

AUSTIN - TRAVIS COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN



NATIONAL COHESIVE STRATEGY

CWPPs are the primary mechanism for developing a localized Cohesive Strategy by facilitating

- Restoring and maintaining landscapes,
- Creating fire-adapted communities,
- Risk-based management response to wildfires.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

This Austin-Travis County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan
embodies the **Cohesive Strategy** and serves
as the springboard for transforming our
communities at risk, into
Fire Adapted Communities

WHY WE NEED A CWPP

- **8,000 Wildfires in Travis County since 1998**
- **Wildfires happen year round**
- **45% of the population is at risk**
- **The threat of wildfire is wide spread**



CWPP MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Collaboration
- Prioritized fuel reduction
- Treatment of structural ignitability
- 3 entities must agree on final content
 - Local government
 - Local Fire Service
 - State Forestry Agency

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANNING TEAM

The Joint Wildfire Taskforce(JWTF) was sanctioned by Austin and Travis County Leadership, to develop a Countywide **Cohesive Strategy** for reducing the wildfire threat to **Communities at Risk**.



TARGET AUDIENCE

It's addressed primarily for professionals :

- Firefighters
- Land managers
- Planners and Developers
- Community leaders

For the county to become truly fire adapted such information must get into the hands of local leaders and residents. A CWPP toolkit is included to facilitate local level CWPP development.

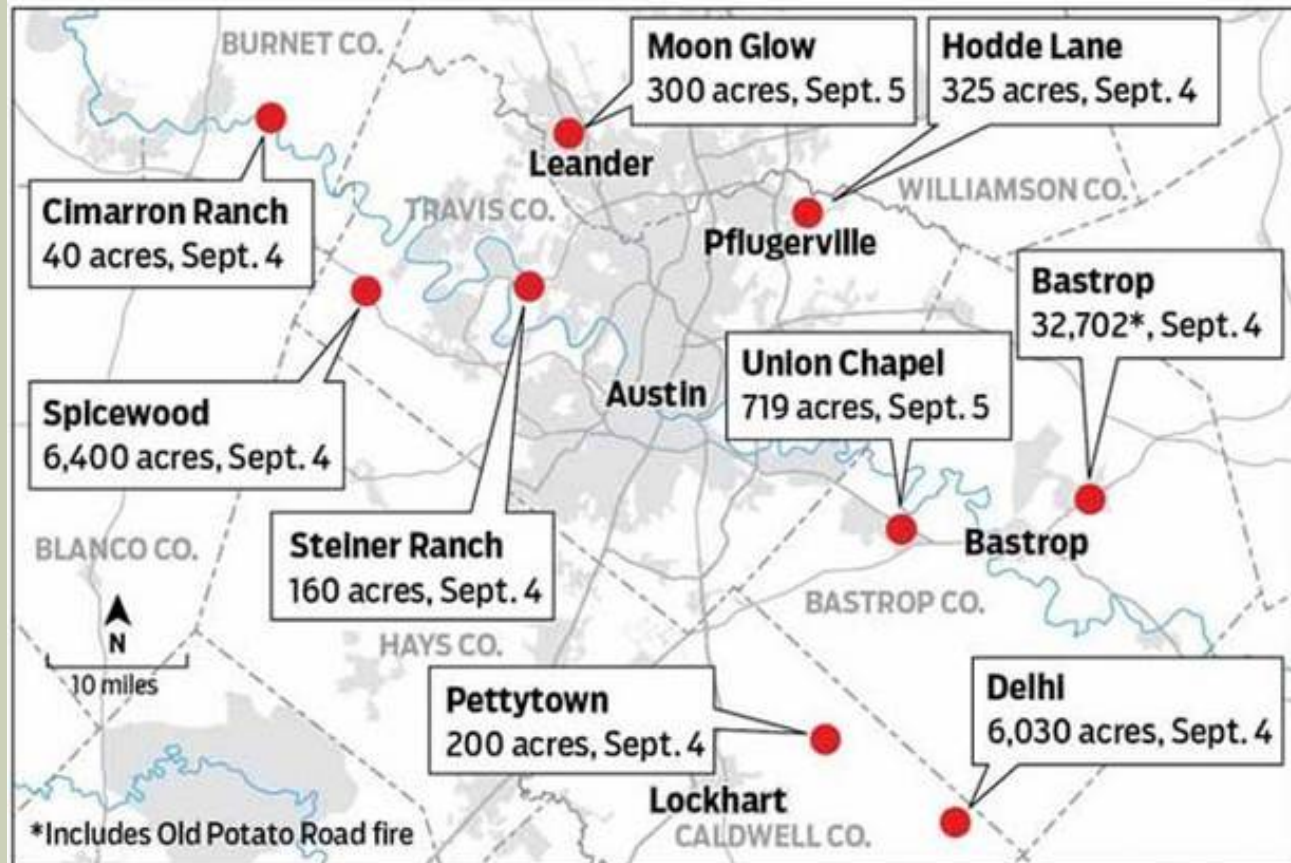
WHAT CAN WE EXPECT? WHAT WE EXPERIENCED

- **Multiple simultaneous starts**
- **Relatively small acreage**
- **Relatively large losses**
- **More Exposures than available resources**

