



CITY OF TOMBALL

Fire Marshal's Office

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Fire Marshal

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MEDIA INFORMATION

For Immediate Release

June 30, 2009

Re: Outdoor Burn Ban / Fireworks Ban
Tomball and Harris County

On June 23, 2009 Harris County Judge Ed Emmett signed a disaster declaration banning all outdoor burning in Harris County due to the recent drought conditions. With the lack of rain and unseasonably high temperatures, the ground vegetation has become susceptible to fire. A ban on the use or sale of aerial fireworks was also ordered. This includes all fireworks with fins, wings, and stick rockets. Persons caught in violation of this order can be issued a Class C misdemeanor citation with fines up to \$500.

By City of Tomball ordinance, outdoor burning as well as the use, sale, storage or manufacturing of fireworks is prohibited all year long.

The Tomball Fire Marshal's Office will be enforcing the fireworks ordinance this holiday weekend.

Here are some tips to keep safe while outside this July 4th Holiday:

1. Water your yard (within the limits of water conservation guidelines). This keeps the ground moist and less susceptible to fire spread.
2. If you can't water the yard, cut your grass at a higher level. Short grass dies faster than tall grass.
3. Don't park your vehicles in the grass. Hot exhaust can start a grass fire.
4. Create a buffer zone around your house. Move combustibles 10 feet away.
5. Keep a garden hose handy. In the event of a nearby fire, you can defend your property until the Fire Department arrives.
6. Leave fireworks to the professionals. The Tomball Fire Department is hosting its annual July 4th Fireworks Show at dusk on Saturday, July 4th on the field behind Fire Station 1 on Rudel and Quinn Road.

~ Be Safe ~ Have Fun ~

For more information please contact the Tomball Fire Marshal's Office.

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