



Bexar County Fire Marshal

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Burn ban in effect for unincorporated Bexar County

At the recommendation of Bexar County Fire Marshal Ross Coleman, Commissioners Court on Tuesday authorized restrictions on outdoor burning for the next 90 days.

Under the ban, residents in unincorporated Bexar County are prohibited from outdoor burning except when authorized by the Fire Marshal or in the event the ban is lifted by Commissioners Court. Other exceptions include firefighting training; public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; harvesting of agricultural crops and burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager.

Despite the wet spring, Bexar County has not experienced measurable rainfall in more than 20 days, and the extremely hot temperatures increase the risk of wildland fires, Coleman told Commissioners Court. As of Tuesday, the average Keetch-Byram Drought Index for Bexar County was 609. The index ranges from 0 to 800, with the highest end representing the driest soil and air conditions. The KBDI, which the Texas Forest Service uses to relate weather conditions to potential fire behavior, must be 575 or higher for a burn ban to be enacted.

Violators of the ban could face a class C misdemeanor charge with a fine up to \$500.