People and their actions cause over 90% of all wildfires in Texas.

BEFORE BURNING,
CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:
- Local Dispatch
- Sheriff’s Office
- Local Fire Department
- Texas A&M Forest Service

BE PREPARED
TO PROVIDE DETAILS FOR:
- Burn location
- Burn duration
- Estimated size
- Onsite contact person
- Gate code

Contact information:
Gillespie County
Communications
830-990-8793 (Option # 1)

Brought to you in cooperation with
Texas A&M Forest Service
Guidance

**FIRE WEATHER WATCHES**
The National Weather Service will issue a “FireWeather Watch” to alert fire control officials and the public to the possible development of Red Flag conditions in a particular area or region in the near future (up to 72 hours in advance).

**RED FLAG WARNINGS**
Red Flag Warnings are issued when expected fuel (vegetation) and weather conditions will increase the likelihood of escaped control fires and rapid rates of spread of existing wildfires.

Texas Penal Code

**BURNING OFFENSES**

- **Arson:** Chapter 28 (sec. 28.02) Arson, criminal mischief, and other property damage or destruction - A person commits a violation if he starts a fire or causes an explosion with intent to destroy or damage any vegetation, fence or structure on open space land.

- **Reckless Damage or Destruction:** Chapter 28 (sec. 28.04) Reckless damage or destruction - A person commits a crime if he recklessly allows his fire to damage or destroy someone else's property.

Predictive Services

**ASSESSMENT & MONITORING**
TAMFS continually analyzes current and predicted weather conditions, wildfire occurrence, and availability of vegetative fuels throughout the year to maintain a continual assessment of wildfire risk at the state, regional, and local level.

**BURN BANS**
During periods of drought and/or high wildfire danger, a county judge or commissioner’s court may enact a burn ban to protect the public and prevent human-caused wildfires.

SAFE DEBRIS BURNING

- Check with your local fire department before burning.
- Choose a location away from trees, power lines, or structures.
- Place a metal barrel on bricks, gravel, or dirt.
- Cover with a metal screen with ¼ inch openings to prevent flying embers.
- Equally space three vents to create a hotter fire with less smoke.
- Keep debris piles small and manageable, no wider than 4 feet.
- Maintain at least 10 feet clearing around the pile.
- Wet the area around the burn pile.
- Never leave fire unattended.
- Have water available.

General Requirements for Burning

**WEATHER**
- Winds must be from six to 23 miles per hour during the burning period.
- Burning during temperature inversions or air stagnation advisories is prohibited.
- Burn only when wind direction or weather conditions will not present a hazard to any public road, landing strip, or navigable water.

**DO BURN**
- Downwind of any neighboring structure that contains sensitive receptors.
- Only outside the corporate limits of a city or town.

**DON’T BURN**
- electrical insulation
- treated lumber
- plastics
- construction materials
- heavy oils
- asphalt materials
- explosive materials
- chemical wastes
- items containing natural or synthetic rubber

**HOURS TO BURN**
Begin burning no earlier than one hour after sunrise, end it the same day, and no later than one hour before sunset.

For more information: