HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

M.S. Montgomery
Fire Marshal

State of Texas Issues Wildfire Awareness Message
Date: 1/22/2009

The Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management has issued the following wildfire awareness message in response to recent elevated fire threats in our region. NWS (HGX) has not issued a fire related product for Harris County today but we have been under a fire related Hazardous Weather Outlook or Red Flag Warning over the past several days.

WILDFIRE AWARENESS: PREPAREDNESS & EVACUATIONS

(Austin, Texas) Wildland fires pose a threat throughout Texas, especially when dry weather conditions combine with high winds and extreme temperatures. Whether you live near open grassland, in a suburban area on the edge of town or in a forested area, fire can threaten your home. When weather conditions make wildland fires more likely, take the following precautions:

-Keep fire fighting tools handy, such as: ladder long enough to reach the roof, shovel, rake and buckets.
-Place connected garden hoses on all sides of the house for emergency use.
-Know all emergency exits from your house.
-Learn all routes leading out of your neighborhood.

As fires actually approach, take the following actions:
-Park your car facing the direction of escape.
-Shut off gas at the meter. Only a qualified professional can safely turn the gas back on.
-Turn off propane tanks.
-Place combustible patio furniture inside.
-Seal vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
-Wet down or remove shrubs within 15 feet of your residence.
-Place lawn sprinklers on roof and near above-ground fuel tanks. Wet down the roof.
-Close windows, vents, doors, blinds and non combustible window coverings. Remove flammable drapes and curtains.
-Close interior doors and windows to prevent drafts.

If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Choose a route away from the fire hazard and be alert to changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke.

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