



Montgomery County Fire Danger Update

Outdoor Burning

At the present time the ban on residential outdoor burning has been lifted. All other burning, including land clearing operations, must follow the Outdoor Burning Regulations as promulgated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Montgomery County is classified by the TCEQ as a "non-attainment" status for air quality. In general all burning is prohibited, unless it meets one of the exceptions found in the outdoor burning rules. For more information go to our website and look under "Outdoor Burning" for a copy of the TCEQ rules. You may also contact TCEQ for further guidance. The ban on burning garbage or rubbish remains in effect year round and cannot be lifted. Burning of rubbish or household garbage in subdivisions or on less than 5 acres is a Class C Misdemeanor with a fine up to \$500.

Fireworks

There are no fireworks restrictions planned for this season in unincorporated Montgomery County. All fireworks are prohibited in the Woodlands Township and most Cities in Montgomery County. For information on restrictions in a particular city or town, please contact your local City Hall.

Precautions for the Winter Fire Season

The Montgomery County Fire Marshal's Office will continue to monitor changing conditions and issue warnings whenever conditions warrant. As we move into our winter fire season, daily changes in the weather will directly impact our local fire danger. During the winter, our fire danger can rise dramatically when "Red Flag" conditions are present, coupled with dead vegetation due to winter freezes.

"Red Flag" Warnings are issued when winds in excess of 15 to 20 mph are accompanied by relative humidity levels below 25%. These conditions are most likely after the passage of a strong cold front, and may be preceded by a "Fire Weather Watch". The National Weather Service issues a "Fire Weather Watch" whenever Red Flag conditions are likely to occur within 24 hours.

In the event that a "Fire Weather Watch" or "Red Flag Warning" is issued, residents are urged to refrain from outdoor burning or shooting off fireworks until the high fire danger has passed. Red Flag conditions generally will last from 24 to 48 hours during the Winter fire season.

Always check before burning to insure that there is not a Burn Ban in place for your area and that no weather warnings have been issued. Brush piles may not contain any rubbish or trash, and should only contain limbs gathered from the property where the burning is occurring. The burning may not cause a nuisance situation for neighbors. Please consider mulching or composting of leaves instead of burning them, as burning leaves are a significant source of air pollution and frequently lead to a number of nuisance complaints this time of year.

For more information and daily updates please sign up on our facebook page.

<http://www.facebook.com/MCFMO>

Additional information is available on our website as well. www.mctx.org/fire

Look under "Outdoor Burning" for the TCEQ guidelines in both English and Spanish, page 6 applies specifically to Montgomery County.

http://www.mctx.org/departments_d-k/departments_e/fire_marshall/outdoor_burning.html