

# What is a *Non-Attainment Status*?

In Texas, non-attainment counties are geographic areas that do not meet, or contribute to the failure to meet, national ambient air quality standards for certain pollutants – most commonly ground-level ozone. For pollutants like ozone, the EPA assigns classifications with corresponding attainment deadlines, indicating the level of severity of the air pollution problem.

Non-attainment status reflects a failure to meet air quality goals that protect public health.

## Public Health

Air pollution in non-attainment areas is unhealthy and can cause or exacerbate health problems like asthma attacks, lung damage or premature death, particularly for vulnerable populations like the elderly and children.



Scan the QR code to see the current attainment status for Fort Bend County.

# How do I file a complaint?

Scan the QR code to file a complaint to *Fort Bend County Environmental Health*.



## Where can I find more information?



Fort Bend County  
Environmental  
Health Website



Find your regional  
TCEQ office



Texas A&M Forest  
Service Wildfire  
Status

Source: "Outdoor Burning in Texas," Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Revised February 2015,  
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/air/odb>

Reviewed: October 2025

# ANSWERS TO SOME **BURNING** QUESTIONS

## Outdoor Burning in Fort Bend County



**FORTBEND**  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# When is outdoor burning okay?

To protect Texas air quality, the *Texas Commission on Environmental Quality* (TCEQ) **prohibits outdoor burning anywhere in the state**. However, TCEQ allows for exceptions when the burning does not pose a health threat or nuisance. Since Fort Bend County is a non-attainment status, most outdoor burning is prohibited.

## ✓ Recreational fires

TCEQ allows campfires, and cooking fires if they don't cause nuisance smoke or traffic hazards.



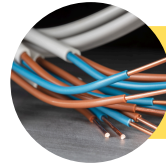
## ✗ Residential or Waste-Disposal fires

Outdoor burning is not allowed in areas where trash pickup service is available. **ALL of Fort Bend County has available trash pickup**. If a resident of Fort Bend County doesn't wish to pay for trash service, the waste must be disposed in a permitted landfill.

# Are there things I shouldn't burn?

There are some things that you should **NEVER** burn, because burning them would pose a threat to your safety and health.

## NEVER BURN



**Electrical insulation**



**Tires**



**Treated lumber**

*Such as construction or demolition waste*



**Heavy oils or asphaltic materials**



**Potentially explosive materials or chemicals**



**Any construction material**



**Mattresses**



## Are there alternatives to burning?

There are several alternatives that you should explore:

- Recycling
- Composting
- Mulching
- Disposal in local landfills
- Permitted air curtain incinerator



**Interested in recycling?**

Learn more at [How2Recycle.info](http://How2Recycle.info)



Scan the QR Code to learn more about the **Fort Bend County Recycling Center!**