



The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy is a national collaborative effort to bring a broad cross-section of stakeholders together to address wildland fire management challenges. The Strategy directs wildland fire planning activities and has three primary goals: restore and maintain landscapes, develop Fire-Adapted Communities, and improve wildfire response.

Wildfire Thwarted by County Preparations

During September 2015, a brush fire ignited at the side of a road along a densely vegetated drainage area just west of the already wildfire-affected Tahitian Village subdivision in Bastrop County, Texas. The wildfire burned through an area heavily vegetated with pine and cedar trees and yaupon shrub, exhibiting what fire experts call very active fire behavior. Flames ran through understory fuels and torched the pine and cedar canopy of the trees. As the wildfire traveled west, rapidly consuming brush and pine needles, the fire encountered a mulched area of land, put in by the county as a buffer zone and line of defense against such wildfires. Without continued heavy fuels to burn, the wildfire dropped down out of the canopy of the trees and burned along the ground as a surface fire. Here it lost intensity and was able to be contained by fire crews. This experience represents a textbook example of what a buffer zone is designed to do.

Bastrop County, Texas has participated in a number of wildland fire management activities following the disastrous 2011 Bastrop County Complex Fire, including:

- subscribing to the FEMA Hazard

Mitigation Grant Program;

- following a Texas A&M Forest Service-supported, countywide, Community Wildfire Protection Plan;
- using information garnered from the Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal as guidance to focus hazard mitigation efforts;
- partnering with Texas A&M Forest Service on mulching projects over the past five years for endangered species habitat management and complementary fuels reduction;
- identifying areas along key ignition corridors using funds from the HMGP grant; and
- contracting with a pool of private companies for detailed fuel mapping, fire behavior modeling and fuel reduction.

Additional Information:

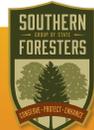
News release: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/content/article.aspx?id=22528>

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Partners: Texas A&M Forest Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Texas Department of Emergency Management, Bastrop County, and private companies



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