

# Outdoor Cooking

## **Guidelines for Outdoor Cooking during a Burn Ban**

Many Wise County residents are rightfully concerned about how a burn ban affects their plans to cook outdoors. The Wise County Fire Marshal's Office urges all residents to use common sense when handling flammable materials during a burn ban. Below are a few guidelines to follow for outdoor cooking:

- Gas grills are the safest outdoor cooking option. Please keep the flames covered during the operation of your gas grill.
- If you want to use a charcoal or wood-burning grill, it must be placed on a concrete, gravel or dirt surface at least five (5) feet from any combustible materials. Please keep the cover on the grill during use.
- Smokers can be used if they are placed on a concrete, gravel, or dirt surface at least five feet from combustible materials. Keep the flames covered during use.
- Be sure to have a water source, i.e. a bucket of water or a garden hose, nearby in case of emergencies.

Should you have further questions regarding cooking outdoors during the burn ban, please contact the Wise County Fire Marshal's Office at 940-627-5870 or email [firemarshal@co.wise.tx.us](mailto:firemarshal@co.wise.tx.us)

## Outdoor Welding Guidelines

### **OUTDOOR WELDING GUIDELINES DURING THE BAN ON OUTDOOR BURNING**

Where welding must be performed in the field, the following mitigating efforts will be in force until the Ban on Outdoor Burning has expired:

1. All areas where welding, cutting or grinding operations are being performed will be free of vegetation or at least 25 feet in all directions;
2. Surface around welding area will be wetted down;
3. Wind speeds must be no more than 15 miles per hour while performing welding, cutting or grinding operations outside of barriers or enclosures;
4. A dedicated fire watch person will attend each welder, cutter, grinder and any activity that causes a spark;
5. A minimum of one water pressure fire extinguisher per fire watch person is required;
6. Each site will have cellular telephone communications for emergency response;
7. All welding, cutting and grinding operations may be performed in a total welding enclosure or "welding box" that is sufficiently high to control sparks and includes a fire retardant cover over the top. Wind speeds must not exceed 30 miles per hour while utilizing an enclosure;
  1. Where welding (above ground and sub-surface) is required in an area where there is a potential for a hazardous atmosphere, barriers will be substituted for total enclosures (e.g. "wind walls") to prevent sparks from coming in contact with any combustible material;
  2. The barriers will be installed to allow ventilation of the work area with ingress and egress to the work area for personnel safety;
  3. Sub-surface or "bell hole" welding and grinding operations within approved excavations are allowed if all other mitigation efforts are included;
8. If an emergency exists where welding has to be performed, the Fire Marshal may issue a temporary exception to the order.