

Sean Dugan, the Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator with the Texas Forest Service, provided the attachments and the below email that he recently distributed to all the EMCs, COGs, fire departments, state parks, and media throughout Northeast Texas.

It is essentially a press release that he proactively distributes whenever wildfire danger is heightened. There is a slight chance of rainfall today and tomorrow, but that is only for limited East Texas counties, which means that this week and the upcoming holiday weekend will provide all PIO's with opportunities to emphasize the talking points shared by Sean.

Good Afternoon Everyone,

As we approach the upcoming holiday, I'd like to keep you all apprised of our situation. We are currently experiencing an extended period of hot and dry weather throughout East Texas. The forecasted fuel dryness and KBDI maps attached to this email indicate the drying trend going into this Saturday. We expect these conditions to worsen in the weeks to come as no significant rainfall is expected, and temperatures remain very high. Attached are some wildfire prevention messaging and flyers for you to share within your communities.

Please distribute and use the prevention messaging quotes below as you see fit and help spread the word to be cautious of any outdoor activity that could cause a spark. As your Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator, I'm here to help distribute wildfire prevention and education efforts throughout Northeast Texas. Please feel free to call: (903) 472-3928. Here are some links to:

1. the Texas Interagency Coordination Center page <https://ticc.tamu.edu/>
- 2.
3. TAMFS predictive services Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/predictiveservices>
- 4.
5. TAMFS predictive services website - <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/PredictiveServices>
- 6.
7. TAMFS wildfire prevention website - <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/PreventWildfire>

Media Quotes:

"The Independence Day holiday is a time to celebrate with family and friends. Like other summer holidays, when the warm weather hits, there's nothing better than the smell of food on the grill. Along with grilling, many celebrations will also include, camping, travelling, and fireworks. We want to encourage Texans to stay safe during the July 4th holiday and hot summer months ahead."

1. As you celebrate with your family and friends, be sure to check for local burn bans and fire restrictions in your area.

- 2.
3. If you are barbequing, enjoying fireworks, or roasting marshmallows near a campfire, keep a water source near you at all times (hose, bucket, or wet rags).
- 4.
5. As you celebrate this 4th of July, enjoy the great outdoors while keeping safety first. Do your part, don't let a wildfire start.
- 6.

Firework Safety:

1. Read the labels on fireworks and use only as directed. Children should not be allowed to play with or ignite fireworks.
1. Fireworks should only be used outdoors on a flat, smooth surface in an area away from dry grass, buildings, and flammable materials. Never relight or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully. Allow fireworks to cool completely before handling, then discard.

Grilling Tips:

1. Never leave your grill unattended. Wind gusts may blow embers into dry vegetation, potentially starting a wildfire.
- 2.
3. Ensure your grill is kept clean of excess grease to prevent flare-ups.
- 4.
5. Place your grill in an open space away from tall or dry grass, shrubs, woodpiles or other flammable materials. Also avoid placing your grill underneath a tree or on a wooden patio deck.
- 6.
7. After you are finished grilling, allow time for the coals in your grill to completely cool. Smoldering coals may reignite and release embers, which may be blown into nearby vegetation.