Journey Toward Adoption

- May 12, 2016 - Austin City Council approved Resolution No. 20160512-016, to explore a Wildland Urban Interface Code for Austin
- November 2016 - Fire Chief recommended to Council that AFD use the model code approach
- 2016-2019 - Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division initiated a process that included public outreach, communication, education
- 2019 - AFD launched a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process, gathered input, balanced competing interest and developed a code that meets stakeholder needs.
2015 International Code Council IWUIC

- April 9, 2020 - City Council consider amending the 2015 ICC WUI Code, to meet the needs of our City. A code balanced to respect our environment, while providing much needed protection to our citizens.

- The code with amendments, when combined with the risk maps developed by AFD will apply the code where it is most needed and at a level that is appropriate for conditions in a given location.
Three potential types of ignition sources:

**Surface Fires**
- Typically small flames burning through grass and ground litter.
- Can reach houses if there’s no interruption in fuel.
- Use of Shaded Fuel Break to help reduce the risk.
- Flames touching a house can cause them to ignite.

**Ember Attacks (aka Firebrands)**
- Most home losses in a wildfire are from embers, not by direct contact with flames.

**Crown Fire**
- Large flames burning in the tops or canopies of trees.
- Radiate heat that can ignite wood walls from up to 100’ away.
52% of Austin has Elevated or High Wildfire Risk
Wildland Urban Interface

• Where wildlands & human development meet or intermix

• 647 miles of Interface in Austin

Structure Proximity to Wildlands
- Red: Within 150 feet (Interface)
- Orange: Within 400 feet (Interface)
- Yellow: Within 1,000 feet (Interface)
- Light Yellow: Within 1.5 miles (Ember Zone)
- White: Greater than 1.5 miles
- Green: Wildlands (27% COA Area)
### Risk Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Zone 1</th>
<th>Zone 2</th>
<th>Zone 3</th>
<th>Zone 4</th>
<th>Zone 5</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Risk Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CD1</td>
<td>5,567</td>
<td>5,868</td>
<td>7,770</td>
<td>8,180</td>
<td>9,666</td>
<td>37,051</td>
<td>Elevated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD2</td>
<td>4,822</td>
<td>5,998</td>
<td>10,051</td>
<td>7,628</td>
<td>6,539</td>
<td>35,038</td>
<td>Elevated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD3</td>
<td>1,710</td>
<td>2,107</td>
<td>4,178</td>
<td>3,689</td>
<td>16,314</td>
<td>27,998</td>
<td>Elevated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>1,329</td>
<td>4,122</td>
<td>19,173</td>
<td>25,469</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD5</td>
<td>3,920</td>
<td>5,245</td>
<td>8,315</td>
<td>11,736</td>
<td>9,805</td>
<td>39,021</td>
<td>Elevated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD6</td>
<td>4,314</td>
<td>3,864</td>
<td>6,108</td>
<td>11,611</td>
<td>4,713</td>
<td>30,610</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD7</td>
<td>2,171</td>
<td>2,383</td>
<td>5,062</td>
<td>2,109</td>
<td>27,026</td>
<td>38,751</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD8</td>
<td>7,145</td>
<td>7,610</td>
<td>11,822</td>
<td>5,855</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>33,430</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD9</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>1,298</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>23,635</td>
<td>25,880</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD10</td>
<td>5,652</td>
<td>4,395</td>
<td>6,849</td>
<td>7,307</td>
<td>10,404</td>
<td>34,607</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,825</strong></td>
<td><strong>38,421</strong></td>
<td><strong>62,782</strong></td>
<td><strong>62,554</strong></td>
<td><strong>128,273</strong></td>
<td><strong>327,855</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wildland-Urban Interface Code

- 40% of City Area
- Developable properties near wildlands
- Ignition resistance for new and remodeled structures
Ignition Resistant Construction

- New and remodeled structures in WUI areas
- Ember protection throughout
  - Class A roof, vent screens, decks and fences, underfloor enclosures
- Increased requirements closest to wildlands
  - Ignition resistant exterior walls, doors, windows
- Defensible space where most hazardous conditions exist
Key Stakeholders

- Public Safety Commission, Environmental Commission, Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals
- Greater Austin Home Builders Association and Real Estate Council of Austin
- City, County, State departments, agencies, programs
- Neighborhood organizations
Austin Fire Department

Effective Fire Fighting

• Quick initial response
• Continuous training
• Proper equipment
Firewise USA®

- More than 1,500 recognized
  - Residents reducing wildfire risks
    - Taking action and ownership
    - Preparing
    - Protecting their homes
- There are over 100 in Texas
  - 18 in Austin
- Austin Firewise Alliance
  - Communities coming together to educate and promote FAC
- Many more are engaged with AFD
Implementation

• January 1, 2021 - WUI ordinance effective
• Dedicated team for permit review and inspection
• Incremental hiring to balance work load and cost
• Estimated start up cost $1.5 million FY 2021 budget
• Fee structure will be implemented to offset expense
Thank you