Texas A&M AgriLife Research Procedures

24.01.01.A0.09 | Outdoor Burning

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PROCEDURE STATEMENT

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulates outdoor burning (30 TAC 111.201-221). Those units located on the Texas A&M University campus will follow the Open Burn Procedures administered by the Environmental Health and Safety Department. Those units located off of the Texas A&M University campus will follow the outdoor burning procedures described below.

REASON FOR PROCEDURE

Units conducting any outdoor burning activities must comply with the TCEQ guidelines. These procedures will aid units in the compliance with TCEQ regulations.

PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0 Each unit that conducts outdoor burning should have a copy of the TCEQ regulation.

2.0 Written permission from the TCEQ must be obtained prior to conducting outdoor burning for materials and/or conditions that do not meet the following categories of authorized outdoor burning:

- 2.1 Training for fire–fighting personnel when requested in writing and when authorized by the local air pollution control agency.
- 2.2 Recreational or ceremonial purposes, noncommercial preparation of food, or for the purpose of supplying warmth during cold weather.
- 2.3 Domestic waste burning at a private residence when collection is not provided by the local governmental entity having jurisdiction.
- 2.4 Disposal of a diseased animal carcass when burning is the most effective means of controlling the spread of disease.
- 2.5 On–site burning of trees, brush, and other plant growth for the purpose of right–of–way maintenance or land clearing operations when no practical alternative to burning exists, and when the materials are generated only from that property.
- 2.6 Crop residue burning for agricultural management purposes when no practical alternative exists.
- 2.7 Prescribed burning for forest, range, and wildland/wildlife management purposes.

3.0 Authorized outdoor burning must comply with the following requirements:

- 3.1 Notify the Texas Forest Service prior to a prescribed burn for forest management.

3.2 Burning must be outside the corporate limits of a city or town.

3.3 Ensure that wind direction will not allow smoke and other pollutants to cause adverse effects to any public road, landing strip, navigable water, residence, business, stable, greenhouse, etc.

3.4 If at any time during the burning, smoke blows onto or across a road or highway, it is the responsibility of the person initiating the burn to post flag persons on affected roads.

3.5 Burning must be conducted downwind of or at least 300 feet from any sensitive structure (e.g., residence, business, stable, greenhouse) unless prior written approval is obtained from the adjacent occupant with possessory control.

3.6 Burning may be commenced no earlier than one hour after sunrise and must be completed on the same day no later than one hour before sunset.

3.7 A responsible person must attend the burning at all times during the active burn phase.

3.8 In cases where residual fires and/or smoldering objects continue to emit smoke after the active burn phase, such areas shall be extinguished if the smoke from these areas has the potential to create a nuisance or traffic hazard condition.

3.9 No burning can be done if the wind speed is predicted to be less than six mph or greater than 23 mph.

3.10 Burning shall not be conducted during periods of actual or predicted persistent low–level atmospheric temperature inversions. (Call the National Weather Service to get an advisory for your area.)

3.11 Electrical insulation, treated lumber, plastics, non–wood construction/demolition material, heavy oil, asphalt materials, potentially explosive materials, chemical wastes, and items containing natural or synthetic rubber may not be burned.

4.0 Each prescribed burn must have a written prescribed burn plan using the Texas Department of Agriculture prescribed burn form PBB-604. The form can be printed from the following link http://www.agr.state.tx.us/agr/main_render/0,1968,1848_5576_0_0,00.html?channelId=5576

RELATED STATUTES, POLICIES, OR REQUIREMENTS

System Policy 24.01, *Risk Management*

System Regulation 24.01.01, *Supplemental Risk Management Standards*, and its associated standards

30 TAC Chapter 111, Subchapter B, Outdoor Burning

CONTACT OFFICE

Contact the AgriLife Research/AgriLife Extension Service Safety Coordinator at 979-862-4038 with questions about the procedure or to obtain copies of any documents referenced in this procedure.