

Proclamation declaring May National Wildfire Awareness Month

Whereas National Wildfire Awareness Month dedicates the entire month of May to prevention and preparedness for wildfire safety. The causes of wildfires can occur in every state, and as mobile as our lifestyles have become, we each need to be prepared; and

Whereas recent weather trends for Hidalgo County have wound up in wet summers and dry winters, perfect conditions for fire. The Hidalgo County Fire Marshal's Office offers tips for outdoor burning and is in charge of issuing burn permits; and

Whereas residential brush burning will be permitted, but only with a burn permit issued by the County Fire Marshal's Office. The restriction does not ban outdoor cooking that takes place within a cooking apparatus — grill, pit, etc. Outdoor burning of any kind is prohibited on any day when "FIRE WATCH" or "RED FLAG" warning weather advisory is issued by the National Weather Service. This burn ban can be revoked at any time should conditions improve; and

Whereas according to the National Interagency Fire Center, humans cause an average of 68% of fires per year in the United States. Of those human-started fires, 2.8 million acres burn each year. According to United States Congressional Research Service, in 2021, an estimated 59,000 wildfires burned 7.1 million acres in the U.S.

Now therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby declares the month of May as National Wildfire Awareness Month and encourages the public to stay connected with the Hidalgo County Fire Marshal's Office for information about fire safety, prevention and/or education.

Approved this 17th day of May, 2022.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk