



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Caution, common sense urged while using fireworks

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NEW BRAUNFELS — Comal County remains under a burn ban, which means residents should exercise extreme caution if shooting fireworks during the New Year’s holiday, said county Fire Marshal Kory Klabunde.

As of Thursday morning, the average Keetch-Byram Drought Index for Comal County was 518, above the 500-point threshold at which Commissioners Court typically implements a ban on outdoor burning

“Fireworks pose fire and injury risks at the best of times,” Klabunde said, “and those setting them off should always exercise care, courtesy and common sense. With the ground still dry and not much moisture this fall, the potential for a grassfire is very high.”

Although outdoor burning is prohibited under a burn ban, fireworks are allowed under state law unless a county declares a disaster because of drought conditions.

Klabunde encourages residents to mow their grass, wet down the area where they plan to use fireworks, and have water sources ready to quickly extinguish any fires. Also, he recommended that residents use common sense and courtesy as neighbors may be veterans or have pets sensitive to the noise.

When using fireworks, residents should:

- Keep an eye on small children;
- Be courteous to neighbors, especially veterans and those with pets for whom loud noises could be problematic;
- Make sure all embers and packaging are fully extinguished before throwing them away;
- Pick up trash and keep public areas clean for others to enjoy; and
- Use caution around dead grass and have a water source nearby.

“Essentially, we ask that Comal County residents be good neighbors and use common sense to keep themselves, their family and their communities safe,” Klabunde said. “That’s the best way to make

sure everyone has a happy holiday.”

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