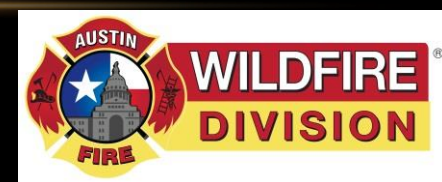


WELCOME WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY WORKSHOP



FROM AT RISK TO EMPOWERED

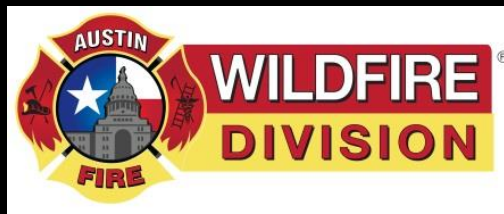
Presented by

Justice Jones

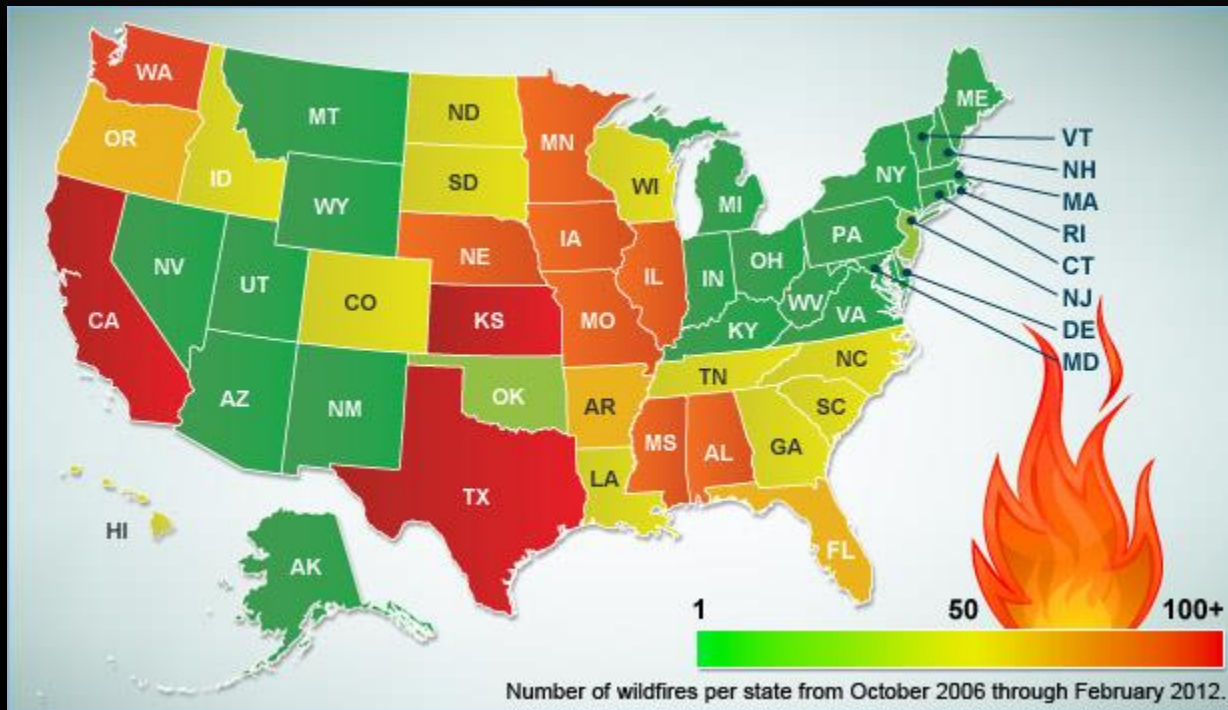
Austin Fire Department

Wildfire Mitigation Division

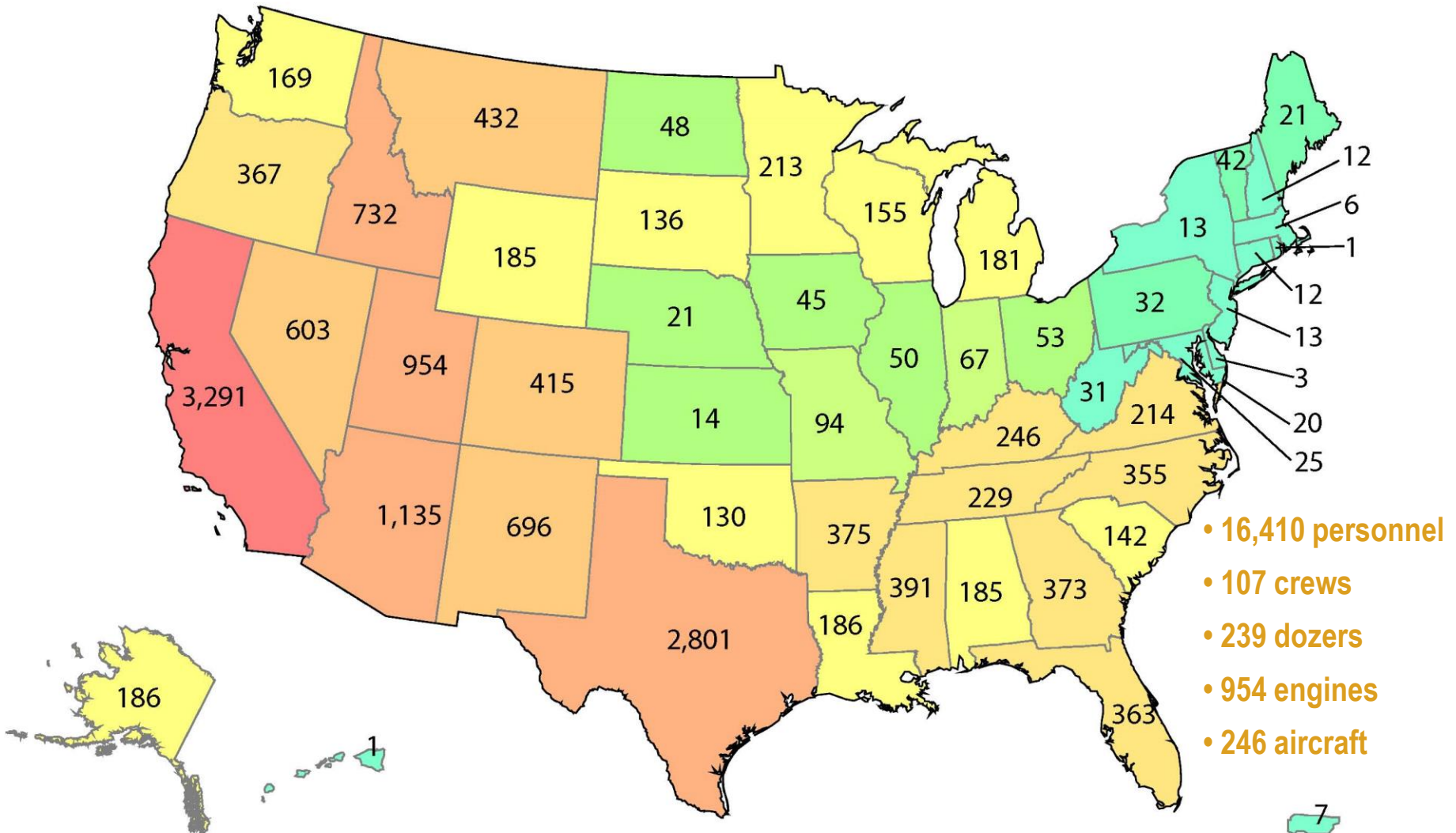
Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator



