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Burn ban to take effect Friday morning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JULY 6, 2017:

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

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

Under the restrictions, no open flames are allowed outdoors – including trash burning, campfires and torches, among others. 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 to keep a water source nearby.

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

“The rain we had this spring helped has led to a lot of vegetation, which is now very dry,” 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 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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