



# Kaufman County, Texas

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**FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**  
**3003 S. Washington**  
**Kaufman, Texas 75142**

*Phones: 469-376-4110*  
*469-376-4111*  
*469-376-4112*  
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## **OPEN OUTDOOR BURNING REGULATIONS**

This information is provided for all persons within the unincorporated areas of Kaufman County. In recent years outdoor burning has come under great scrutiny because of damage to our environment and harmful effects on humans and animals that are sensitive to smoke and other pollutants from fire.

Persons wishing to conduct an outdoor burn should be aware of State and Local Regulations that apply to outdoor burning. State Requirements are addressed in a document entitled "Outdoor Burning in Texas", published by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (formerly the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission). This information can be accessed online at [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us) and searching under available publications. Local requirements from the Kaufman County Fire Code are covered in the 2006 Edition of the International Fire Code, Section 307. A copy of the International Fire Code is available for review purposes at the Kaufman County Fire Marshal's Office located at 3003 S. Washington, Kaufman, Texas 75142. Any of these regulations may apply to outdoor burns in Kaufman County.

The Kaufman County Fire Code requires that all persons who wish to conduct open burning make telephone notification before conducting open outdoor burning. The phone contact number is 972-932-4337. The International Fire Code 2006 edition and the most current Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) outdoor burning rules regulate open burning. No authorization will be issued for burning within the boundaries of an incorporated city, town or municipality. In instances where laws or regulations are enforceable by Extraterritorial Jurisdictions (ETJ's), joint approval shall be obtained. Open Outdoor Burning shall be subject to inspection at all times by a Fire Marshal, a fire department official, a law enforcement officer, or other persons authorized by the Fire Marshal. Authorization may be revoked at anytime when it is determined by the Fire Marshal that any regulations set forth have been violated. Violations may result in fines.

The authority to conduct outdoor burning under the regulations listed below does not exempt or excuse any person responsible from the consequences, damages, or injuries resulting from the burning and does not exempt or excuse anyone from complying with all other applicable laws or ordinances, regulations, and orders of governmental entities having jurisdiction, even though the burning is otherwise conducted in compliance with the regulations listed as follows.

- 1. ONLY BRUSH, BRANCHES, LIMBS, LEAVES and UNTREATED or UNPAINTED LUMBER CAN BE BURNED** and can only be burned on the same property. Hauling in brush, lumber etc. to be burned is illegal and not allowed.
2. Authorization is on a per burn basis only. Each day requires telephone notification.
3. Contact the Dispatch Office at 972-932-4337 prior to the desired commencement of the open burn. Give the dispatcher your name, phone number and address information concerning the burn. This information will be documented and be available for review by the Fire Marshal and could be considered a violation of the regulations if it is not made each day prior to commencement of the open burn.
4. A phone shall be available to call 9-1-1 if the fire gets out of control.
5. You must have control of your fire at all times. Out of control wildfires are subject to fees or fines to cover expenses incurred by the fire department during extinguishment.
6. The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure.
7. Burning shall be commenced and conducted only when wind direction and other meteorological conditions are such that smoke and other pollutants will not cause adverse effects to any public road, or off-site structure containing sensitive receptors (residences, businesses, animal barns, greenhouses, etc.) Winds must be more than 6 MPH but less than 23 MPH during the burn period. Burning shall not be conducted during periods of actual or predicted persistent low-level atmospheric temperature inversions.
8. Burning shall commence no earlier than one hour after sunrise. Burning shall be completed on the same day by 5pm. In cases where residual fires and / or smoldering objects continue to emit smoke after this time, such areas shall be extinguished if the smoke from these areas has the potential to create a nuisance or traffic hazard condition. In no case shall the extent of the burn area be allowed to increase after this time.
9. Burning of illegal items is strictly prohibited. Rubbish containing paper products, electrical insulation, treated lumber, plastics, glass products, metal products, oils, asphalt materials, potentially explosive materials, chemical wastes, or items containing natural or synthetic rubber cannot be burned.
10. If at any time the burning causes or may tend to cause smoke to blow onto or across a road or highway, burning will cease and extinguish the fire. It is the responsibility of the person initiating the burn to post flag-persons on affected roads if this becomes necessary.
11. Open burning shall be constantly attended by a person at least 18 years of age and be knowledgeable in the use of fire-extinguishing equipment and familiar with the regulations which restrict open burning until the fire is extinguished.  
A garden hose connected to a water supply or other approved fire-extinguishing equipment shall be readily available for use at open-burning sites.
12. Burning must be conducted downwind of, or at least 300 feet from any structure containing sensitive receptors located on adjacent properties unless prior written approval is obtained from whoever owns or rents the adjacent property and either resides or conducts business there.