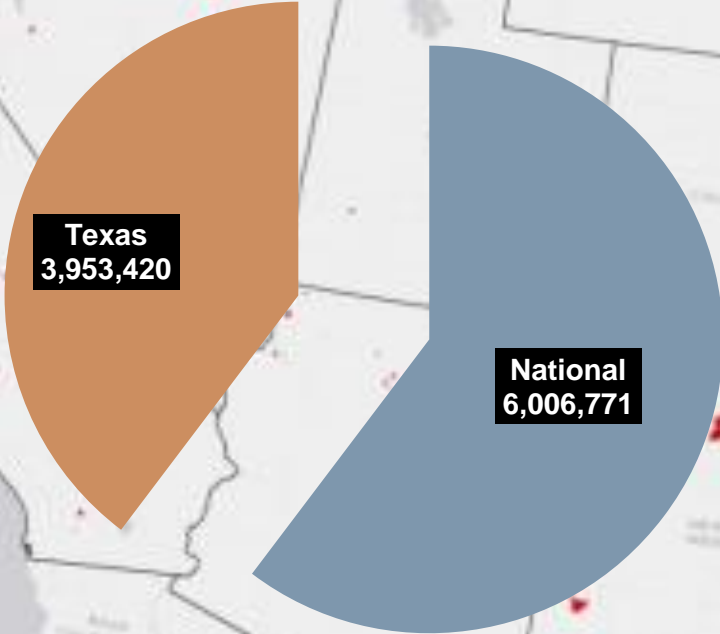
TEXAS IS A FIRE STATE



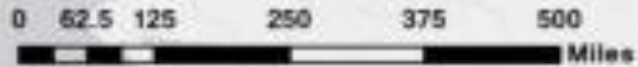
2011 RESOURCES MOBILIZED



Acres Burned



Total: 9,960,191

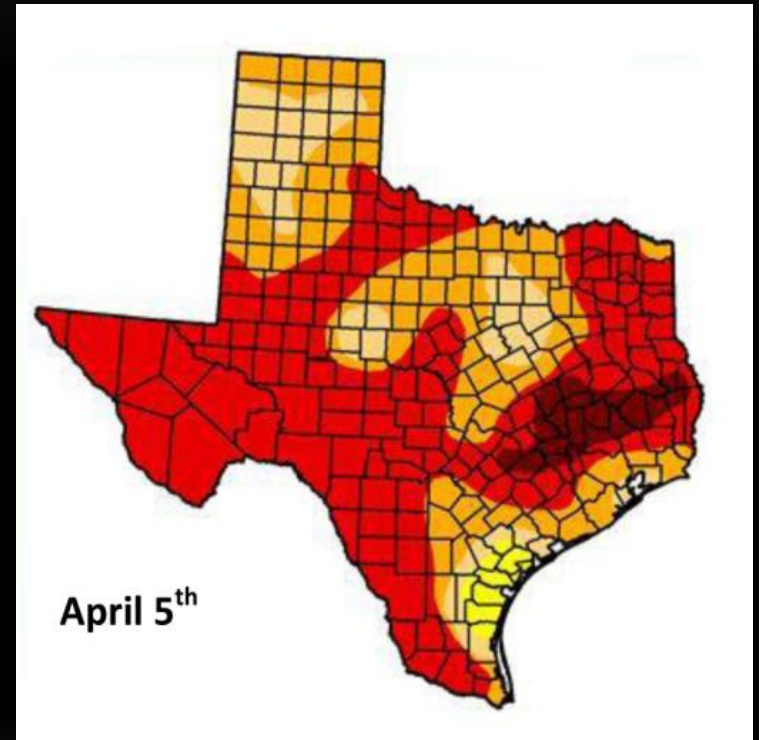


CASUAL FACTORS OF CHANGING FIRE ENVIRONMENT

- Weather
- Population
- Land Use

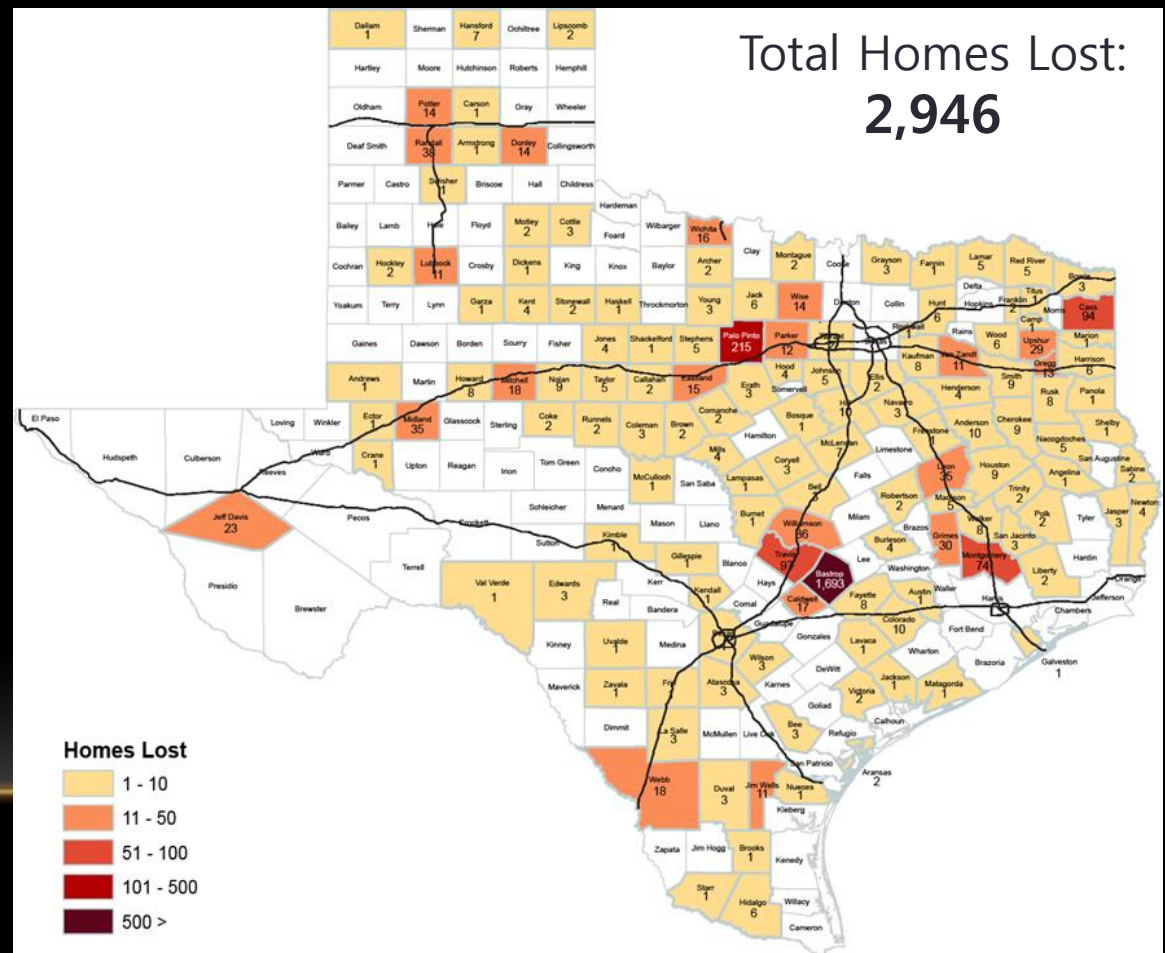
WEATHER

- Change in climate cycle
- Severe Drought
- Sustained record temperatures



POPULATION

- 70% of fires caused by individuals
- 41% Texans are living in a WUI environment

