

Camp Bullis Dark Skies Zone

Comal County has adopted an Order to help preserve our dark skies in a portion of Comal County. The Texas Legislature has authorized counties to regulate outdoor lighting in areas adjacent to military installations.

Camp Bullis, primarily in Bexar County, but partially in Comal County, is a critical training facility for the United States military, where all branches of the service train their medical personnel to function under fire. The continued viability of Camp Bullis for such training purposes is essential to the readiness of the United States military, the utility of Fort Sam Houston, and the vitality of Comal County's economy.

On April 4, 2008, Comal County received a letter from Major General Russell Czerw, Commander, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School at Fort Sam Houston, requesting that Comal County issue an order regulating outdoor night-time lighting for new construction within three miles of the boundaries of Camp Bullis in order to protect military night training activities.

After giving an appropriate public notice, the Comal County Commissioners Court conducted a public hearing on the proposed adoption of this Order on August 21, 2008. On September 4, 2008, the Comal County Commissioners Court adopted Order No. 199 - ORDER FOR REGULATION OF OUTDOOR LIGHTING IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS WITHIN 3 MILES OF THE CAMP BULLIS DARK SKIES ZONE. A copy of the Order can be found by [clicking here](#).

All public and private outdoor lighting installed after the effective date of this order in the Camp Bullis Dark Skies Zone shall be in conformance with the requirements established by this Order. All new outdoor lighting shall be IDA Products installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications and/or IDA's specifications with the intent to avoid interference with the night training activities at Camp Bullis. For more information about IDA and approved products, you can visit the [IDA web site](#). In order to obtain a permit, a permit from the County Engineer's office is required before installation of any outdoor lighting. A copy of the permit can be found [here](#).



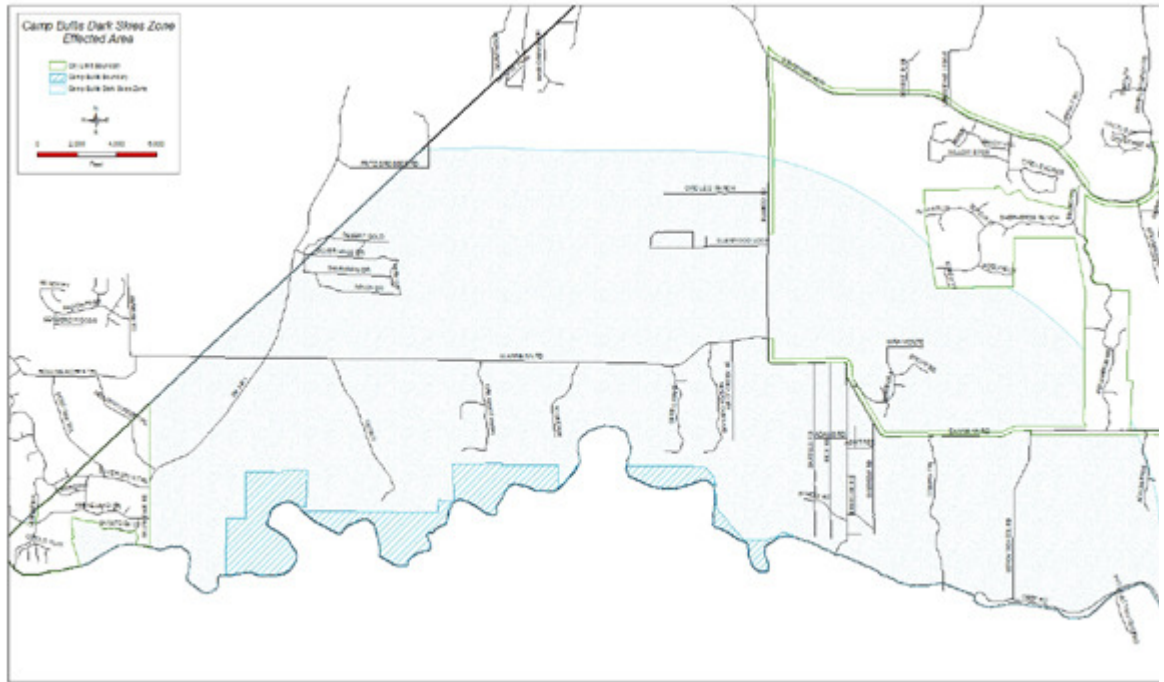
If you are planning on putting up Christmas lights this year, don't worry. According to Article III Section 1 of the order, "Decorative holiday lighting from November 15 to the next January 15 is exempt."

This Order also authorized the County Engineer to place signage along the public right-of-way adjacent to the Camp Bullis Dark Skies Zone to enhance awareness of this Order. An example of this signage is below:



(Click for Larger Image)

The image below shows the unincorporated areas of Comal County that are effected by this Ord



(Click for Larger Image)

If you have any questions concerning this Order, please feel free to call the County Engineer's C (830) 608-2090.