



Bexar County Fire Marshal

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Bexar County Commissioners Court Approves Burn Ban

On Aug. 20, 2019, Bexar County Commissioners Court approved a ban on outdoor burning in unincorporated Bexar County that went into effect immediately.

“Without any recent substantial rainfall, the vegetation from this spring has become an excellent source of fuel for fires,” stated Bexar County Fire Marshal Chris Lopez. “This burn ban not only helps to reduce the amount of grass fires out in the county, but potentially protects property and loss of life. I urge all residents to remove sources of fuel, such as dry brush piles, in an effort to keep our community safe.”

He noted tall grasses, heavy fuel loads, changeable temperatures, high wind speeds, and humid conditions as the primary environmental factors that necessitated the ban.

Additionally, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index, an indicator of fire potential on a scale of 0 to 800 with the highest range representing the driest conditions has consistently shown high readings for Bexar County, with readings of up to 622, in certain areas of Bexar County. The usual range for Bexar County is from 436 to 655.

Under the ban, residents are restricted to burning household waste in burn barrels with metal wire mesh screens that prevent the spread of sparks and flames. This is the sole scenario in which domestic burning will be allowed. The order prohibits all other outdoor burning unless authorized by the County Fire Marshal, or burning for firefighting training; public utility, natural gas pipeline and mining operations; or harvesting of agricultural crops.

A violation of the burn ban is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500, and is hereby effective beginning Aug. 20, with a lifespan of 90 days, or until Bexar County Commissioners’ Court or Fire Marshal’s Office determines that a public safety hazard no longer exists.

For more information on wildfire risk and outdoor burning guidelines, please visit <https://www.bexar.org/630/Fire-Marshal>.

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