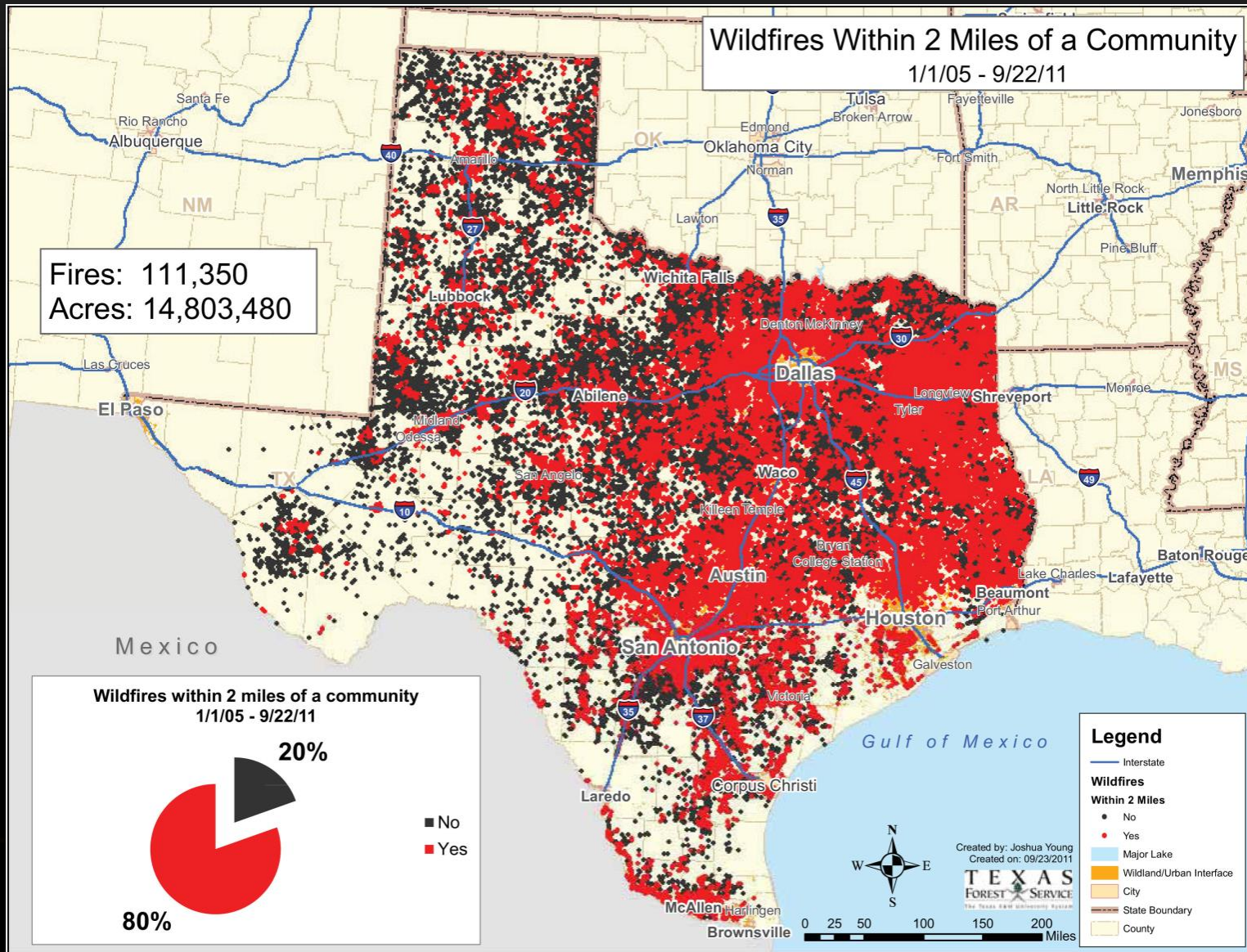


LAND USE

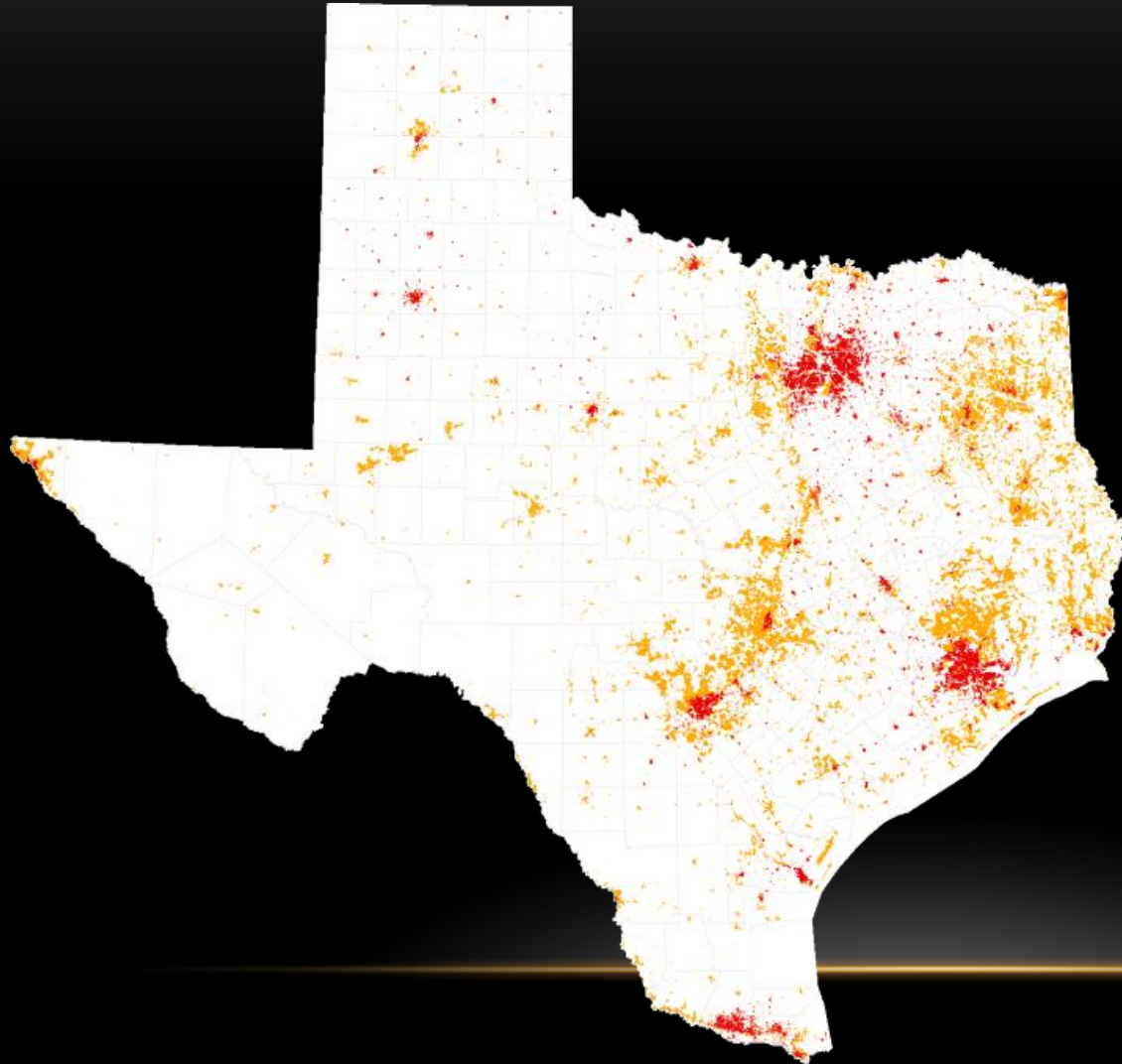
- Increase in woody vegetation
- Changes in grazing practices
- Wildfire management
- Change in commercial crop production
- Fragmentation of land ownership
- Suppression activities



