



# Bexar County Fire Marshal

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**July 16, 2020**

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## **Bexar County Commissioners Court Approves Burn Ban**

*Burn ban goes into effect immediately through October 15.*

On July 16, 2020, the Bexar County Commissioners Court approved a ban on outdoor burning in unincorporated areas of the County, which went into effect immediately.

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 been increasing since June 30, from 398.24 to the current 566.

“As a comparison, for the entire month of June there were 26 reported grass fires within the County – for July, there has already been more than 60 responses to grass fires,” stated Bexar County Fire Marshal Chris Lopez. “Without substantial rainfall, conditions are favorable for these types of fires. I urge the public to stay in accordance with the burn ban to avoid any possible loss of life and property.”

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 immediately, 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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