



STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF HARDIN §

**CONTINUATION OF DECLARATION OF DISASTER
AND
ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING**

WHEREAS, the Hardin County Commissioners Court met in Regular Session at 10:00AM on March 10, 2026 in the Commissioners Courtroom, Hardin County Courthouse, located in Kountze, Texas; and

WHEREAS, due to current drought, dry fuels, and weather conditions on the 3rd day of March, 2026, Hardin County, Texas was in imminent threat of large and dangerous wildfires with the potential to spread quickly, endanger lives, and cause large scale property damage, creating a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; and

WHEREAS, a local disaster declaration was proclaimed by Hardin County Judge Wayne McDaniel on March 3, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Hardin County Commissioners Court finds that severe drought conditions continue to exist in all unincorporated areas of Hardin County; and

WHEREAS, the Hardin County Judge hereby requests the Commissioners Court of Hardin County, Texas to continue the Declaration of Disaster and Order Restricting Outdoor Burning for a period of forty-five (45) days; and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all outdoor burning of trash, brush, trees, vegetation, or debris is prohibited in all unincorporated areas of Hardin County for forty-five (45) days from the date of this Order, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based upon a determination by this Court or the County Judge.

Outdoor burning activity related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is not prohibited.

Outdoor burning of vegetative material when such burning is performed in accordance with a prescribed plan which addresses the useful nature of such activity, such as natural resource management as described by the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service is not prohibited.

In accordance with Section 352.081(h) of the Local Government Code, a VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CLASS C MISDEMEANOR, PUNISHABLE BY A FINE NOT TO EXCEED **\$500.00**

This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance, shall be promptly publicized, and filed with the Hardin County Clerk.

ORDERED this 10th day of March, 2026



**Wayne McDaniel, County Judge
Hardin County, Texas**



FILED FOR RECORD

03/10/2026 11:31am

BY: *Connie Becton*