

Jollyville Fire Department
Williamson County Emergency Services District #1
Outdoor Burning Rules

Williamson County ESD#1/Jollyville Fire Department follows the State of Texas rules on outdoor burning. Two of these rules specifically prohibit outdoor burning in most area subdivisions and neighborhoods.

Per the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):

“Burning must be 300 feet from any structure (house, barn, shed, fence, etc.)”

“Grass, leaves, and branch trimmings from residences are all considered “domestic waste.” If your local government does not collect domestic waste and does not authorize a private collector to do so, you may burn material of this type. If such waste collection is available, then it cannot be burned under the domestic-waste exception.”

Other basic controlled burn rules:

No burning underneath overhanging trees, brush or structure

No burning underneath power lines

Must have a consistent water supply to control the size of the fire

Pretty much every rule listed above prohibits controlled burns in our district.

On the other side of the topic, cooking fires in a controlled container (BBQ’s, smokers, etc.) and warning fires, also in controlled areas (outdoor stoves, chimineas, masonry fire pits, etc.) are legal as long as they are not emitting flames of dangerous heights or emitting large numbers of embers that could pose a threat to structures or vegetation. We would also recommend that these items not be used on combustible surfaces or near structures or vegetation.

If you see someone burning illegally, contact our department and we will respond.

You can access the entire Outdoor Burning in Texas publication at:

www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/publications/rg/outdoor-burning-in-texas-rg-49.pdf