HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

M. S. Montgomery
Fire Marshal

May 6, 2009

BURN BAN LIFTED

This cautionary statement is based on information provided by the Texas Forest Service, the National Weather Service, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Thanks to recent rains and a return to normal fire behavior, **the burn ban for unincorporated Harris County has been lifted.**

However, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ"), **outdoor burning, in general, is illegal in Harris County because it contributes to air pollution.** There are some exceptions, but not all outdoor burning activities are legal.

So, before you burn outdoors, please check to make sure it is LEGAL and SAFE to burn by checking our website link: http://www.hcfmo.net/outdoorburning.aspx

A little common sense goes a long way. You should not burn on dry or windy days. It is illegal to burn at night, or to burn in the open where flames, embers, or sparks can escape. And businesses can NEVER burn debris outdoors legally.

What is you believe someone is burning illegally? Who do you call? If you live in the unincorporated area of Harris County or inside the city limits of any city except Houston, you can call Harris County Environmental health Services at (713) 920-2831, 24 hours per day.

And remember, please BE SAFE !! If you start a fire that causes damage to property without the consent of the owner may be charged with Reckless Damage or Destruction, a Class C misdemeanor, or Arson, a felony.

Sincerely,

Mike Montgomery
Director/Fire Marshal

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