

Press Release

Restrictions on Outdoor Burning and Certain Aerial Fireworks to Take Effect Wednesday in unincorporated Montgomery County

Current drought condition has County Officials asking all residents to take steps now to reduce risks of property damage and injuries from wildfires.

Conroe, Tx June 23rd, 2009; Montgomery County is currently experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions throughout the County. The current average Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI) reading is 595 while some areas in the County are at levels as high as 628. These conditions lead to an increased risk of wildfires due to the lack of moisture in ground cover fuels such as brush, pine straw and grasses.

As the average KBDI reading is now above the 575 level, the restriction on skyrockets and missile fireworks will be in effect as previously ordered by Commissioner's Court. In addition, The Montgomery County Fire Marshal's Office is calling for a Ban on Outdoor Burning in Montgomery County. Both of these restrictions will take effect on Wednesday June 24th. Three Montgomery County residents have been seriously injured during recent incidents involving outdoor burning, and Montgomery County firefighters have been responding to an increasing number of wildfires as this drought intensifies.

The goal of these restrictions is to reduce the risks of property damage and injuries from wildfires. Fire Officials are stressing the importance of education and prevention first, however violation of the restrictions is a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

The restrictions do not affect professional public fireworks displays, nor do they limit the sale or use of most ground based aerial fireworks. They are specifically aimed at skyrockets and missiles as those aerial fireworks are most difficult to control and more likely to land while still ignited.

For more information contact this office or go to our website.

<http://www.mctx.org/fire>