



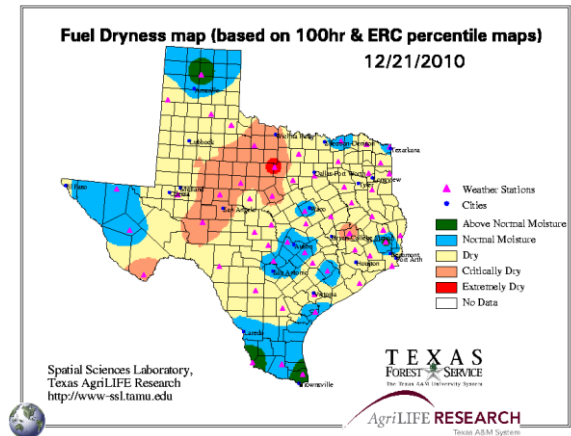
December 22, 2010



**THREAT OF HIGH FIRE DANGER  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*This cautionary statement is based on information  
provided by the Texas Forest Service*

Governor Rick Perry has issued a proclamation certifying that 244 counties, including Harris County, are currently threatened by extreme wildfire danger. Lack of precipitation has dried grass and other vegetation across the state and poses a significant fire danger. This declaration directs that measures be taken to address the current fire danger situation. According to the Texas Forest Service, this proclamation allows the State to ramp up for potential fire response across the State. HCFMO is assisting the Forest Service to coordinate local fire resources for possible deployment to other parts of the state.



Although the observed fire danger and fire danger predictors currently published by the Texas Forest Service indicate low to moderate conditions for Harris County, the Governor’s proclamation recognizes a larger threat throughout our region and the State. Local conditions can change rapidly with the passage of cold fronts and freezing conditions. Given the possibility of large fires and limited State resources, HCFMO will continue to monitor fire conditions closely and may recommend consideration of a county burn ban at some point in the future.

**Even though a burn ban has not been ordered for Harris County, the public is asked to use extreme caution when burning outdoors or using fireworks and to follow these safety tips:**

- **Listen for “Red Flag” warnings.** DO NOT burn outdoors or use fireworks in windy conditions. Use extreme caution when cooking outdoors. A small spark or burning ember can ignite dry vegetation. Winds will fan the flames and spread the fire rapidly.
- **Limit outdoor burning** to enclosures which contains all flames and/or sparks, and remove combustibles all combustibles, including dried grass or other vegetation, within 30 feet of any controlled fire or hot work. A small, controlled fire can easily spread quickly and become an out-of-control, dangerous fire.
- If you see an unattended fire, **call 9-1-1 and notify your local fire department immediately.** Even a small fire can spread quickly and threaten people and houses.
- **Celebrate the holiday responsibly.** Remember that you are responsible for any damage caused by a fire you start, including those caused by fireworks. Reckless damage is a Class “C” misdemeanor, punishable for up to a \$500 fine.

**Harris County Fire Conditions:**

- Watches, Warnings, and Advisories: None
- Observed fire danger: Moderate
- Forecast fire danger: Low to Moderate
- Observed fuel dryness: Dry
- Forecast fuel dryness: Normal, west of I-45/Hwy 288  
Dry, east of I-45/288
- Observed Energy Release: High, 75-89
- Forecast Energy Release: Moderate, west of I-45/Hwy 288  
High, east of I-45/288

**Harris County Fire Activity:**

- Initial attack activity: Light, averaging 2-3 small fires/day in unincorporated areas
- New large fires: 0
- Large fires contained: 0
- Uncontained large fires: 0
- Area Command Teams committed: 0
- Type 3 IMTs committed: 0
- Forest Service resources committed: 0

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