



Travis County Fire Marshal's Office

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Burn Ban continues for Travis County

The Travis County Commissioners Court voted this morning to continue the ban on outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of the County.

"The fine fuels (grasses) are dormant and cured and can ignite very easily," explained Travis County Fire Marshal Hershel Lee. "Fire spreads rapidly when it comes in contact with fine fuels. With the dry North winds that we receive in Central Texas this time of year, these fine fuels also dry very quickly. The relative humidity in our area is expected to drop as low as 15 percent in the next two days, increasing the risk for fire."

The burn ban is scheduled to expire on February 19, unless action is taken by the County Judge, Commissioners Court or Fire Marshal. The previous burn ban went into effect on January 21 and was set to expire February 19. Next Tuesday, February 4, commissioners are scheduled to again consider and take appropriate action on outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of the County.

This ban on outdoor burning does not affect a prescribed burn under the supervision of a prescription burn manager. It also does not affect outdoor hot work when done under the guidelines established by the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office. Prescription burn managers and those in need of outdoor hot work permits must contact the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office or the fire department in whose jurisdiction the work will be done.

Barbecuing in Travis County Parks and Parks managed by the County is allowed as long as the fire is within a closeable container or a container with a lid. You should also have water nearby in case the fire spreads. Call 911 immediately if a fire gets out of control.

If you have questions about the burn ban, please call the Fire Marshal's Office at 512-854-4621, or contact your local fire department.

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Media: Please call the Fire Marshal's Office for interviews or questions at 512-854-4621.