

Media Advisory

October 24, 2019

Plano Fire-Rescue and Plano Parks Department Team Up for Prescribed Burn at Oak Point Nature Preserve

With a plan benefitting two city departments, Plano Fire-Rescue's Wildland Firefighting team will work with Plano's Parks Department to conduct a prescribed burn at the city's Oak Point Nature Preserve next week.

One of the main goals of this burn is to control and gather information to prevent further spread of King Ranch Bluestem (KRB), an invasive plant species that has been observed to diminish grassland bird diversity and abundance by reducing insect diversity. It also has negative impacts on other wildlife. According to current research, KRB is best controlled by prescribed burns done in late summer or early fall.

Weather conditions and firefighter staffing must be just right for the burn to take place and forecast information is currently showing that Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of next week will provide the most favorable conditions. A spot weather forecast will be obtained from the National Weather Service in Fort Worth each day and a **Go** or **No Go** decision will be made immediately prior to any planned ignition. Consideration of available fuels, predicted fire behavior, and most importantly, smoke management concerns will be taken as a decision is made.

Students from Collin College and Plano Senior High School will be collecting data before and after the burn to determine the effects of the burn on controlling KRB. The information gathered could lead to long term benefits for the preservation of the natural grasses and wildlife.

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Media Contacts

Captain Peggy Harrell
Plano Fire-Rescue PIO
Plano Fire-Rescue
Ph. (972) 941-7421
Mo. (972) 816-8187
peggyha@plano.gov

Kym Hughes
Natural Resources Superintendent
Plano Parks Department
972-769-4389
kymh@plano.gov

About Plano Fire-Rescue

Plano Fire-Rescue is a progressive and recognized fire department providing both emergency services (fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue, hazardous materials response, and wildland fire fighting) and non-emergency services (fire and life safety education, building fire protection systems engineering and review, fire code enforcement and community event support) from 13 strategically placed fire stations with a roster of 388 sworn personnel and 11 civilian employees. Plano Fire-Rescue holds a Class 1 ISO Rating, and accreditation from both the Center for Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). With the goal of providing the best service to the citizens and visitors of Plano, the department mission/purpose statement includes the core values each employee strives to reflect, *Plano Fire-Rescue, Professional service with heart – integrity always*. Please visit planofire.org.