



DENTON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
Fire Marshal • Homeland Security • Emergency Management



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Time: 9:00A.M.

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Denton County Emergency Services

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Denton County Issues Mandatory Burn Ban

Denton County Judge Mary Horn today instated a Local Disaster Declaration for Threat of Wildland Fires Due to Dry Conditions in Denton County.

Denton County Judge Mary Horn, in the interest of fire safety and fire prevention, is asking for the cooperation of all Denton County residents with respect to outdoor burning. High winds, low humidity, and dead/dormant vegetation have contributed to the risk of large and destructive wildfires. At risk are homes, valuable property, and lives. Denton County has experienced an increase in wildfires this season with several burning multiple acres. Some fires are the result of careless or negligent outdoor burning, some are the result of discarded burning materials or cigarettes, and other fires have been started by mechanical malfunctions and welding.

Denton County is experiencing dry weather with little chance for relief in the immediate future. Denton County is currently classified in severe drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor Map and has the highest Keetch-Byram Drought Index within North Central Texas. The Denton County burning ban will continue until drought conditions are alleviated.

The mandatory Burn Ban will eliminate all outdoor burning, include restrictions on outdoor hot work (welding and cutting torch operations), and the use of combustible materials. Violation of the court ordered burn-ban is a class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

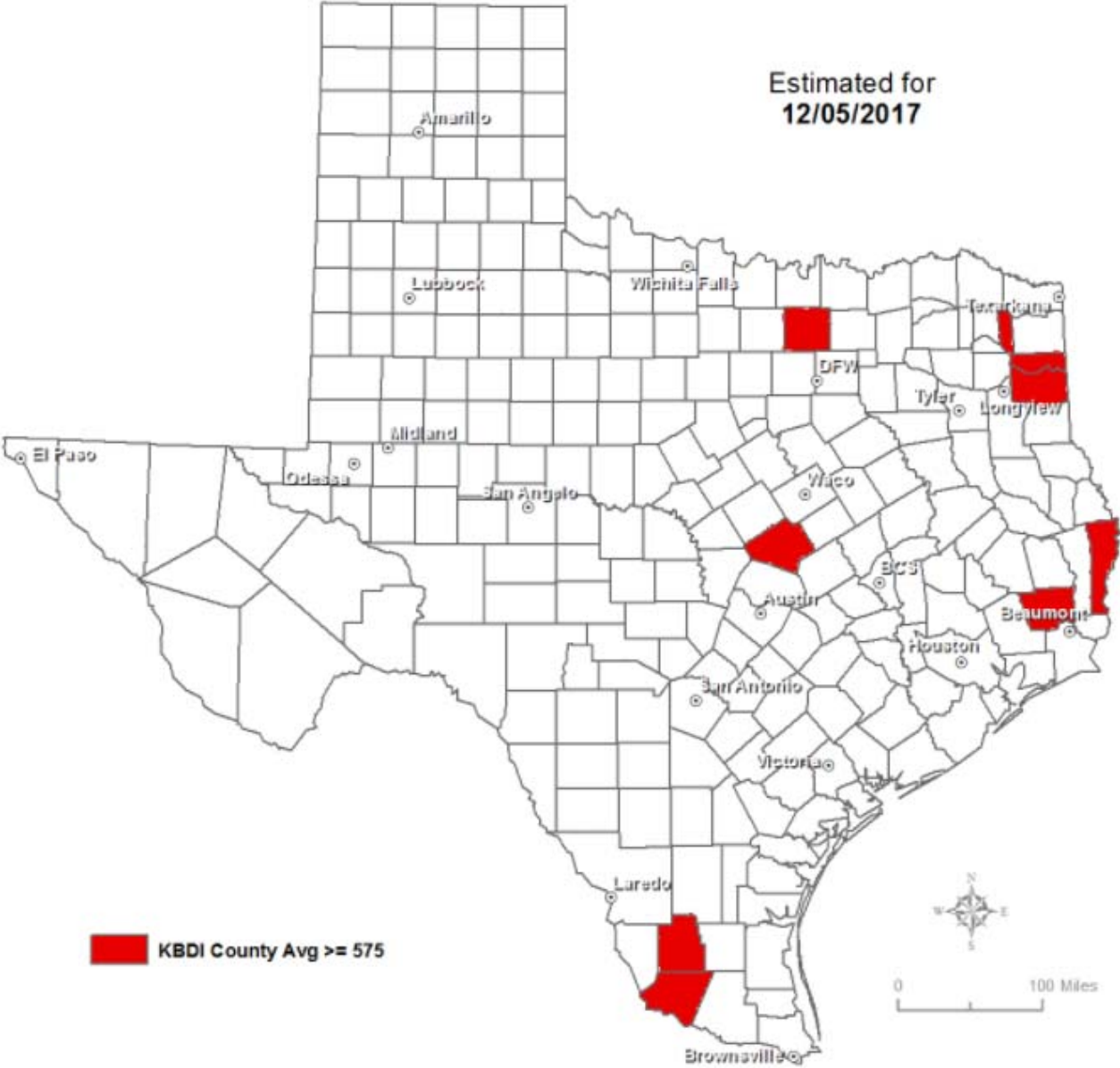
County Judge Mary Horn stated, "Prevention of potential wildland fires is essential to the safety of County residents. Wildfires can be devastating and difficult on everyone, especially farmers and ranchers; wildfires can destroy not only lives and property, but livelihood as well. With everyone's help we can make our communities a safer place to live and enjoy life."

