



Williamson County Fire Marshal's Office

3189 SE Inner Loop • Georgetown, Texas 78626
(512) 943-3831
firemarshal@wilcotx.gov | www.wilcopermits.com
Chief Mike Lugo - Fire Marshal



Burn Ban Evaluation Matrix January 27, 2026

<u>Evaluation Factor</u>	<u>Source(s)</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Supports Burn Ban</u>
Relative Humidity Values - NWS	Short Term Forecast	Midday values have been dropping into the Lower Teens stripping moisture with sunny days and Cold fronts.	YES
KBDI Texas A&M	Current Condition	Williamson Counties' average KBDI value is 608 with portions of the county experiencing a higher value.	YES
KBDI (Change) Texas A&M	Current Condition	+1 daily changes observed for past 7 days	YES
Forecast 10 Hour Fuel Moisture (Percentile) Nelson Model	Current Condition	< 3% Fine dry grass will readily ignite. Conditions would support extensive fire spread	YES
Average Temperature (Fahrenheit) NWS	Current Condition	The week of January 19, 2026 starts with daytime temperatures in the upper 60's and drops to the lower 20's.	YES
U.S. Drought Monitor	Drought.gov	"Drought Level 2 94.57%" "Severe Drought 3" status. 55.80%	YES

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Recommendation: BURN BAN

January 19, 2026 – January 26, 2026, Discussion

Soil Moisture

94.57% of Williamson County is classified by the U.S. Drought Monitor as D2 Severe Drought and 55.80% of Williamson County classified by the U.S. Drought Monitor as a D3 Severe Drought. There are rain, snow, and sleet forecast for Williamson County this week. The colder weather will keep our vegetation in dormant, and it will continue to dry out. If we do get Ice and Snow that will further kill any above ground vegetation and cause significant fire to spread if fires were to get into these areas.

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 has been seeing elevated fire weather conditions throughout the past weeks. Our county fire departments have also been responding to multiple wildfires calls due to control burns that have gotten out of hand, workers welding, and due to fireworks. These conditions are expected to worsen. 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, humidity levels increase, and our vegetation begins to green. Our area fire departments have been doing an outstanding job controlling the wildfires that do start.

Recommendation: BURN BAN

Chief Mike Lugo
Williamson County Fire Marshal



January 2026_Burn Ban Matrix

Final Audit Report

2026-01-21

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