



DIWALI FIREWORKS PERIOD

(OCTOBER 23-MIDNIGHT, OCTOBER 22)

DEADLINE TO ADOPT ORDER: OCTOBER 3, 2025

Occupations Code, §2154.202(h), permits the commissioners court to adopt an order authorizing the sale of fireworks for Diwali (October 18 – 22).

If the court decides to permit the sale of fireworks during the Diwali period, the order must be adopted before October 3. If the court does not wish to permit the sale of fireworks during this period, no action is required.

Please note the distinction between this law (Occupations Code, §2154.202(h)), which **allows** the commissioners court at its **discretion** to **permit** fireworks sales for the holiday period and the other law (Local Government Code, §352.051) which **requires** the court to take action to **restrict** or **prohibit** sales during certain times of the year if drought conditions are present.

To assist the court in determining whether conditions are suitable for authorizing the sale of fireworks, the Texas A&M Forest Service is required to make its services available each day during the Diwali period to respond to the request of a county as to whether or not drought conditions exist. To obtain a determination from the Texas A&M Forest Service, call (979) 458-7331.

If the court decides to adopt such an order for Diwali, it may **restrict or prohibit** the sale of "restricted fireworks," which are defined as "skyrockets with sticks" and as "missiles with fins." A violation of the order is a Class C misdemeanor. Also, a citizen may file suit for an injunction to prevent a violation or threatened violation of the order.

Under Local Government Code §352.051(f), the county may also designate one or more "safe" areas where the use of restricted fireworks is not prohibited. In determining if an area may be considered "safe" the court should take into account whether adequate public safety and fire protection services are provided to the area.

A copy of Local Government Code §352.051, and the portions of the Occupations Code that define and explain permitted and prohibited fireworks, are available online at county.org/fireworks. A sample order authorizing the sale of fireworks during this period is provided on the following page. If your court decides to designate "safe" areas, the sample order will need to be modified to include appropriate language. If you have any questions, please contact the TAC Legal Department at (888) 275-8224.