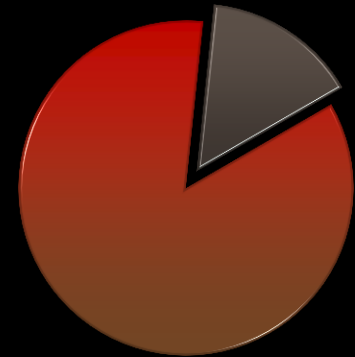
MORE PEOPLE=MORE WILDFIRE



WILDFIRE IS A RURAL AND URBAN ISSUE



- **80% < 2 miles** from a community
- **70%** caused by individuals



- **Land use**
- **Climate**
- **Population**
- **Fire management**

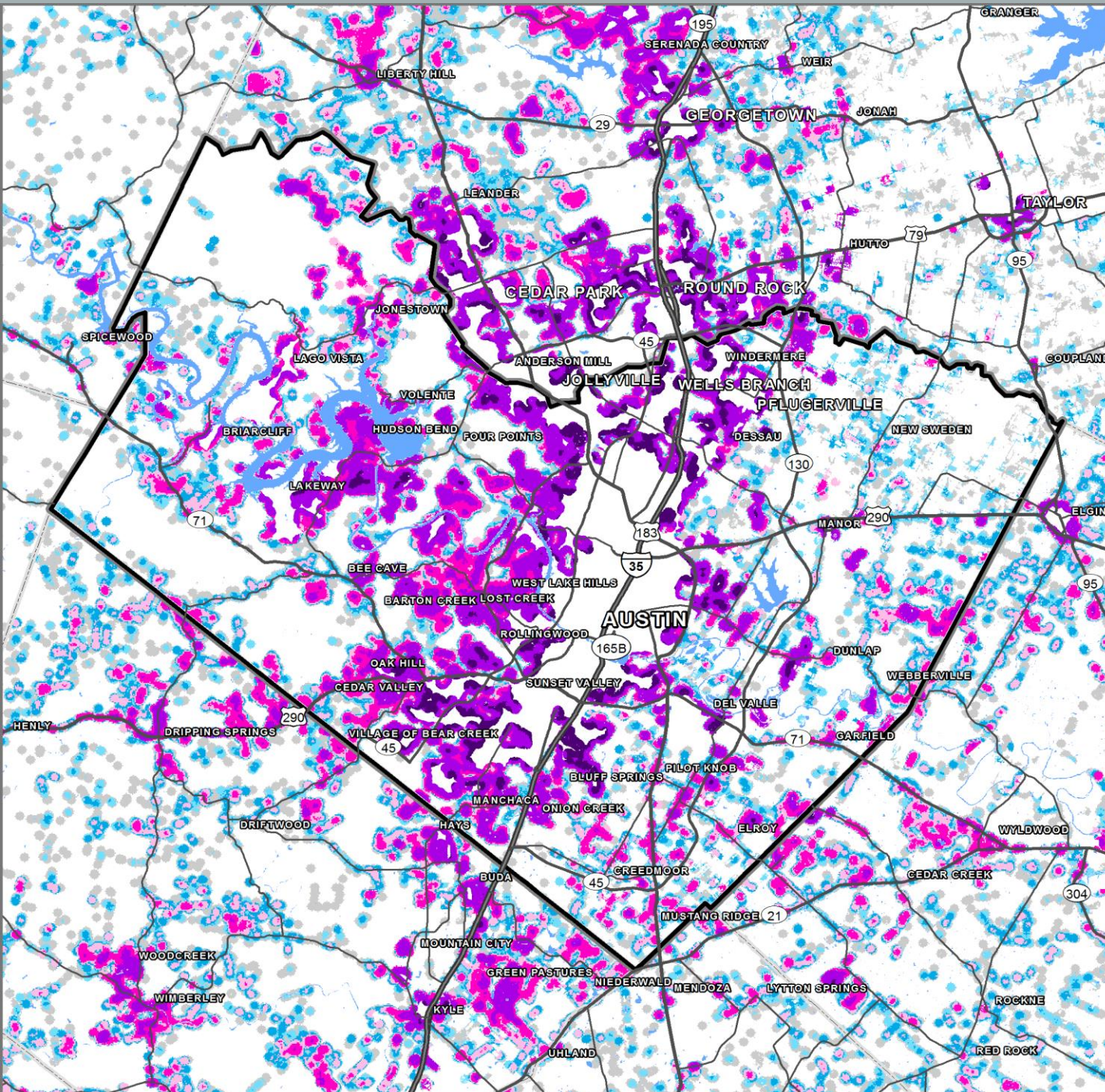
Wildland Urban Interface

- 1 - LT 1 hs/40 ac
- 2 - 1 hs/40 to 1 hs/20 ac
- 3 - 1 hs/20 to 1 hs/10 ac
- 4 - 1 hs/10 to 1 hs/5 ac
- 5 - 1 hs/5 to 1 hs/2 ac
- 6 - 1 hs/2 to 3 hs/ac
- 7 - GT 3 hs/ac

**Wildfire Risk
exist
throughout
Travis County.**



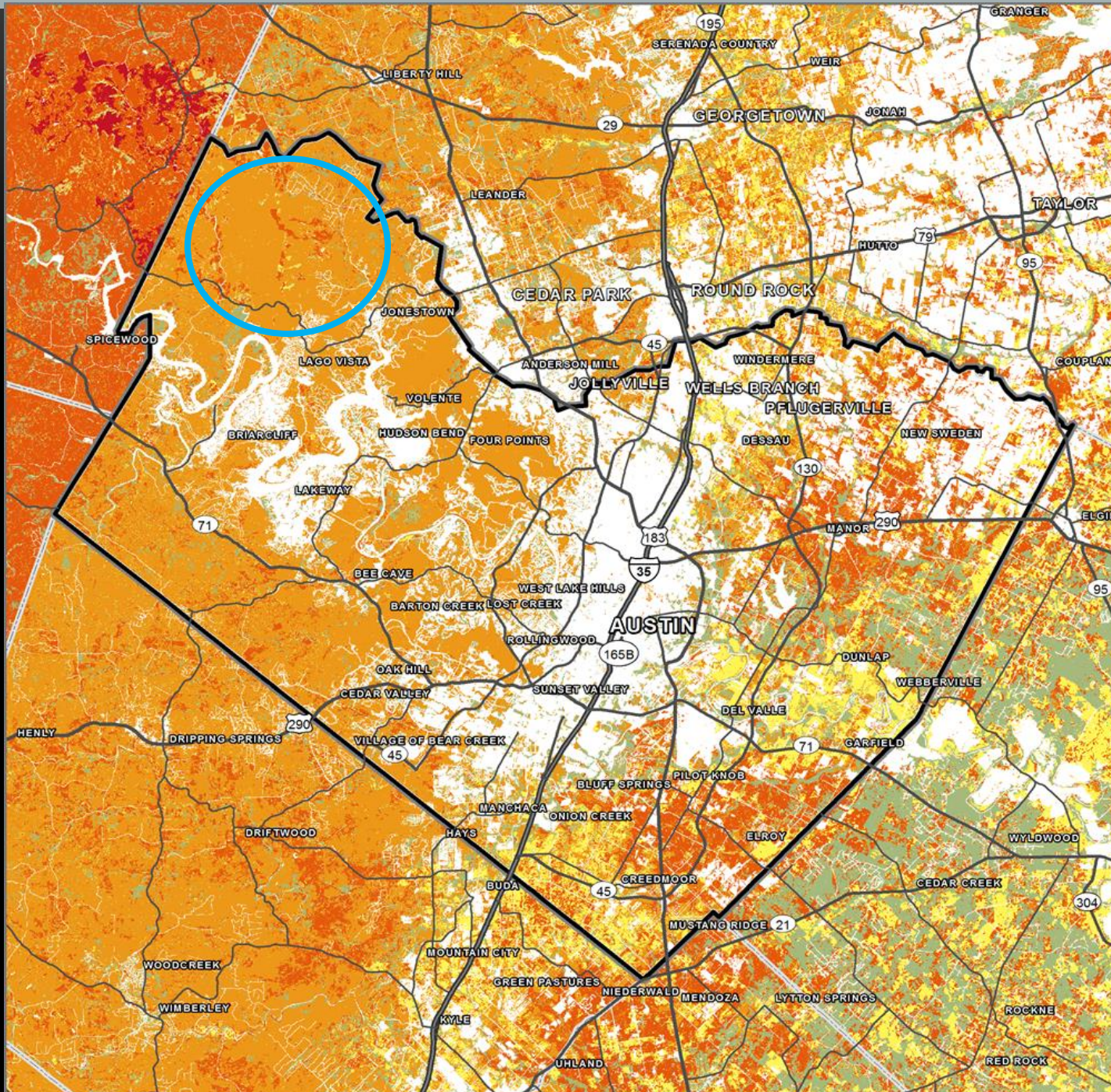
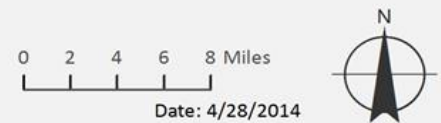
Date: 4/28/2014



