

STATE OF TEXAS

§

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

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§

**ORDER PROHIBITING CERTAIN FIREWORKS
IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS**

WHEREAS, the Texas Forest Service has determined that drought conditions exist in Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, on the 14th day of December, 2010, the Commissioners Court of Williamson County has determined that the normal danger of fire in the unincorporated areas of Williamson County is greatly enhanced by the extremely dry conditions now existing;

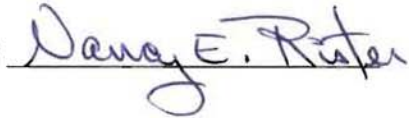
NOW, THEREFORE, the Commissioners Court of Williamson County adopts this Order prohibiting the sale or use of restricted fireworks in the unincorporated areas of Williamson County.

- A. No person may sell, detonate, ignite, or in any way use fireworks classified under 49 C.F.R. part. 173.100(r)(2) (10-1-86 edition), as "skyrockets with sticks" and "missiles with fins" in any portion of the unincorporated area of Williamson County.
- B. This Order does not prohibit:
 - 1. common fireworks, small in size classified as Class C explosives;
 - 2. large fireworks devices designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion, deflagration, or detonation and classified as Class B explosive by the U.S. Dept. of Trans. [TEX. OCC. CODE, Chapter 2154].
- C. A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or intentionally violates a prohibition established by this Order. An offense under this order is a Class C. Misdemeanor.

APPROVED THIS THE 14th DAY OF December, 2010, BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT.


COUNTY JUDGE

Attest:


Dana E. Ruter

SUBCHAPTER C. FIREWORKS

Sec. 352.051. REGULATION OF RESTRICTED FIREWORKS.

(a) For the purposes of this section the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Restricted fireworks" means only those items classified under 49 C.F.R. Sec. 173.100(r)(2) (10-1-86 edition), as "skyrockets with sticks" and "missiles with fins".

(2) "Drought conditions" means the existence immediately preceding or during the fireworks season of a Keetch-Byram Drought Index of 575 or greater.

(b)(1) The Texas Forest Service in the ordinary course of its activities shall determine whether drought conditions, as defined under Subsection (a)(2), exist on average in any county requesting such a determination. The Texas Forest Service shall make available the measurement index guidelines used to determine whether drought conditions exist in a particular area. Following any determination that such drought conditions exist, the Texas Forest Service shall notify said county or counties when such drought conditions no longer exist. The Texas Forest Service shall make its services available each day during the Fourth of July and December fireworks seasons to respond to the request of any county for a determination

whether drought conditions exist on average in the county.

(2) The Texas Forest Service shall be allowed to take such donations of equipment or funds as necessary to aid in the carrying out of this section.

(c) Upon a determination under this section that drought conditions exist on average in a specified county, the commissioners court of the county by order may prohibit or restrict the sale or use of restricted fireworks in the unincorporated area of the county. In addition, during the December fireworks season, the commissioners court of a county by order may restrict or prohibit the sale or use of restricted fireworks in specified areas when conditions on rural acreage in the county not under cultivation for a period of at least 12 months are determined to be extremely hazardous for the danger of fire because of high grass or dry vegetation.

(d) To facilitate compliance with an order adopted under Subsection (c), the order must be adopted before:

(1) April 25 of each year for the Cinco de Mayo fireworks season;

(2) June 15 of each year for the Fourth of July fireworks season; and

(3) December 15 of each year for each December fireworks season.

(e) An order issued under this section shall expire upon determination as provided under Subsection (b) that such drought conditions no longer exist.

(f) When a county issues an order restricting or prohibiting the sale or use of restricted fireworks under this section, the county may designate one or more areas of appropriate size and accessibility in the county as safe areas where the use of restricted fireworks is not prohibited, and the legislature encourages a county to designate such an area for that purpose. The safe area may be provided by the county, a municipality within the county, or an individual, business, or corporation. A safe area may be designated in and provided in the geographic area of the regulatory jurisdiction of a municipality if the activity conducted in the safe area is authorized by general law or a municipal regulation or ordinance. An area is considered safe if adequate public safety and fire protection services are provided to the area. A county, municipality, individual, business, or corporation is not liable for injuries or damages resulting from the designation, maintenance, or use of the safe area.

(g) A person selling any type of fireworks, including restricted fireworks, in a county that has adopted an order under Subsection (c) shall, at every location at which the

person sells fireworks in the county, provide reasonable notice of the order and reasonable notice of any location designated under Subsection (f) as a safe area.

(h) An affected party is entitled to injunctive relief to prevent the violation or threatened violation of a requirement or prohibition established by an order adopted under this section.

(i) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or intentionally violates a prohibition established by an order issued under this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor.

(j) A civil action against a county based on the county's actions under this section must be brought in the appropriate court in that county.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 865, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1991. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 500, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 28, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1399, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1244, Sec. 1 to 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1999. Renumbered from Sec. 240.904 by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1420, Sec. 12.004, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1179, Sec. 7, eff. June 15, 2007.