

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF VAN  
ZANDT

FILED FOR RECORD

2026 FEB 11 PM 2:05

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

SUSAN STRICKLAND  
COURT CLERK  
BY DEPUTY

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 30 days in the unincorporated area of the County or until further consideration by the Van Zandt County Fire Marshal ordered this day on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 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 burning of combustible materials in an outdoor environment by any person is prohibited. Combustible materials include, but are not limited to, discarded cigarettes, natural vegetation such as grass, leaves and trees, and materials used outdoors in activities such as welding and any other activity that could result in a fire.

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. A "Hot Work" permit must be submitted to and approved by the Fire Marshals Office.

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.

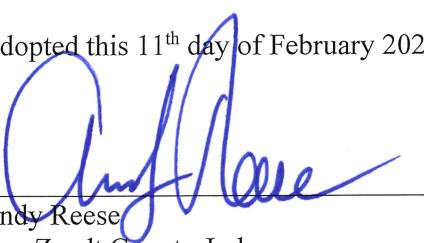
No welding is permitted if winds are 10mph or greater or relative humidity is less than 30%.

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

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.

Adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026 by vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

  
Andy Reese  
Van Zandt County Judge

Attest:

  
Susan Strickland  
Van Zandt County Clerk