

# OUTDOOR AND RECREATIONAL FIRES

For any outdoor fire the local authorities should be contacted to determine if any permits will be needed or if there are any local requirements that should be followed.

You should check to see if there are any Burn Bans for the area you will be in. Burn Bans can be checked by using the web site <http://tfsfrp.tamu.edu/wildfires/Decban.jpg> .

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality should be contacted too at [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us) .

## LOCATIONS OF FIRES

Campfires; (2003 International Fire Code, Section 307.3.2) SIZE; 3.5 ft. in diameter by 2 ft high maximum. This size fire must be located at least 25 feet from any structure or combustible material. High grass, etc. that would cause a fire to spread to within 25 feet of any structure or combustible material shall be eliminated prior to ignition of the fire.

Bonfires; (International Fire Code, Section 307.3.1) anything larger than a campfire is considered to be a bonfire. This size fire must be located at least 50 feet from any structure or combustible material. High grass, etc. that would cause a fire to spread to within 50 feet of any structure or combustible material shall be eliminated prior to ignition of the fire.

**FOR ANY FIRES; THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REQUIRES THE WIND SPEED TO BE LESS THAN 23 MPH.**

**2003 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE SECTION 307.4** All fires SHALL be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 4A that has been recently inspected by a state licensed company and other approved on site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose, or water truck, SHALL be available for immediate utilization.

Fires should only be allowed in pre-approved fire rings. Campfires should be in pre-made metal fire rings. They should be 3.5 feet in diameter and should extend 6 inches above ground level.

Bonfire rings should be kept within a manageable size and area. They should be no larger than what can be extinguished with the water that is available.

Do not burn trash or paper in open fires.

Large amounts of water are indispensable for extinguishing a fire. To properly extinguish a fire, water should be splashed on all the embers, including places that are not glowing red. Splashing the water is both more effective and efficient in extinguishing the fire. The water will boil violently and carry ash in the air with it, dirtying anything nearby but not posing a safety hazard. The water should be poured until the hissing noises stop. Then the ashes should be stirred with a stick to make sure that the water has penetrated all the layers; if the hissing continues, more water should be added. A fire is fully extinguished if the ashes are cool to the touch.

## FUELWOOD CHARACTERISTICS

SPECIES	HEAT <sup>1</sup>	WEIGHT <sup>2</sup>	EASE OF SPLITTING	EASE OF STARTING	COALING QUALITIES	SPARKS	FRAGRANCE
Alder	M-L	2540	Easy	Fair	Good	Moderate	Slight
Apple	H-M	4400	Difficult	Difficult	Excellent	Few	Excellent
Ash	H	3440	Easy-Mod.	Fair-Diff.	Good-Exc.	Few	Slight
Aspen	L	2160	Easy	Easy	Good	Few	Slight
Basswood	L		Easy	Easy		Few	Good
Beech	H	3760	Difficult	Difficult	Excellent	Few	Good
Birch, White	M	3040	Easy	Easy	Good	Moderate	Slight
Birch, Yellow	H-M	3680	Moderate	Easy		Moderate	
Boxelder						Many	
Cedar, West, Red	M-L	2060	Easy	Easy	Poor	Many	
Cherry	M	3200	Easy	Difficult	Excellent	Few	Excellent
Chestnut	L						Good
Cottonwood	L	2160	Easy	Easy	Good	Moderate	Slight
Dogwood	H	4230	Difficult			Few	
Elm	M	2260	Very Diff.	Fair	Good	Very Few	Fair
Eucalyptus							Good
Fir, Douglas	M	2970	Easy	Easy	Fair	Moderate	Slight
Fir, Grand	L	2160					
Hemlock	M-L	2700	Easy	Easy	Poor	Many	Good
Hickory	VH	4240	Moderate	Fair-Diff.	Excellent	Moderate	Excellent
Ironwood (Hornbeam)	VH	4000	Very Diff.	Very Diff.	Excellent	Few	
Juniper	M	3150				Many	Good
Larch, Western	H-M	3330	Easy-Mod.	Easy	Fair	Many	Slight
Locust, Black	VH	3840	Very Diff.	Difficult	Excellent	Very Few	Slight
Madrona	H	4320	Difficult	Difficult	Excellent	Very Few	Slight
Maple, Red	H-M	3200	Moderate	Fair-Diff.	Excellent	Few	
Maple, Sugar	H	3680	Moderate	Difficult	Excellent	Few	Good
Mesquite	VH		Very Diff.	Very Diff.	Excellent	Few	
Mulberry	M						
Oak, Red	H	3680	Moderate	Difficult	Excellent	Few	Fair
Oak, White	VH	4200	Moderate	Difficult	Excellent	Few	
Osage Orange	H						Excellent
Pecan	H		Moderate		Good	Few	Good
Pine, Lodgepole	L	2610	Easy	Easy	Fair	Moderate	Good
Pine, Ponderosa	M-L	2240	Easy	Easy	Fair	Moderate	Good
Pine, White	M-L	2250	Easy	Easy	Poor	Moderate	Good
Pine, Yellow	H-M	2610	Easy	Easy	Fair	Moderate	Good
Poplar	L	2080	Easy	Easy	Fair	Moderate	Bitter
Redwood	M	2400	Easy	Easy-Fair	Poor	Many	Slight
Spruce, Engeiman	L	2070	Easy	Easy	Poor	Few	Slight
Spruce, Norway	L	2240	Moderate	Easy	Poor	Many	Slight
Spruce, Sitka		2340	Easy				
Sweet Gum	M		Difficult	Fair		Few	
Sycamore	M	3300	Very Diff.	Fair		Few	
Tamarack	H-M		Easy-Mod.	Easy-Fair		Many	
Walnut	H-M		Moderate	Fair	Good	Few	Fair
Willow	L	2540	Easy	Fair	Poor	Moderate	Slight

<sup>1</sup> VH - Very High; H - High; M - Medium; L - Low

<sup>2</sup> Approximate weight, lb/cord, for air-seasoned (20% moisture content) wood.