



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Burn ban to take effect Friday morning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JULY 9, 2020:

NEW BRAUNFELS — Because of increasingly dry conditions, the Comal County Commissioners Court on Thursday implemented a ban on outdoor burning.

Under the restrictions, no open flames are allowed outdoors – including trash burning, campfires and torches, among others. Residents may use a barbecue pit with an open flame for cooking purposes only if the grill has a lid and is set off the ground. Welders are encouraged to use a spotter for any outdoor welding and to keep a water source nearby.

As of Thursday, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) this week is at 551, well above the 500-point threshold at which the Commissioners Court typically implements a burn ban. Every 100 points of the KBDI is roughly equivalent to an inch of dry soil depth.

In recent days, calls to emergency services for non-controlled fires have been increasing across the county, said Fire Marshal Kory Klabunde.

“A lot of the vegetation that grew during the spring has now died or gone dormant because of the recent hot and dry weather, and the weather forecast indicates the heat is only going to get worse,” he said. “The current conditions are not safe to have an open flame outside.”

The burn ban takes effect at 6 a.m. Friday, July 10, and lasts for 90 days or until the fire danger recedes. More information is available on the Fire Marshal Office’s webpage, mycomalcounty.com/Fire_Marshal.htm, and Facebook page, facebook.com/ComalCountyFireMarshalsOffice.

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