Characteristic Rate of Spread



Under extreme conditions speeds up to 2 miles per hour or 1/2 a mile in 15 minutes.



LATE EVACUATIONS FATALITIES



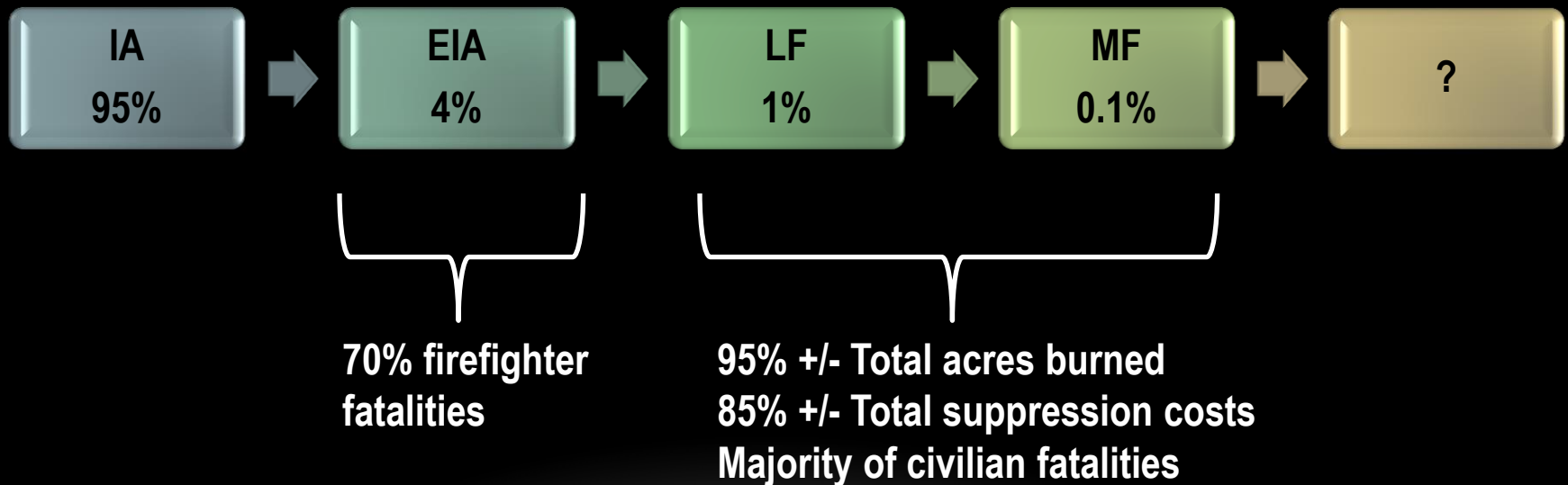
ALARMING TREND

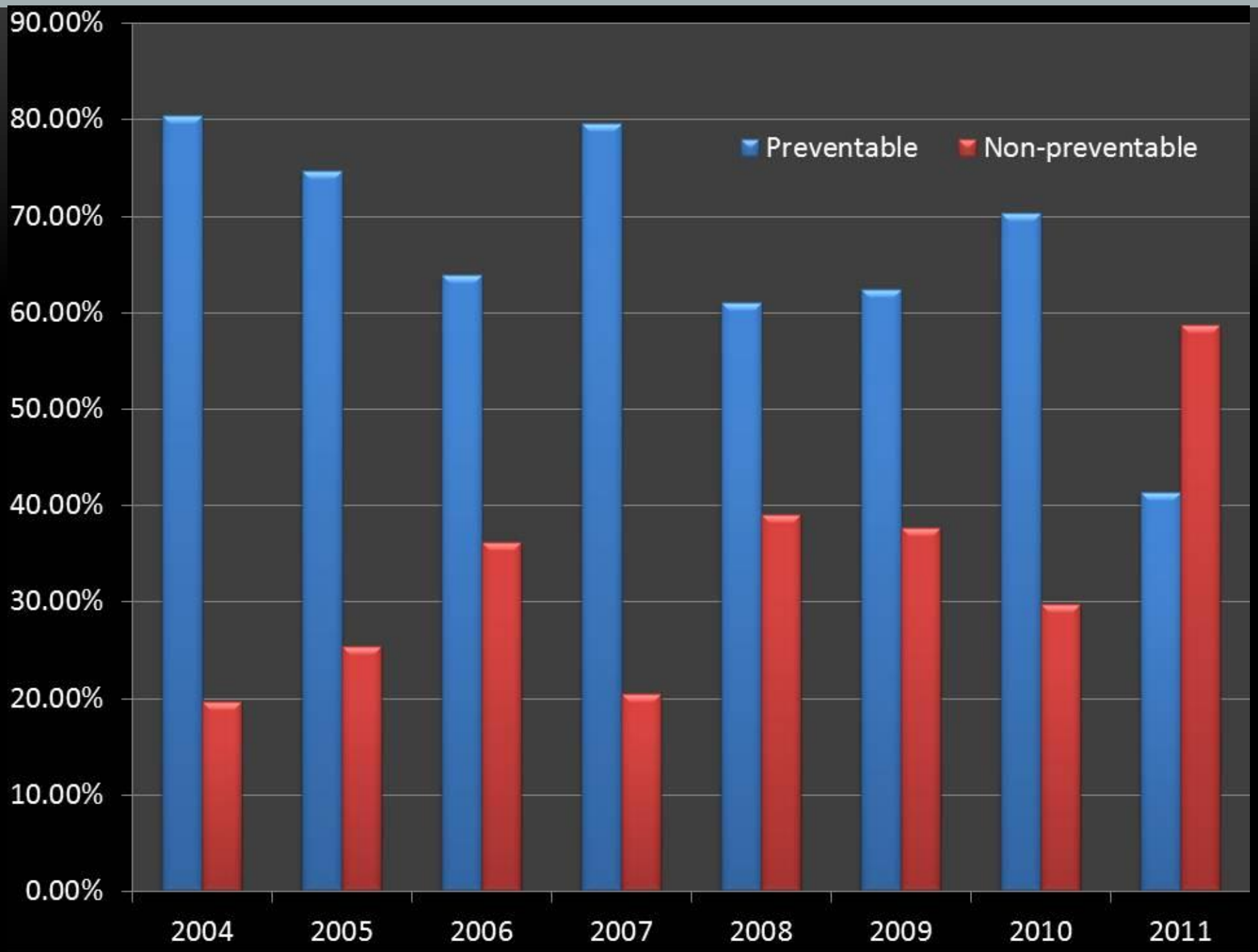
- The fire season is now a year-round reality
- As many as 80 % of home losses could be prevented if their owners had only followed a few simple fire-safe practices.
- The majority of wildland fire related deaths occur because people refuse to leave or don't leave early enough
- Firefighter fatalities are increasing



