



Municipal Information Services

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Fire Warning from City of Waco Fire Marshall's Office

During a drought, it is wise to keep educated about current conditions and future forecasts. As you can see, the vegetation in the Waco area is super dry and not getting better. With a little wind and a heat source, a grass fire can start in just a few seconds and be out of control before you know it.

There is large amount of dry combustible materials right now. If you plan to be doing any outside activities, you need to plan ahead. If you're barbecuing, make sure to be in an area with little to no dried grass or vegetation and to have a water supply ready if a fire starts outside of your pit. If your plan includes power equipment, make sure to check the area first and remove any item(s) you think could be a problem when operating your power equipment and have a portable water supply, like a water fire extinguisher or pump can. Please discard all smoking material into the proper containers.

If you plan to travel, keep an eye on trailer safety chains to make sure they do not drag on the road way and cause sparks. If you get a flat tire on your vehicle or trailer, pull off as soon as you can as the steel in the tire can spark after hitting the road and start a fire also. Before you leave the house check the weather and be aware of Red Flag Warning's.

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A Red Flag Warning is a forecast warning issued by the [United States National Weather Service](#) to inform area firefighting and land management agencies that conditions are ideal for wild-land fire ignition and propagation. After drought conditions, and when [humidity](#) is very low, and especially when high or erratic winds (which may include lightning) are a factor, the Red Flag Warning becomes a critical statement for firefighting agencies, which often alter their staffing and equipment resources dramatically to accommodate the forecast risk. To the public, a Red Flag Warning means high fire danger with increased probability of a quickly spreading vegetation fire in the area within 24 hours.

The weather criteria for fire weather watches and red flag warnings varies with each Weather Service Office's warning area based on the local vegetation type, [topography](#), and distance from major water sources but usually includes the daily vegetation moisture content calculations, expected afternoon high temperature, afternoon minimum relative humidity and daytime wind speed.

Last reported by the Texas Forest Service on Sept 6th :

Texas Forest Service had responded to 22 new fires for 7,544 acres, including 10 new large fires.

From Aug 31st through Sept 6 Texas Forest Service 181 fires for 118,413 acres.

From September 5th -6th more than 700 homes have been lost.

There are 251 counties out of 254 counties currently under a burn ban.

For further information contact the Fire Marshall's office at 750-1740

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