



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: August 10, 2023

**SURFSIDE BEACH** - In response to the escalating threat of wildfires due to the prevailing hot, dry conditions that have gripped the region, Brazoria County has announced an immediate burn ban for all unincorporated areas and the Village of Surfside Beach will be following the County's lead and is instituting a burn ban for all areas within the Surfside Beach city limits. This proactive measure aims to mitigate the risk of potential wildfires that could result from the current drought conditions.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI), a critical indicator of drought severity, registered a countywide average today of 602, signaling a continued increase in drought conditions. As the relentless summer heat continues to parch the soil and dry out vegetation, the KBDI is expected to climb further, raising significant concerns for the outbreak of wildfires.

Effective immediately, the burn ban prohibits all forms of outdoor burning, including but not limited to open fires, debris burning, and controlled burns. The ban extends to the burning of any combustible materials outside of a secured enclosure that effectively contains flames and sparks. The use of enclosed BBQ pits and grills remains permissible under the ban; however, open flame pits are strictly prohibited.

Violation of the burn ban order is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine. Surfside Beach officials emphasize the importance of compliance to safeguard lives and property.

Officials will closely monitor weather patterns and the KBDI over the coming 90 days.

The implementation of the burn ban underscores the Village's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregg Bisso", is written over a horizontal line.

Gregg Bisso  
Mayor