

Don Rauschuber

From: ladale young <ladaleyounghughes.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 4:49 PM
To: Don Rauschuber
Subject: Fwd: Outdoor Burning in Whitewater Springs
Attachments: WWS OutdoorBurningRegs.doc; BurnetCountyoutdoor burn guidelines.pdf

FYI

LaDale

From: "Terri Whaley" <terri.whaley@gmail.com>
Cc: team@wwspspa.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 2:10:10 PM
Subject: Outdoor Burning in Whitewater Springs

Hi Neighbors,

This is Terri Whaley. Most of you know that I sometimes send emails out to the community for others but this time I'm speaking as myself. These are my opinions and suggestions as the head of our Whitewater Springs Firewise Committee.

There's been a lot of concern recently about outdoor burning. You may know that we have had Outdoor Burning Guidelines here in Whitewater Springs since 2007 (see attachment). These have been available since that time on the "Before You Burn" sign just inside the entrance gate and they have also been distributed at various events throughout the years. Burnet County adopted their own Outdoor Burning guidelines (see attachment) which are very similar to ours except we require that anyone who burns on their property have a hose attached to a reliable water source. We specifically added that statement to encourage, for safety reasons, the use of our Community Burn Site, where we are required to follow a separate set of TCEQ safety regulations, instead of burning on individual lots. Dean Dearth did most of the work to compile our guidelines by using recommendations from TCEQ and other county's established guidelines.

We can't really prohibit outdoor burning in rural areas of Texas because our laws allow it. However, we can ensure that it will be done safely. I believe that if our outdoor burning guidelines can be enforced, we can ensure safer burning. And if we are allowed to continue to maintain a Community Burn Site, we will lessen the dangers of burning even more. Residents will always have the need to dispose of trimmings, dead limbs and trees, and other vegetation. We definitely need a place to safely do that.

I believe it's time for our Property Owners Association to officially adopt these outdoor burning guidelines and somehow make them enforceable. In my opinion, they need to be part of our covenants or bylaws. We had the endorsement of the Bertram volunteer fire department back in 2007, and we can enlist their help again.

I'm not saying that no one should be allowed to burn on their lot. It can still be done as long as the person burning safely follows the guidelines. But we need to realize that the Burnet County guidelines

are the same for rural ranches as they are for a community like ours, which has a much greater density of homes. At the least, surely we can require that there be a water source. And also, as both guidelines state, that you must get the permission of the owner if you plan to burn within 300 feet of another structure. And it would be nice to be notified when a burn within Whitewater Springs will take place.

I also believe burning on a developed lot with a water source and a home that you will sleep in that night is very different from burning on an undeveloped lot. It's typical for lot owners to leave in the afternoon or evening with embers still there (which is not allowed by either set of guidelines). After they leave, they have no idea if the wind picks up or changes direction. It's very possible for fires to re-ignite during the night when no one is watching.

If you agree with my opinions and suggestions, please contact the board at this address, team@wwspoa.com and let them know.

I know this is a long message, but I think it's an important topic, and I thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,
Terri Whaley