

**ORDER OF THE MCLENNAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
PROHIBITING THE OUTDOOR BURNING IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF  
MCLENNAN COUNTY**

On this **2nd day of April, 2024**, came before the Court consideration of an Order Prohibiting Outdoor Burning in the Unincorporated Areas of McLennan County, Texas.

**WHEREAS**, the upcoming eclipse is expected to bring thousands of additional people to McLennan County; and

**WHEREAS**, it is expected that there will be highly attended events in the unincorporated areas of McLennan County; and

**WHEREAS**, it is expected that the majority of these events will have campfires or bonfires; and

**WHEREAS**, the sheer number of expected fires creates a significantly greater possibility of fires getting out of control and requiring emergency intervention; and

**WHEREAS**, the firefighting resources in the unincorporated areas are stretched thin as it is, and are not in a position to fight multiple fires in different areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the expected traffic congestion and possible blockages on rural roads could severely hinder response times; and

**WHEREAS**, the expected influx of people already creates a hazardous condition that is pushing public resources to their limits, and that condition would be exacerbated by a great number of fires being set.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, and after due consideration of same, **THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF MCLENNAN COUNTY HEREBY ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING ORDER**, to be effective immediately upon the passage of this order, and continuing through April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024:

**ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING  
IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF MCLENNAN COUNTY**

- A. Effective immediately, *outdoor burning is prohibited in all unincorporated areas of McLennan County, Texas*, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code 352.081.


For purposes of this Order, the term "Outdoor Burning" means:

1. All outdoor fires, including fires contained in a container or semi-enclosure, such as a barrel or hopper. (It does not include grills, barbeques, or smokers which are used to cook food and are fully covered and attended). Open grills, barbeques or smokers are **PROHIBITED**; AND
2. The non-business-related use of incendiary devices is **PROHIBITED**; AND
3. Shooting Tannerite targets or other exploding targets is **PROHIBITED**; AND
4. Non-business-use of any binary explosive such as Tannerite is **PROHIBITED**, AND
5. The use of welders or cutting torches is **PROHIBITED** unless the user has on hand adequate fire suppression equipment & personnel, specifically, this must include, as a minimum:
  - a) a 2A-20BC fire extinguisher, kept within 30 feet of any outdoor welding activity; AND
  - b) an individual to serve as a "fire monitor" during all welding activities with the monitor remaining on the scene for a minimum of 30 minutes after cessation of any outdoor welding activity.

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: (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, and meets the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code.

- B. In accordance with Local Government Code Section 352.081(h), a person commits an offense in the person violates the prohibition established by this Order. An offense under this Order, is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

**ADOPTED** and passed by the affirmative vote on this **2nd day of April, 2024**, by the **MCLENNAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**.

  
Scott M. Felton, County Judge

**ATTEST:**

J. A. "Andy" Harwell, County Clerk  
McLennan County, Texas

  
By: Deputy County Clerk