LABOR DAY FIRES

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.



Source: Texas Forest Service

Robert Calzada/American-Statesman



**Wildlife
habitat**

**Water and
Watersheds**

**Green
Infrastructure**

Schools

Libraries

**Critical
Infrastructure**

**Historical
Sites**

**Homes and
Businesses**

Churches

**Values at
Risk**

FROM AT RISK TO EMPOWERED

1

- Identify areas most vulnerable to wildfire

2

- Develop strategies to reduce risk

3

- Improve citizen & firefighter safety

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

“Wildfire is everyone's fight”

***Know your role
we all have one.***

CIVIC & COMMUNITY LEADERS

- Work with and support land managers, fire departments, state forestry agencies and the public on a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
- Consider regulations for high risk areas that require defensible space measures, fire-resistant building materials, and firefighter access

FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

- Engage and educate residents about properly preparing for wildfire and building situational awareness.
- Preplan how to best protect communities at risk, engage residents to make their homes more defensible.



LAND MANAGERS

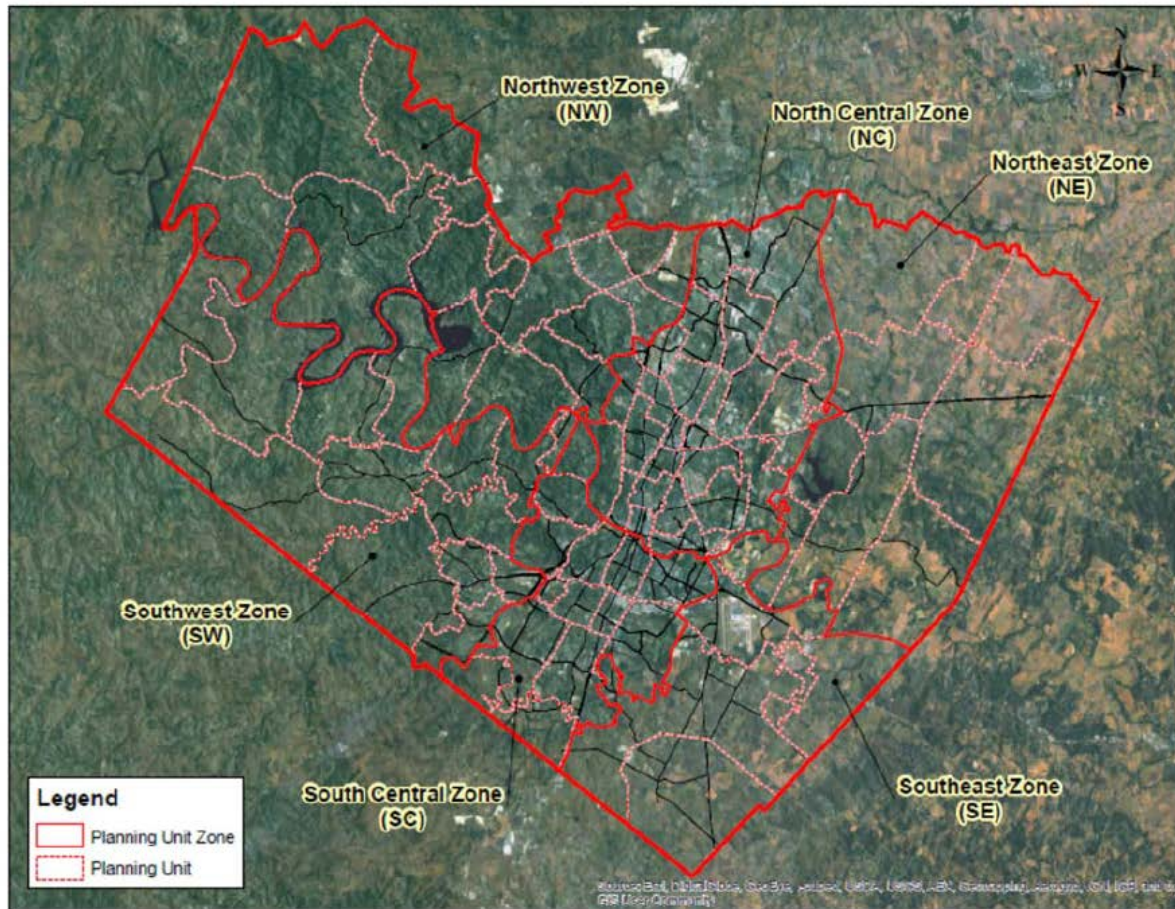
- Incorporate WUI considerations into land management plans to address wildfire risk.
- Participate in your communities efforts to become fire adapted and participate in the local Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP).



