



Bexar County Fire Marshal

622 Dolorosa
San Antonio, Texas 78207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 26, 2016

Contact: Laura Jesse,
210.787.9038/m

Bexar County under burn ban

Commissioners Court approved a ban on outdoor burning in unincorporated Bexar County that goes into effect immediately. The ban expires on Oct. 23 unless conditions improve before then and the ban can be lifted.

Fire Marshal Chris Lopez noted that heavy fuel loads from abundant spring rains, high temperatures, and wind speeds along with changing humidity are conditions that increase the risk of brush fire. These conditions could be exacerbated by outdoor burning.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index is an indicator of fire potential on a scale of 0 to 800 with the highest range representing the driest conditions. As of Monday, July 25, the KBDI range for Bexar County is from 574 to 607, with a countywide average of 512. The Texas Forest Service's 14-day forecast projects an increase to 607 for the countywide average.

Furthermore, the Fire Marshal's Office recorded 24 grass fires in the month of June and 95 grass fires so far in July.

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. The order prohibits all other outdoor burning unless authorized by the County Fire Marshal, or burning for firefighting training; public utility, natural gas pipeline or 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.

###