained in a metal barrel covered with a minimum one inch screen. Barrels must be placed in an area clear of grass and debris.

Notwithstanding above, welding is allowed by commercial/professional welders under the following guidelines **ONLY**: A spotter is required for each welder, each cutter, each grinder, and for any activity that causes or may cause a spark

All grass, leaves, brush and other easily combustible materials must be cleared within a minimum twenty-five (25) foot radius surrounding the area where the activity is to take place before any welding, cutting or grinding begins. 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. If the perimeter cannot be cleared of vegetation, proper precautionary measures must be taken (Example: protecting brush, etc, by utilizing fire resistant tarps).

A minimum of 100 gallons of water must be available on site. A minimum of one water pressure fire extinguisher per spotter is required.

Welding in an enclosed area or underground is acceptable.

No welding is permitted if winds are 10mph or greater or relative humidity is less than 30%.

Any welder or company conducting welding operations must, prior to activities, file with the Van Zandt County Sheriff's Office proof of effective liability insurance or be bonded in an amount of at least \$300,000.

Prior to ANY welding activity, a phone call shall be placed by the welder or company conducting welding operations to the Van Zandt County Sheriff's Department (903) 567-4133 and the local fire departments relaying the location of the project, cell phone for contact person, name of party responsible, and name of welder.

Notwithstanding above, agricultural burning is allowed under the following guidelines **ONLY**:

All grass, leaves, brush and other easily combustible materials must be cleared within a minimum twenty-five (25) foot radius surrounding the area where the activity is to take place before any agricultural burning begins. If the perimeter cannot be cleared of vegetation, proper precautionary measures must be taken (Example: protecting brush, etc, by utilizing fire resistant tarps).

Prior to ANY agricultural burning, a phone call shall be placed by the property owner to the Van Zandt County Sheriff's department (903) 567-4133 and the local fire department relaying the location of the project, cell phone for contact person, and name of party responsible.

Notwithstanding above, professional public firework displays **ONLY**:

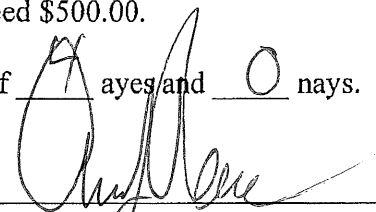
All professional firework displays may be operated with an approved site plan and review done by the Van Zandt County Fire Marshal and appropriate fee paid. The professional firework contractor shall remit fee to cover the cost associated with the Van Zandt County Fire Marshal or his designee to be on scene during the event. These costs shall be made to the County Clerk's Office of Van Zandt County. The professional firework display must present proof of liability insurance and have made contact with the local fire department to provide on-site coverage during the event.

No burning permitted hereunder shall be allowed if winds are 10 mph or greater or relative humidity is less than 30%.

It is **ORDERED** that the use of county equipment to help control fires on private property is hereby authorized when necessary to protect the public interest and safety.

In accordance with Section 352.081 of the Texas Local Government Code, a violation of this Order is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

Adopted this 10th day of August, 2026 by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.



Andy Reese
Van Zandt County Judge



Attest: Susan Strickland
Van Zandt County Clerk