NEXT STEPS

- Alliance of Fire Adapted Communities
- Permanent wildfire cooperative
- Local level CWPPs

Wildfire Mitigation Strategies (WMS) Builder



CWPP TOOLKIT

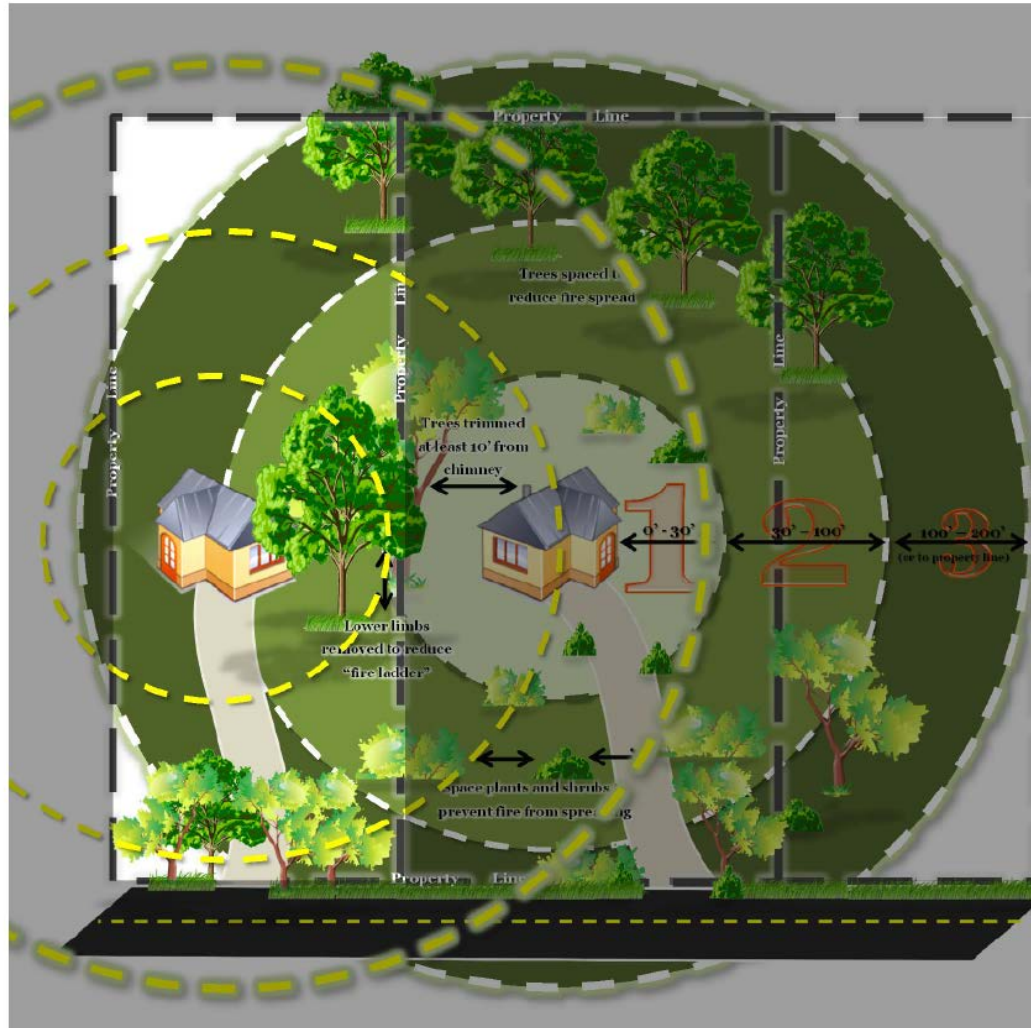


Figure 35 Stop at the property line (Bowman 2014)

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF IF...BUT WHEN

THE NEXT FIRESTORM WILL OCCUR

