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County burn ban lifted

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NEW BRAUNFELS — After three months, outdoor burning in unincorporated Comal County is once again allowed after County Judge Sherman Krause lifted the burn ban this morning, although gusty winds mean residents should wait to do so until calmer conditions prevail.

On Friday the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI), which measures soil dryness, dropped below 500, the threshold at which the burn bans are typically implemented. As of 10 a.m., it had fallen to 265 after at least 1.5 inches of rain fell countywide overnight, with some areas receiving more than 5 inches.

"Last night's rain was the kind of soaking we desperately needed," said Comal County Fire Marshal Kory Klabunde. "However, even though the county's burn ban is lifted, state law prohibits burning when wind speeds are over 23 mph, so we urge residents to wait until the winds calm down this weekend."

The ban was lifted at 10:20 a.m. Friday; Commissioners Court first enacted it July 26 and extended it Oct. 17.

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