

Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Joint Burn Ban Flag Project

The Texas A&M Forest has offered Burn Ban Flags for many years in hopes that they become a recognizable image to the public: a signal to stop outdoor burning.

In Texas, local governments are empowered to take action on the behalf of those they serve. When drought conditions exist, a burn ban can be put in place by a county judge or county commissioners court prohibiting or restricting outdoor burning for public safety. This is a commonly used wildfire prevention tool. To support this prevention effort, Texas A&M Forest Service posts a list of counties with burn bans on their website as well as on the Texas Interagency Coordination Center website.

The Texas A&M Forest Service distributes burn ban flags to schools, county buildings, and other public buildings (not the traditional firehouse) to increase awareness of burn bans and spread the wildfire prevention message. As Texas A&M AgriLife Extension employees work with different cooperators that Forest Service field staff, this is an opportunity to spread the wildfire prevention message beyond the reach of Forest Service staff. This will also provide an opportunity for field staff of both agencies to work together more closely and establish a working relationship.

Goal: Work with Texas A&M AgriLife extension offices to deliver Burn Ban Flags to two new cooperators in each county by September 30, 2018.

Objectives:

- Meet with each District Extension Administrator to set-up and provide access and assistance with Survey123.
- Provide information for Texas A&M AgriLife personnel delivering burn ban flags.
- Deliver 2 burn ban flags in each county (1 may include the county extension office).
- Increase cooperation between Texas A&M AgriLife and Texas A&M Forest Service in the field offices.

Texas A&M Forest Service Wildland Urban Interface Specialists will meet with and provide training to each District Extension Administrator to set-up and provide access and assistance with Survey123. Each District Extension Administrator, or other appointed personnel in the district (12 total for each district office), will be given an ArcGIS Online account to capture and input data on Survey123. Field employees who distribute/deliver flags will fill out a word document with required information and send to the district administrator for their area to input into Survey123.

Texas A&M Forest Service Wildland Urban Interface Specialists will provide information for Texas A&M AgriLife field employees who will distribute/deliver flags. This training will cover purpose, goals, where to deliver flags, and what data is needed. They will then fill out a word document with required information and send to the district administrator for their area to input into Survey123.

This data will be used to map and view the reach of field staff and overall scope of wildfire prevention efforts throughout the state of Texas.

***The Rolling Plains District of 24 counties in North/Northwest Texas has been designated for the pilot project.*

Contact Texas A&M Forest Service WUI Specialist Erin O'Connor for any questions or concerns.

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