WILDFIRE SPECTRUM

NOT ALL WILDFIRES ARE CREATED EQUAL





WILDFIRE IMPACTS

- Loss of life and property
- Damage to air and water quality
- Soil Erosion
- Harm to wildlife and domestic animals
- Economic losses to communities

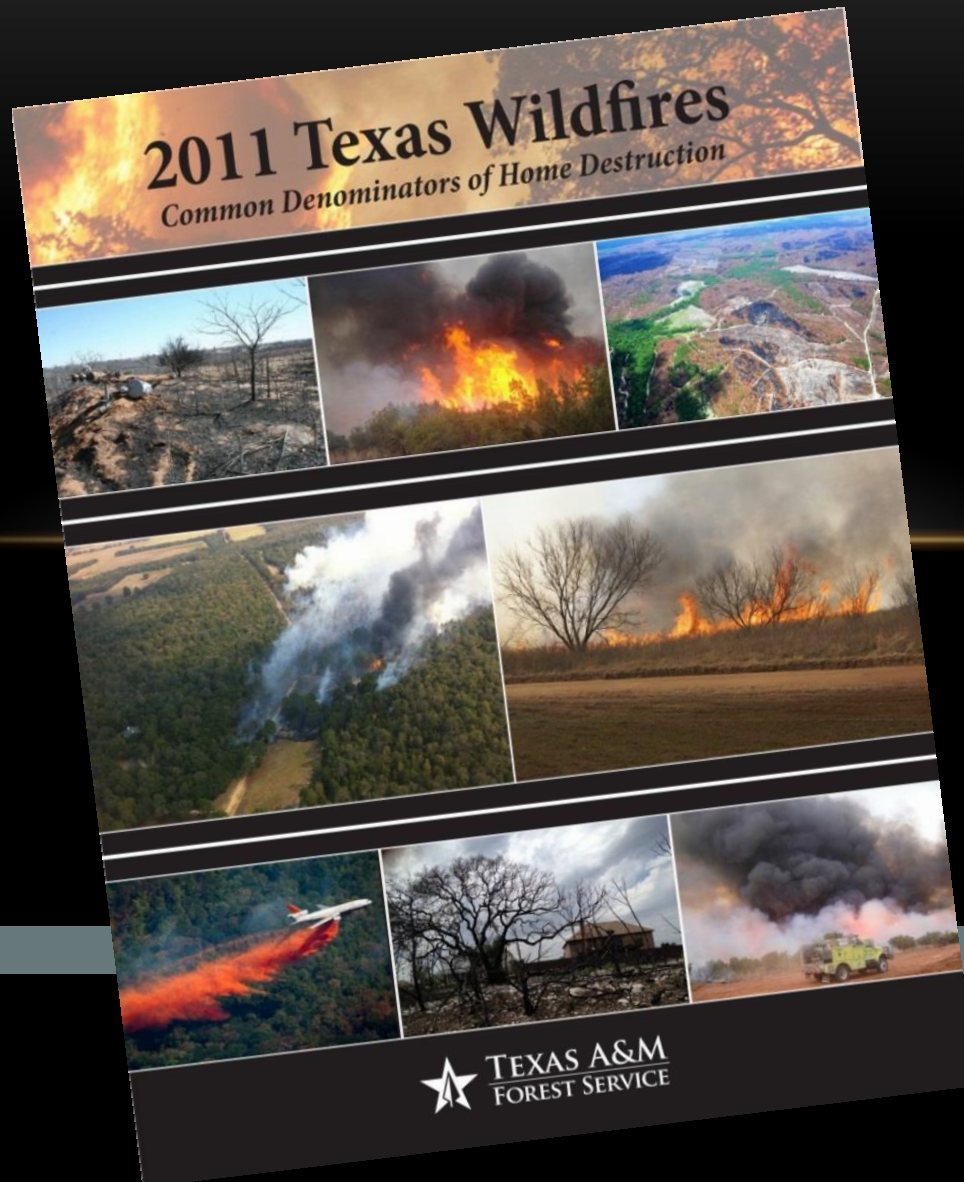


WHAT IS A FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITY?

A community taking responsibility and implementing actions at ALL scales to reduce its wildfire threat.



2011 TEXAS WILDFIRES LESSONS LEARNED



STRANGER THAN FICTION



Myth # 1

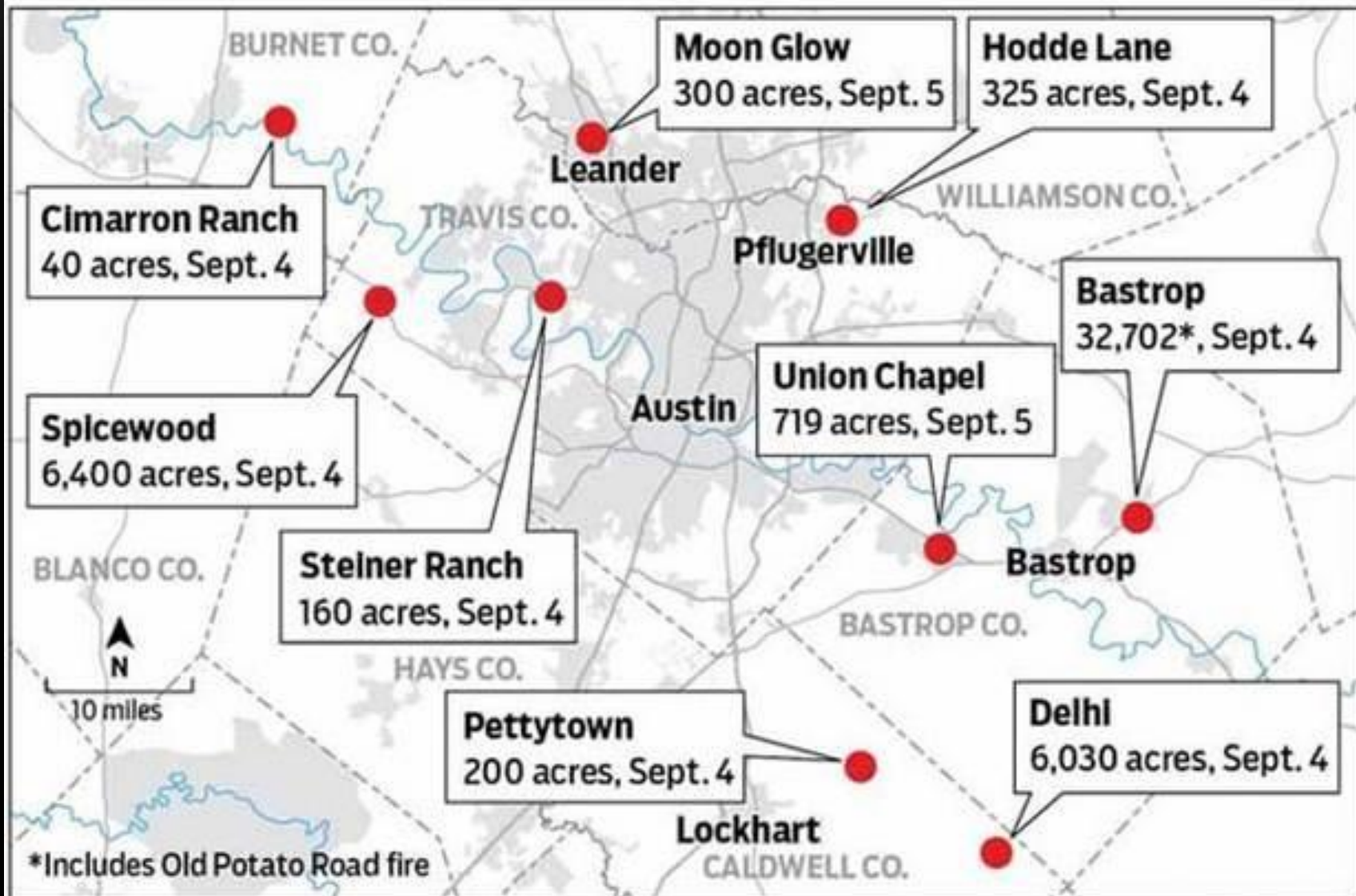
It takes a big fire to cause major losses

