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For immediate release:
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Bexar County under burn ban until February

Bexar County Commissioners Court approved an order last week declaring a burn ban that is in effect for 90 days. The ban restricts outdoor burning in unincorporated parts of the County.

Climatologists have placed Bexar County in the 'extreme' drought category and Fire Marshal Orlando Hernandez told the court last week the average rainfall total is approximately 15 inches below the average for this time of year. The average Keetch-Byram Drought Index for Bexar County is close to 700. The index is used to determine the potential for wild fires on a scale from zero to 800, with an index of 800 signifying extremely dry conditions.

Under the burn ban all outdoor burning is prohibited except when authorized by the Fire Marshal's Office. The only exceptions are burning for firefighting training; public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; and harvesting of natural crops. Residents may use barbecue pits or chimeneas as long as they have a wire mesh screen over the fire to prevent embers from escaping.

For more information, call the Fire Marshal's Office at (210) 335-0300.