

Williamson County Fire Marshal's Office

STATE OF THE STATE

3189 SE Inner Loop, Georgetown, Texas 78626 Phone: (512) 943-3679 Chief/Fire Marshal Mike Lugo

Burn Ban Evaluation Matrix

DATE: September 30, 2025

TO: Commissioners Court

FROM: Chief Mike Lugo

SUBJECT: Burn Ban

Recommendation: BURN BAN

Evaluation Factor	Source(s)	<u>Comment</u>	Supports Burn Ban
Relative Humidity Values - NWS	Short Term Forecast	Midday values have been dropping into the 30%-40% Humidity with the possibility of Lower moisture with additional days of no rain	YES
KBDI Texas A&M	Current Condition	Williamson Counties' average KBDI value is 640 with portions of the county experiencing a higher value.	YES
KBDI (Change) Texas A&M	Current Condition	+5 daily changes observed for past 7 days	YES
Forecast 10 Hour Fuel Moisture (Percentile) Nelson Model	Current Condition	26-50 indicator of good overnight relative humidity recoveries for grass	NO
Average Temperature (Fahrenheit) NWS	Current Conditions	Average daytime temperatures in the Low 90's	NO
U.S. Drought Monitor	Drought.gov	Abnormally Dry	YES

Recommendation: BURN BAN

September 18, 2025, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Weather Update

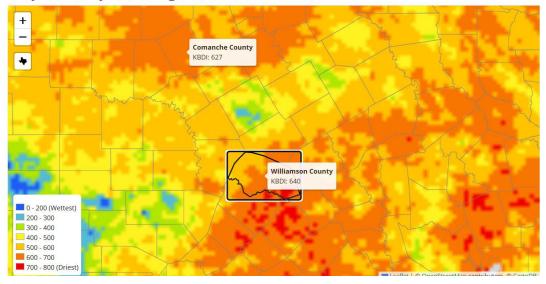
Local wildfire call volume has increased slightly and our area is at an increased readiness level 2. Calls remain isolated to roadside and controlled burns. Local FD's have been effective in suppression and require some assistance from mutual aid partners. KBDI Values are now in the 600-700 ranges for the majority of the districts this includes Williamson, Travis, Hays, Caldwell, Bastrop, Lee and Fayette counties with pockets in the 700-800 ranges in the Northern parts of Bastrop County. Drought monitor is now reflecting between D0 (Abnormally Dry) to D1 (Moderate Drought) and D2 (Severe). Low to moderate fire potential may be present in pine timber fuels of Lost Pines area near Bastrop and LaGrange. These areas have undergone two or more weeks without wetting rainfall and will be susceptible to wildfire activity this week. This week's lack of strong fire weather triggers should prevent any fires from becoming highly resistant to control. Additional details are posted in the Texas Fire Potential Update at: https://bit.ly/TexasFirePotentialUpdate. Despite recent precipitation in the region, The Lost Pines

specifically Bastrop and Buescher State parks have not received any beneficial rainfall. The Lost Pines Fire Crew will continue to monitor the area.

Mostly rain free conditions and above average high temperatures will continue through the rest of the week and into the weekend. There may be a few spotty brief rain showers or a stray storm or two each afternoon into early evening through Sunday. Models suggest a possible cold front with a chance of more organized storms for Monday through Wednesday. Minimum relative humidity values generally in the 30 to 40 percent range can be expected each afternoon, although a few locations may be able to briefly dip below 30 percent. Winds will remain mostly from the southeast and could be occasionally gusty at times during the afternoon and evening hours. National Weather Service. (2025) Austin/San Antonio Routine Fire WX Fcast (With/Without 6-10 Outlook) https://forecast.weather.gov.

^{*}Source Fire Coordinator, Smithville Fire District | Texas A&M Forest Service







The U.S. Drought Monitor depicts the location and intensity of drought across the country using 5 classifications: Abnormally Dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought (D1–D4).

The U.S. Drought Monitor is a joint effort of the National Drought Mitigation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA

Legend —				
Drought & Dryness Categories		% of Williamson County		
	D0 - Abnormally Dry	62.88%		
	D1 – Moderate Drought	9.89%		
	D2 – Severe Drought	0%		
	D3 – Extreme Drought	0%		
	D4 – Exceptional Drought	0%		
	Total Area in Drought (D1–D4)	9.89%		

41,810

people in Williamson County are affected by drought

- ↑ 225.6% since last week
- 100% since last month

9.9%

of people in Williamson County are affected by drought

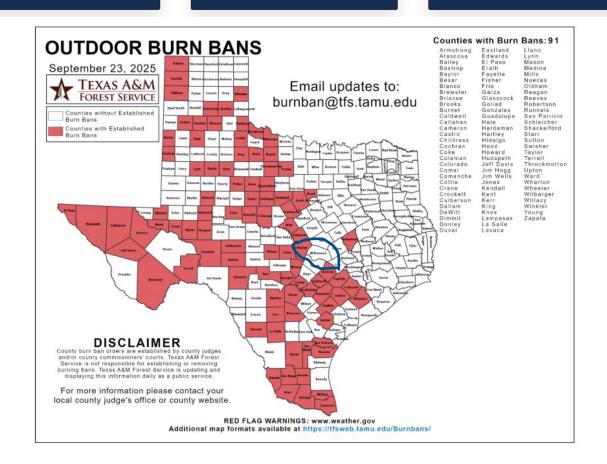
- 7% since last week
- ↑ 10% since last month

61st

driest August on record, over the past 131 years

4 0.53

inches from normal



Summary

The scope of emerging dryness with 30-day rainfall deficits continues to expand in the Rolling Plains, part of the Eastern/Western Hill Country, Central Texas, South Texas, Upper Gulf Coast, and Southeast Texas observing deficits less than 25% of normal. Persistent dryness is most prominent in Central Texas, the lower Rolling Plains, and into parts of the Western Hill Country where 60-day rainfall deficits of 25% or less than normal rainfall are present and have an underlying risk for wildfire activity. Moving into the weekend 27th and 28th of September, the fire environment is expected to become warmer and drier. Surface fuel will begin to dry; however no accelerated drying is expected. Fire potential should remain low across the state as no widespread fire weather trigger is anticipated. I recommend that our county approves 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.

Recommendation: BURN BAN

Mike Lugo

Williamson County Fire Marshal