Fact #1

SMALL FIRES = BIG LOSS

Major Labor Day weekend fires in Central Texas

The Bastrop Complex fire was one of nine fires that burned almost 47,000 acres and destroyed more than 1,800 homes and other structures.



PINNACLE FIRE

- Acres Burned 100
- Homes Lost 10
- Homes Damaged 12



STEINER RANCH

Acres Burned: 125
23 homes lost



MOONGLOW FIRE

Acres Burned: 84
Homes Lost: 16



Myth #2

My trees are out to get me

Fact #2

Homes burn trees too



STEINER RANCH



FACT-RESIDENTIAL TREES NEED PROTECTION FROM WILDFIRE TOO.



Myth #3

The Wolf cant blow my house down I built it with brick.

Fact #3

Embers are a wolf in sheep's clothing





EMBERS

Wildfires driven by high winds sent a profuse amount of embers ahead of the main fire.



ATTACHMENTS

Combustible attachments to homes act as a fuse.



Windows not designed to withstand heat fractured, creating an opportunity for flames and embers to penetrate homes.



Fires often spread to surrounding homes from vehicles, outbuildings, firewood and other combustible



Myth #4

Fire is an all consuming “tsunami of flame”







Fact # 4

Fires can only burn what is combustible

Myth #5

Yards have to be moonscaped



13158
STATE FARM
CONNELL



Fact #5

Fire will find the weak link and follow that link

Bastrop Fire

Acres Burned: 34,068

Homes Lost: 1645

Fatalities: 2

Over 600 homes were destroyed
within the first 2 1/2 hours
1000 burned the first day



OF THE 2,853 TOTAL STRUCTURES WITHIN THE BASTROP FIRE PERIMETER, 1,157 SURVIVED,



Many without the aid of suppression



Earlier this year



After the fire

Fact! We can never guarantee that a house will survive a severe wildfire. However, we can attest that effectively treating the HIZ can dramatically increase the chances that the home will survive.



It's Not Just About One Structure



WILDFIRE IS EVERYONE'S FIGHT

SO KNOW YOUR ROLE



CITIZENS ROLE

Prepare Yourself

Prepare Your Family

Prepare Your Home

Prepare your Property

Prepare Your Community



- When Wildfire strikes, you will have little or no time to prepare RSG can help but you have to.....
- Own your risk
- Take action to reduce it
- when fire happens get out so we can get in



ONCE YOU ARE PREPARED

CONSIDER TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

- Reach out to your neighbors
- Carry the message to the community
- Remember in wildfire we are all in this together
- The safer the individual the safer the community

FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

- Fire departments and emergency responders engage and educate residents about properly preparing for wildfire and building situational awareness



OUR JOB IS TO MAKE THE TOUGH CALLS



LAND MANAGERS

- Where appropriate incorporate WUI considerations into management plans to address wildfire risk on the land you manage.
- Share that information with local suppression authorities so they can be as effective as possible in protecting those lands.
- Participate in your communities efforts to become fire adapted and participate in the local Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

CIVIC & COMMUNITY LEADERS

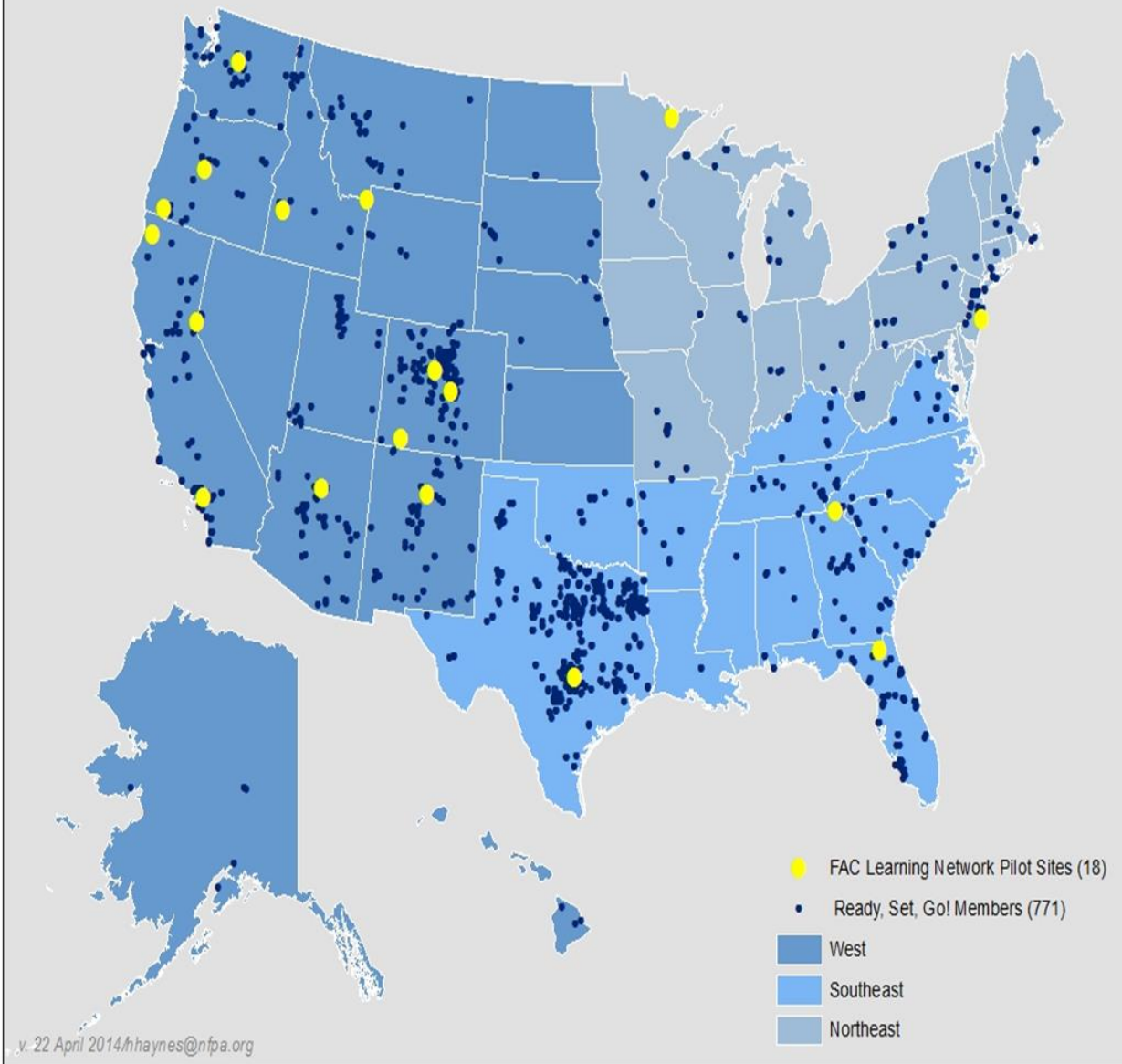
- Work with land managers, fire departments, state forestry agencies and the public on a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
- Support public education and wildland fire preparedness programs, such as Ready, Set, Go
- Consider regulations for high risk areas that require defensible space measures, fire-resistant building materials, and firefighter access

