

STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF HIDALGO

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**ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING**

**WHEREAS**, the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court finds that circumstances present in all or part of Hidalgo County create a public safety hazard that would worsen by outdoor burning:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** by the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County that outdoor burning is restricted in the unincorporated area of the county to include any incorporated city that does not have its own fire suppression resources, and extra-territorial jurisdiction area and any property immediately adjacent to these areas for 90 days from the date of adoption of this Order, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service or this Court.

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 pipelines or mining operations; (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or, (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code;

And any burning of household trash will be allowed under the auspices of a "Burn Permit" issued by and at the discretion of the County Fire Marshal's Office. The burning of trash will be conducted within a recommended container with a lid and be supervised by a responsible party from ignition until extinguished.

This restriction does not apply to any outdoor cooking activities that take place within a cooking apparatus. Outdoor cooking fires will be supervised by a responsible party from ignition until extinguishment.

Outdoor burning of any kind is prohibited on any day when a "FIRE WATCH or RED-FLAG" weather advisory is issued by the National Weather Service. Notification of those days shall be via commercial news stations and the County's web-site.

In accordance with Local Government Code § 352.081(h), a violation of this order is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

**ADOPTED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021.**

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Richard F. Cortez, County Judge

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David L. Fuentes  
Commissioner, Precinct 1

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Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu  
Commissioner, Precinct 2

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Everardo "Ever" Villarreal  
Commissioner, Precinct 3

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Ellie Torres  
Commissioner, Precinct 4

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arturo Guajardo, Jr.  
County Clerk