

ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT # 1

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Larry Hess, Fire Chief

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The recent hot and dry weather that we are experiencing is creating conditions that are increasing the fire danger level for our area. To see an illustration of exactly how dry this area has become, click on the link below.

http://www.losc.lsu.edu/products/weekly_kbdi/KBDI_Color_Current.jpg

This drought index is used by the La. Dept. of Forestry to identify the fire danger level and indicates that we are somewhere between the high and very high danger levels. Every day that passes without rain will certainly exacerbate this problem.

The following is a description of each of these danger levels.

- **HIGH FIRE DANGER**

Fires start easily from most causes.

Control of fires can become difficult if initial attack not initiated promptly, especially in heavy fuels.

Most fires controlled within first burning period.

- **VERY HIGH FIRE DANGER**

Fires start readily and spread quickly.

Resistance to control is high, as is the potential for large fires.

Fire behavior is often erratic; "blow up" potential is high.

This increased fire danger requires St. Tammany Fire District #1 to take measures to minimize this risk potential. For as long as these weather conditions persist, the Fire Prevention Bureau of St. Tammany Fire District #1 will be working closely with the Slidell Police Department to enforce the City of Slidell ordinances that ban burning and fireworks.

The Fire Prevention Bureau of St. Tammany Fire District #1 has also been in contact with St. Tammany Parish Fire Superintendent John O'Neil in efforts to pursue parish ordinances that will ban open burning and fireworks, within the unincorporated areas, if conditions do not improve in the next week or so.