

# PRESCRIBED BURNING IN JEFFERSON COUNTY



## Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management



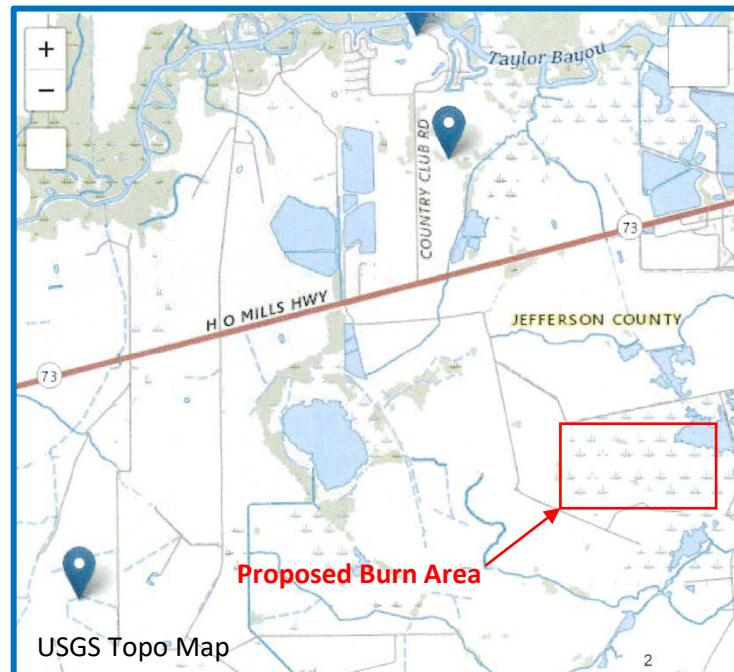
The Texas Administrative Code addresses outdoor burning in 30 TAC 111.201-221. Prescribed burning is addressed in Sections 111.211 and 111.219.

### RULE §111.211 Exception for Prescribed Burn

Outdoor burning shall be authorized for:

(1) Prescribed burning for forest, range and wildland/wildlife management, and wildfire hazard mitigation purposes, with the exception of coastal salt-marsh management burning. Such burning shall be subject to the requirements of §111.219 of this title (relating to General Requirements for Allowable Outdoor Burning), and structures containing sensitive receptors must not be negatively affected by the burn. When possible, notification of intent to burn should be made to the appropriate commission regional office prior to the proposed burn. Commission notification or approval is not required.

(2) Coastal salt-marsh management burning conducted in Aransas, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, **Jefferson**, Kleberg, Matagorda, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties. Coastal salt-marsh burning in these counties shall be subject to the following requirements:



(A) All land on which burning is to be conducted shall be registered with the appropriate commission regional office using a **United States Geological Survey map or equivalent** upon which are identified significant points such as roads, canals, lakes, and streams, and the method by which access is made to the site. For large acreage, the map should be divided into manageable blocks with identification for each defined block. The information must be received for review at least 15 working days before the burning takes place.

(B) Prior to any burning, notification, either verbal or written, must be made to, and authorization must be received from the appropriate commission regional office. Notification must identify the specific area and/or block to be burned, approximate start and end time, and a responsible party who can be contacted during the burn period.

(C) Such burning shall be subject to the requirements of §111.219 of this title.

## RULE §111.219 General Requirements for Allowable Outdoor Burning



Outdoor burning which is otherwise authorized shall also be subject to the following requirements when specified in any section of this subchapter.

(1) Prior to prescribed or controlled burning for forest management purposes, the Texas Forest Service shall be notified.

(2) Burning must be outside the corporate limits of a city or town except where the incorporated city or town has enacted ordinances which permit burning consistent with the Texas

Clean Air Act, Subchapter E, Authority of Local Governments.

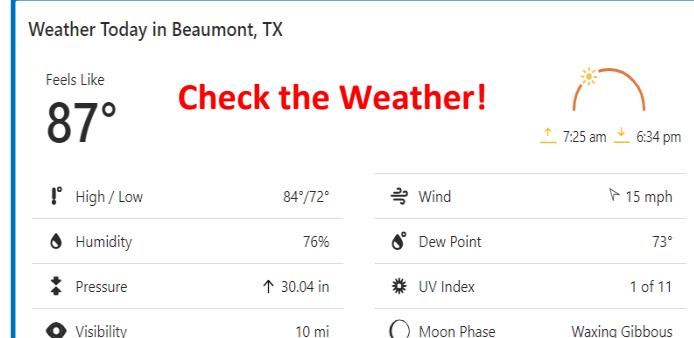
(3) Burning shall be commenced and conducted only when wind direction and other meteorological conditions are such that smoke and other pollutants will not cause adverse effects to any public road, landing strip, navigable water, or off-site structure containing sensitive receptor(s).

(4) If at any time the burning causes or may tend to cause smoke to blow onto or across a road or highway, it is the responsibility of the person initiating the burn to post flag-persons on affected roads.

(5) Burning must be conducted downwind of or at least 300 feet (90 meters) from any structure containing sensitive receptors located on adjacent properties unless prior written approval is obtained from the adjacent occupant with possessory control.

### **(6) Burning shall be conducted in compliance with the following meteorological and timing considerations:**

(A) 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, and shall be attended by a responsible party at all times during the active burn phase when the fire is progressing. 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 increase after this time.



(B) Burning shall not be commenced when surface wind speed is predicted to be less than six miles per hour (mph) (five knots) or greater than 23 mph (20 knots) during the burn period.

(C) Burning shall not be conducted during periods of actual or predicted persistent low-level atmospheric temperature inversions.

(7) Electrical insulation, treated lumber, plastics, non-wood construction/demolition materials, heavy oils, asphaltic materials, potentially explosive materials, chemical wastes, and items containing natural or synthetic rubber must not be burned.

**For more detailed information regarding outdoor burning; see 30 TAC 111.201-111.221 or The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) document *RG-049 Outdoor Burning in Texas*.**