



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20140505-03D

May 5, 2014

Subject: Public Safety Commission Austin Fire Department/Austin Water Utility
Memo of Understanding Recommendation

Recommendation


It is recognized that professionally prescribed fires are a natural, ecologically sound method for reducing hazardous wildfire fuels and thus protecting communities, habitat and wildlife from extreme fires. These fires naturally contain a significant level of risk that can and must be managed by the surrounding area's professional fire service. In the last few years there have been several incidents in the country where agencies whose primary roles are not firefighting and fire protection have attempted vegetative fuel mitigation efforts that have ignited major fires resulting in significant loss of lives and property. A recent one in Colorado resulted in the loss of lives, homes and several thousand acres of forest. In addition, for a professional fire service the responsibility for "controlled burns" also provides an excellent training platform for professional firefighters to practice the complex skills necessary to combat a wildfire.

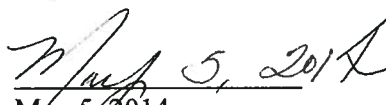
Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Austin Public Safety Commission that the Austin Fire Department have the operational control of all prescribed fire operations within the boundaries of the City of Austin.

Vote

The Public Safety Commission Austin Fire Department/Austin Water Utility Memo of Understanding Recommendation was approved unanimously on Commissioner Moreno's motion and Vice Chair Levy's second.

Absent: Commissioner Lauderdale and Commissioner Ko


Tara Long, Support Staff Liaison
Public Safety Commission


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