



## ILLEGAL OUTDOOR BURNING

Champions ESD receives numerous calls each year regarding residents illegally burning yard waste in neighborhoods. Most outdoor burning in the Champions area is illegal under Texas Law.

### What you need to know ...

- You may only burn domestic waste **if garbage collection is not provided by a municipality or utility district**. Virtually everyone within the Champions area has garbage collection provided by your MUD.
- **Champions ESD is not an enforcement agency**. If a resident refuses to extinguish an outdoor burning fire, and the FD has determined it is not a fire hazard but only a smoke nuisance, the only remedy is to report the burning to Harris County Pollution Control. The offending neighbor may be subject to fines. Any outdoor fire deemed a fire hazard by responding personnel will be extinguished.
- **What can you do instead of burning your waste? Here are a few ideas:**
  - **Composting** wastes from landscape maintenance can often be easily composted on-site. Similar wastes, even some papers, can be composted under the right conditions.
  - **Chipping or mulching of wood and plant products can be used for soil enrichment, moisture retention, and compost creation**. In some cases, mulch can be a marketable product and put to use where it is produced or given to residents and nurseries. If the material cannot be used as landscape mulch, chipping can still be useful to reduce the volume of waste that must be disposed of by some other means.
  - **Landfills** are permitted outdoor areas for waste disposal. Some landfills have recycling centers with chippers for wood waste and collection bins for paper, plastic, and glass.

To report illegal burning, contact Harris County Pollution Control at **713.920.2831** or email [pollution.control@pcs.hctx.net](mailto:pollution.control@pcs.hctx.net). If the fire appears to be out of control or dangerous, call **9-1-1**.

<https://www.championsfire.org/faq>