



**PRESS RELEASE FROM JUDGE JOHN FIRTH
CORYELL COUNTY**

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 29, 2009

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**OUTDOOR BURN BAN FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF CORYELL COUNTY
EFFECTIVE JUNE 29, 2009**

GATESVILLE, TEXAS – Effective June 29, 2009, at 11:00 a.m., a Coryell County burn ban is imposed for up to 90 days. The drought index for Coryell County has climbed significantly over the past month and along with an excessive amount of dried vegetation available as fuel, a burn ban is required to mitigate the likelihood of risk to lives and property.

The following are exceptions for outdoor burning activities related to agricultural purposes and public health/safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality:

1. Household trash burned in a barrel with a screen on top
2. Barbecue pits for cooking
3. Firefighter training
4. Public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations and other professional welding with the requirement that a “spotter” is on-site with a sufficient water source to extinguish a fire.
5. Planting or harvesting of agricultural crops
6. Burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under the Natural Resources Code

Citizens authorized by the State to conduct prescribed burns are asked to contact the County Sheriff’s office to alert them that a burn will be conducted and as an added safety measure, are asked not to start prescribed burns if the winds are at or expected to exceed sixteen (16) miles per hour.

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