

ORDER BANNING OPEN FIRES PROHIBITION OF OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, in accordance with provisions of Chapter 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the undersigned as County Judge of Panola County, Texas hereby finds and declares that a state of disaster exists in Panola County based on the imminent threat of disaster from wild fire; and

WHEREAS, declaration of such a disaster authorized the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of such fires; and

WHEREAS, the normal danger of fire in Panola County at this time is greatly enhanced by the unusual deficit in normal precipitation levels for Panola County at this time;

BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED that the following emergency regulations are hereby established for all unincorporated areas of Panola County, Texas, with this Order being in effect until further Order of the Commissioners' Court of Panola County, Texas;

- A. A person commits an offense if he or she burns any combustible material outside of an enclosure which serves to contain all flames and/or sparks, or orders such burning by others.
- B. An offense under this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine up to \$500.00.

BE IT ALSO ORDERED that this Order may be enforced by any duly commissioned peace officer and that the venue for prosecution of violations of this Order will be in Panola County, Texas.

BE IT ALSO ORDERED that the purpose of this Order is the mitigation of the hazard posed by wild fires during the current dry weather by curtailing the practice of outdoor burning, which purpose is to be taken into account in any enforcement action based upon this Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Order is entered this 31st day of January, 2018 at 9:15 o'clock a.m.



Lee Ann Jones, County Judge