



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

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 1, 2008  
CONTACT: JUDGE FIRTH (254) 865- 5911, EXT 222**

**OUTDOOR BURN BAN FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF CORYELL COUNTY  
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2008**

**GATESVILLE, TEXAS** – Effective December 1, 2008, at 11:00 a.m., a Coryell County burn ban is imposed until sunset on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. 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 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 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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