

News Release

Office of Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Critical wildfire danger predicted for North, Central and South Texas  
Texas Forest Service urges caution

COLLEGE STATION, Texas-- Texas Forest Service (TFS) is warning citizens across North, Central and South Texas of heightened wildfire danger due to strong winds, low relative humidity values and critically dry vegetation on Saturday.

The areas of concern are north and west of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, North Texas, Central Texas, the Hill Country and South Texas.

Tom Spencer, predictive services department head with TFS, said Saturday's predicted critical weather conditions greatly increase wildfire danger in this area.

"Vegetation across Texas is very dry and susceptible to accidental wildfire starts because of the persistent dry weather pattern and entrenched drought," Spencer said. "These wildfires, if accidentally started, represent a serious threat to citizens and their property."

In Texas, people cause 95 percent of wildfires. Citizens should not engage in activities, such as throwing out lit cigarettes, welding and burning debris, that could lead to an accidental wildfire start.

Since the beginning of the winter 2009 wildfire season, which began on January 22, 2009, TFS has responded along with local fire departments to 262 wildfires for 42,045 acres. During the same period, local fire departments have reported an additional 1,670 wildfires for 30,783 acres according to an online database managed by TFS.

For more information on fire advisories and area conditions, go to <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu> and click on Fire Danger/Advisories.