

Press Release

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HPARD Response to No Smoking Ban

In response to the Executive Order 1-15 Unlawful Conduct in City Parks during Local State of Emergency, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department Director Joe Turner commented:

"Anything that stops a fire is a good thing. During this local state of emergency, we appreciate the support of all Houstonians to help prevent fires in our parks."

With the addition of the smoking ban, the City's policy is now consistent with Harris County's burn ban. Violations of the mayor's executive order carry fines of up to \$2,000 per offense. The executive order will remain in effect until drought conditions improve.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 38,992 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.