HOW FAR ALONG THE PATH ARE WE

- Austin and Travis County(ATC) Leadership have formally acknowledge that wildfires poses a real and present threat through formal proclamation and resolutions respectively.
- An inter-jurisdictional Wildfire Taskforce was established and is leading the development of a Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan soon to be released.
- ATC lead the state in the number of recognized Firewise Communities USA.

- All members of the Austin Fire Department are qualified in wildland firefighting as are many of the other departments across the county.
- AFD is the pilot Read Set Go, Spanish campaign set to be unveiled in mid September.
- AFD is a Fire Service representative for the Federal Alliance of Safe Homes Disaster Resilient Communities Initiative.
- Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Pilot Community

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Networks & Ready, Set, Go Members



REMEMBER

YOUR MITIGATION & PREPARATION CAN:

- *Save the lives of you, your family, your neighbors and firefighters*
- *Protect your property, the property of your neighbors and of your community*
- *Preserve your environment, lifestyle, property values, and allow you to insure your home*

NOT IF BUT WHEN

- Through advance planning, understanding and preparation, we can all be partners in the wildland fire solution.

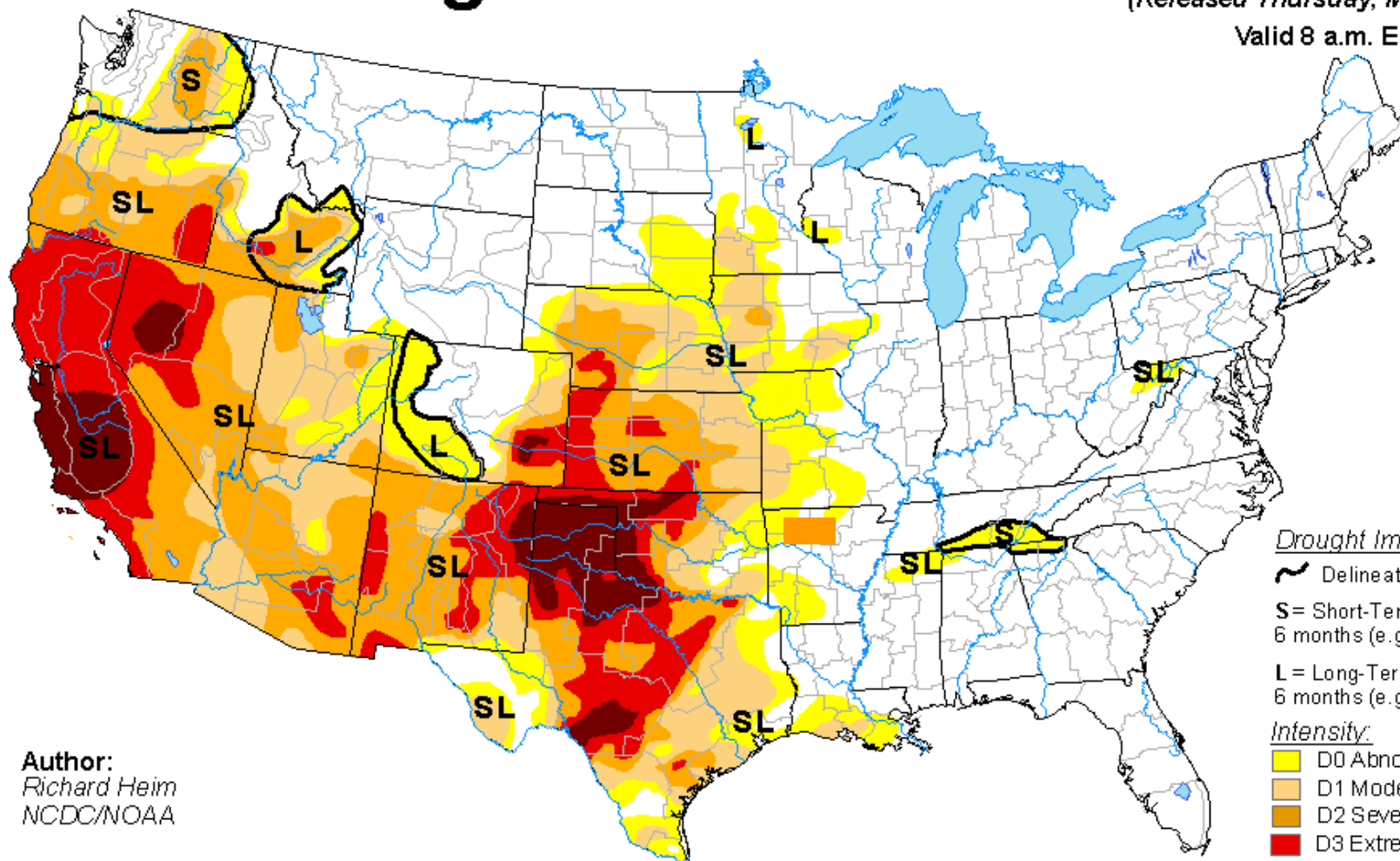


U.S. Drought Monitor

April 29, 2014

(Released Thursday, May 1, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Author:
Richard Heim
NCDC/NOAA

Drought Impact Types:

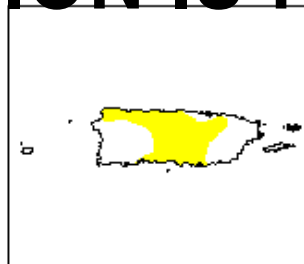
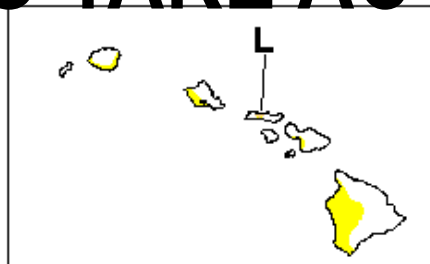
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S= Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L= Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:

- Yellow: D0 Abnormally Dry
- Light Orange: D1 Moderate Drought
- Orange: D2 Severe Drought
- Red: D3 Extreme Drought
- Dark Red: D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

THE TIME TO TAKE ACTION IS NOW



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

**Presented by
Justice Jones
Austin Fire Department
Wildfire Mitigation Division
Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator**