Denton County Emergency Services Chief Jody Gonzalez stated, "Citizens should take measures to protect their home by removing unwanted combustible debris and vegetation away from their homes and be sure to keep water hoses ready accessible in the event a small fire starts. Always call 911 early to notify your fire department of any fire to assure a faster response and that complete extinguishment has occurred.

Keetch-Byram Drought Index

(County Average Value)

Estimated for
12/05/2017



Produced by TAMU Spatial Sciences Laboratory
in partnership with Texas A&M Forest Service

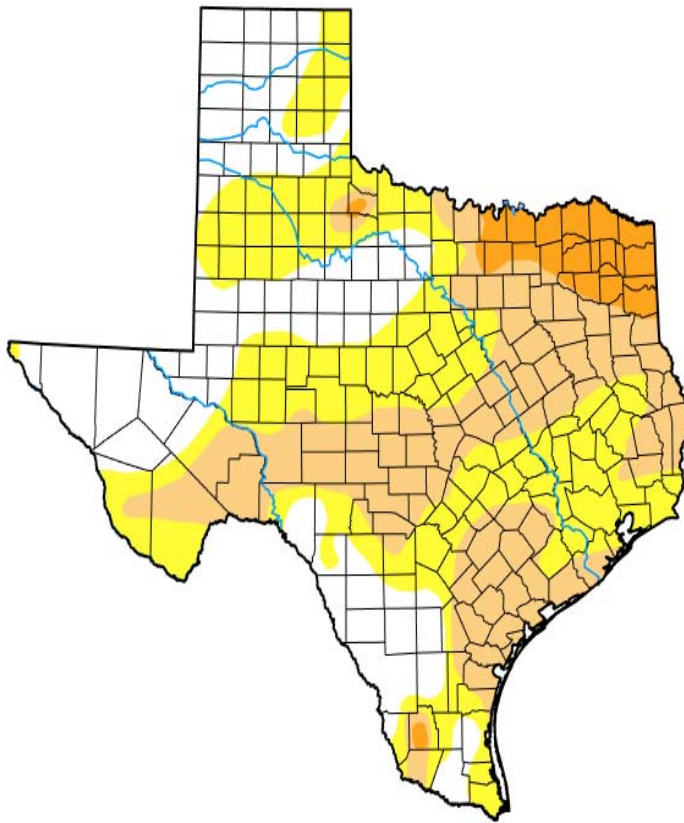


<http://ticc.tamu.edu/PredictiveServices/Drought.htm>







Texas

Map released: Thurs. November 30, 2017

Data valid: November 28, 2017 at 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 (Abnormally Dry)
-  D1 (Moderate Drought)
-  D2 (Severe Drought)
-  D3 (Extreme Drought)
-  D4 (Exceptional Drought)

Author(s):

[David Simerali](#), Western Regional Climate Center

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying [text summary](#) for forecast statements.

Map Download

Map without text:



Map with legend:



Map with legend and statistics table:



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?TX>