

Jan. 18, 2008

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The use of combustible materials outdoors by anyone for any reason is prohibited in Burleson.

Today, Burleson Mayor Ken Shetter signed Executive Order 2008-01 which declares a state of disaster due to the potential threat of wildfires resulting from drought and adverse weather conditions. The ban affects everything inside of the city limits as well as 5,000 feet beyond the city limits. The ban is in effect for seven days, but may be extended by Burleson City Council at the Jan. 24 meeting. Anyone who violates the order commits a Class C misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000.

Combustible materials include the use of fireworks, discarding cigarettes or other flammable materials, materials used in activities such as welding, and any other activity that could result in a fire.

If welding must be performed in the field, regulations must be followed while the ban is in place. Those regulations include clearing the area, 25 feet in all directions, of vegetation; wetting down the welding area; refraining from welding if the wind speeds are more than 15 miles per hour; dedicating a fire watch person to attend each welder, cutter, grinder, and any activity that causes a spark; requiring a minimum of one water pressure fire extinguisher per fire watch person; and, requiring each site to have cellular telephone communications for emergency response.

All welding, cutting, and grinding operations must be performed in a total welding enclosure/welding box that is high enough to control sparks and includes a fire retardant cover over the top. That box can not be used if winds exceed 30 miles per hour.

For more information about the executive order, log on to the City of Burleson web site at www.burlesontx.com or call Burleson Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton at 817-447-5400, ext. 220.

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