

# MANCHACA FIRE / RESCUE



TRAVIS CO. ESD #5



## OUTDOOR / OPEN BURNING RULES



OBTAIN YOUR FREE  
OPEN BURNING PERMIT  
ONLINE AT [TCESD5.ORG](https://www.tcesd5.org)



**CLICK PERMIT LINK AT TOP**

**REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS...  
CLICK PERMIT LINK AND SELECT  
"OPERATIONAL PERMITS";  
SIGN IN OR REGISTER;  
THEN SELECT "OPEN BURNING"**

# MANCHACA FIRE RESCUE

## TRAVIS CO ESD #5

### **OUTDOOR BURNING ONLY TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

- Burning must be conducted downwind of or at least 300 feet from any structure containing sensitive receptors located on adjacent properties unless prior written approval is obtained from adjacent occupant with possessory control.
- Burning shall NOT be conducted when wind is greater than 22 m.p.h. or less than 6 m.p.h.
- The initiation of burning shall commence no earlier than one hour after sunrise.
- Burning shall be completed on the same day not later than one hour before sunset. In cases where residual fires and/ or smoldering objects continue to emit smoke after this time, such areas shall be extinguished if the smoke from these areas has the potential to create a nuisance or traffic hazard condition. In no case shall the extent of the burn area be allowed to burn after this time.
- All outdoor burning shall be supervised at ALL times and under controlled conditions. Citizens responsible for controlled burns shall have the means to control/extinguish the burn.
- Burning shall NOT be conducted during periods of actual predicted persistent low-level humidity. (Dry conditions)
- No permit required for campfires and other recreational and ceremonial purposes, the noncommercial preparation of food and for supplying warmth in cold weather (no greater than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height). For all other open burning and/or recreational and ceremonial BONFIRES larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height, a permit must be obtained online at **[TCESD5.ORG](https://www.tcesd5.org)**

- To destroy diseased animals when necessary to prevent the spread of disease.
- Outdoor burning of trees, brush, and other plant growth for the right of way maintenance, land clearing operations, and maintenance along water canals when no practical alternative to burning exists and when the materials are generated only from that property. Structures containing sensitive receptors must not be negatively affected by the burn. Such burning shall be subject to the above conditions.
- Violations can be punishable as a Class C misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$500.00, or can reach felony offense status depending on severity of violation.

## DEFINITIONS

**Extinguished-** The absence of any visible flames, glowing coals or smoke.

**Campfire-** A fire no larger than 3 ft in diameter and 2 ft in height. For recreational purposes.

**Bonfire-** Any fire larger than a campfire that is used as a ceremonial or recreational purpose.



## **PROHIBITED BURN ITEMS**

Construction waste, household garbage, tires, rubber or plastic products, heavy oils, fiberglass products, oil based materials, and any material that produces excessive amounts of smoke.

**ALL BURNING IS PROHIBITED DURING  
COUNTY WIDE BURN BANS UNLESS AUTHORIZED  
UNDER SPECIAL PERMIT.**

The authority to conduct outdoor burning under the above circumstances does not exempt or excuse any person from any consequence, damages, or injuries resulting from burning and does not excuse anyone from complying with all ordinances of other governmental agencies. The above rules shall be enforced by the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office and/or Travis County Sheriff's Office.

**YOUR COOPERATION IS  
APPRECIATED IN THIS MATTER**

**For any questions you may have, contact  
Community Risk Reduction.**

**Manchaca Fire Rescue**

**Travis Co ESD #5**

665 W. FM 1626

Austin, TX 78748

512-282-7057 (ext. 112)

**TCESD5.org**

**Travis County Sheriff's  
Non-Emergency Dispatch**

512-974-0845 (Option 3)



### **TITLE 30 TAC #111.203 DEFINITIONS.**

#### **Structure containing sensitive receptors:**

A man-made structure utilized for human residence or business, the containment of livestock, or the housing of sensitive live vegetation. The term "man-made structure" does not include such things as range fences, roads, bridges, hunting blinds or facilities used solely for the storage of hay or other livestock feeds. The term "sensitive live vegetation" is defined as vegetation which has potential to be damaged by smoke cultivation, pharmaceutical plant production, or laboratory experiments involving plants.



# Burning Trash or Land-Clearing Debris:

## Some **Do's** and **Don'ts** to Remember

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### **Do's**

- ▶ Call your local officials (for example, your city or county code enforcement office, your local fire department, or your city or county environmental health department) to make sure that burning is not against any local law, such as a city ordinance. Also make sure that a burn ban is not in place for your area (to prevent wildfires, counties often ban burning during dry weather).
- ▶ Burn only allowable trash (see below) and land-clearing debris that was generated at the residence.

### **Don'ts**

- ▶ Don't create a traffic hazard: make sure that smoke doesn't blow across roads.
- ▶ Don't burn anything that may create excessive smoke or toxic fumes, such as plastic, tires, or shingles.
- ▶ Don't burn trash or anything else from a business.
- ▶ Don't cause a nuisance: make sure you don't smoke out your neighbors.
- ▶ Don't burn anything during a Burn Ban or during a Red Flag Warning.

# When is outdoor burning okay?

To protect the quality of the air we breathe in Texas, the TCEQ rules prohibit outdoor burning anywhere in the state. However, the TCEQ allows for exceptions in specific situations when the burning activity does not pose a health threat or nuisance and is an acceptable practice.

## Ceremonial and Recreational Fires

The TCEQ allows bonfires, campfires, and cooking fires, as long as they do not cause nuisance smoke or traffic hazards and as long as special attention is given to safety. Never burn anything on the "Never Burn" list, below.

## Waste-Disposal Fires

In some areas of the state where the local government doesn't provide trash pickup services, outdoor burning is allowed for the disposal of some household wastes. Under certain conditions, you may also burn brush from on-site land clearing.

# Are there alternatives to burning?

There are several alternatives that you should explore before you resort to burning. The four principal alternatives are:

- ▶ Recycling
- ▶ Composting
- ▶ Mulching
- ▶ Disposal in local landfills

# Are there any items I should not burn?

There are some items that you should never burn, under any circumstances, because such burning would pose a safety or health threat. The basic five "Never Burn" items are listed below:

## Never Burn

- ▶ Electrical insulation
- ▶ Tires
- ▶ Treated lumber (such as in construction or demolition waste)
- ▶ Heavy oils or asphalt materials
- ▶ Potentially explosive materials or chemicals

# CAUTION

Starting a fire and allowing it to get out of control and damage or destroy the property of another is an arson crime under the Texas Penal Code.

Lifting of the burn ban does not authorize burning of any material that is prohibited from being burned by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

## Prohibited materials include:

Construction waste, most household garbage, tires, rubber or plastic products, heavy oils, fiberglass products, oil based materials, and any material that produces excessive amounts of smoke.



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