



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

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 8, 2008  
CONTACT: JUDGE FIRTH (254) 865- 5911, EXT 2222**

**OUTDOOR BURN BAN AND PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN FIREWORKS FOR THE  
UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF CORYELL COUNTY  
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 8, 2008**

**GATESVILLE, TEXAS** – Effective December 8, 2008, at sunset, a Coryell County burn ban is imposed for up to ninety days for unincorporated areas of Coryell County. 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 and higher than normal winds and lower than normal humidity expected over the next week, a burn ban is required to mitigate the likelihood of risk to lives and property. The standard exceptions for outdoor burning activities related to agricultural purposes and public health/safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality remain valid reasons for burning. Citizens authorized 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.

On December 8, 2008, the Coryell County Commissioners' Court approved an order prohibiting the sale or use of restricted fireworks during the December fireworks season in unincorporated areas of Coryell County stating that "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 port of the unincorporated area of Coryell County."

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