



# Williamson County Fire Marshal's Office

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## Burn Ban Evaluation Matrix March 20, 2025

<u>Evaluation Factor</u>	<u>Source(s)</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Supports Burn Ban</u>
<b>Relative Humidity Values - NWS</b>	Short Term Forecast	Midday values have been dropping into the Lower Teens stripping moisture with sunny days	YES
<b>KBDI Texas A&amp;M</b>	Current Condition	Williamson Counties average KBDI value is 512 with portions of the county experiencing a higher value.	NO
<b>KBDI (Change) Texas A&amp;M</b>	Current Condition	+5 daily changes observed for past 7 days	NO
<b>Forecast 10 Hour Fuel Moisture (Percentile) Nelson Model</b>	Current Condition	< 3% Fine dry grasses will readily ignite. Conditions would support extensive fire spread	YES
<b>Average Temperature (Fahrenheit) NWS</b>	Current Condition	The week of March 17, 2025 starts with daytime temperatures in the 70's – 80's	NO
<b>U.S. Drought Monitor</b>	Drought.gov	"Severe Drought" status. 90.86%	YES

**Recommendation: BURN BAN**

March 20, 2025 – March 26, 2025, Discussion

The fire environment will continue to support a very high volume of wildfire response across Texas through Saturday as dry to extremely dry fuel is subjected to additional accelerated drying. The diminished threat for widespread critical to extreme fire weather should keep the threat for new large wildfires low to moderate through the middle of next week. A slow pattern change may set the stage for increased precipitation chances and improving fuel moisture for eastern portions of Texas Sunday with more regions of Texas forecast to observe a slow moistening of surface fuel by early next week. The addition of more gulf surface moisture in the fire environment should decrease the rate of initial attack fire activity for the eastern two third of the state.

A dry and warm environment may support moderate potential for small initial attack fires statewide Monday and Tuesday with dry to critically dry fuel still present. The lack of a widespread fire weather trigger should keep the potential for large fires with high resistance to control low.

\*Source TICC.TAMU.EDU

### **Soil Moisture**

**90.86% of Williamson County is classified by the U.S. Drought Monitor as D2 Severe Drought.** There is minimum forecasted rain that would deliver adequate amounts to reverse the drying trend. Currently, Williamson County has an average KBDI value of 512.

**Relative Humidity levels have been dropping into the Teens during the afternoon hours. Humidity levels are supposed to increase; however, the fuels will remain dry, and there is a substantial amount of built-up dry vegetation that will make fire control and spreading increasingly difficult.**

### **Summary**

Williamson County will have been seeing elevated fire weather conditions throughout the past two weeks. There is minimal rain in the forecast. I recommend that our county goes into a Burn Ban until our area receives an adequate amount of rain to add fuel moisture to the vegetation, and humidity levels increase. Our area fire departments have been doing an outstanding job controlling the wildfires that do start. Multiple fire departments in our county have also been contributing fire vehicles with staff to stage a Wildland Task Force in the centralized area of our county to readily respond anywhere in our county with multiple wildland (brush) trucks, a water tender truck, a Type-1 Fire Engine (Fire Engine), and a command vehicle (Taskforce Leader). By having these teams on standby the past few days, mainly on High Fire Weather, Fire Danger days, have been instrumental in ensuring our county is safer and resilient with wildfires that do occur.

## **Recommendation: BURN BAN**

Mike Lugo

Williamson County Fire Marshal