

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

We have been praying for rain. This county is desperately dry. That is why I issued an emergency declaration restricting fireworks in this county, and the Atascosa Commissioner's Court approved and extended it to July 13. Some of the language is:

A.) A person may not sell, detonate, ignite, or in any way use fireworks classified as "skyrockets with sticks" under 49 C.F.R. part. 173.100(r)(2) (10-01- 86 edition) or missiles with fins in any portion of the unincorporated areas of Atascosa County.

B.) This Order does not prohibit "permissible fireworks" as authorized in Occupations Code Section 2154.003(a). 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.

D.) This Order expires on the date the Texas Forest Service determines drought conditions no longer exist in the county or July 13, 2022, whichever is earlier.

Please, do not use ANY fireworks in any area where grass or buildings might be ignited. Be very careful. This is a good year to find an alternative for fireworks. The name indicates the risk. I pray that every citizen will comply with these requests and that law enforcement closely monitors possible violations. I ask the cities to make a special effort to monitor fireworks violations and protect the citizens from the threat of fires. Our fire departments are exhausted from putting out grass fires that have threatened farms, livestock and homes. The fire departments all over the county are extraordinary public servants, and we thank them for their service. May God bless Atascosa County and all its residents.