

## **Wildland Fire Concern**

by Fire Chief Jim Fiero

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As we move further into our Spring wildland fire season I would like to remind our citizens to be extremely cautious with outdoor burning. Our *normal* Texas weather conditions create enough of a wildland fire problem, but when we add the effects of a multi-year drought, low humidity, and high winds – we've got an extremely hazardous condition. One of the things that makes our community so beautiful is our natural environment. However, our close proximity to *Mother Nature* also adds to our wildland fire risks. The U.S. Fire Administration recommends that brush and other dry flammable vegetation be cleared away from all structures by at least 30 feet, that dead tree branches that extend over roofs be removed, grass be kept mowed, and that we be extremely careful with any outdoor cooking or burning. Even when we have no burn ban in place, citizens need to be cautious and should be aware that there are state laws and regulations concerning burning. The following are some of those state requirements.

1. No burning shall be allowed when winds are less than 6 mph or greater than 23 mph (other meteorological conditions may also apply).
2. No burn shall be left unattended.
3. Burns shall commence no earlier than one hour after sunrise and shall be completed or extinguished the same day not later than one hour before sunset.
4. A means of fire control and/or extinguishment must be readily available at all times.
5. No burn shall endanger other property.
6. Burning must be downwind of or at least 300 feet from any structure containing sensitive receptors.
7. Anytime a burn or smoke creates a safety hazard or concern, it shall be extinguished by the responsible party.

If you have any questions or concerns about any fire or safety issue, please do not hesitate to call your Fire Department. We would much rather you be safe than sorry, so if you suspect it to be an emergency - call 911 immediately, and we'll come check it out. If you would like information regarding a safety concern, call me at (830) 598-6953 and I, and all the firefighters of the Horseshoe Bay Fire Department, will do our best to help. Our department's first priority is your safety, please be careful.