



**COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

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Burn ban to take effect Friday morning

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NEW BRAUNFELS — The Comal County Commissioners Court on Thursday implemented the county's ban on outdoor burning, citing increasingly dry conditions and a rising number of grass- and brushfires.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) reached 545 on Wednesday, above the 500 threshold at which the Commissioners Court typically considers implementing the burn ban. Every 100 points of the KBDI is roughly equivalent to an inch of dry soil depth.

Under the burn ban, no open flames are allowed outdoors, including trash burning, campfires and other unattended open flames. Residents may barbecue with an open flame if the grill has a lid and is set off the ground. Welders are encouraged to use a spotter for any outdoor welding and keep a water source nearby.

In recent days, more than two dozen non-controlled fires have been reported to emergency services across the county, said Fire Marshal Kory Klabunde.

“We continue to remind everyone to be aware that the vegetation, which grew so much because of the rain this spring, is now dry and easy to catch fire,” he said. “It’s no longer safe to have an open flame outside with the hot and dry weather we’ve had this summer.”

The burn ban takes effect at 6 a.m. Friday, Aug. 7, and lasts for 90 days. 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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