

NEWS FROM THE BASTROP COMPLEX JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

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For Immediate Release

September 9, 2011

Bastrop Complex Fire Update

Current situation:

- Phase Two reentry — Union Chapel residents are scheduled to return to their homes on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 10:30 a.m.

- During Phase One reentry—a decrease in humidity and increase in wind caused flare-ups.

- Houses are still being saved inside the fire perimeter

- Fire still active in areas of residual heat with smoldering heavy fuels

- Potential for growth is weather dependent and still high

- Difficulty of terrain is medium

- Potential for failure of public water supply

- Bastrop County Complex includes:

- ☐ the Bastrop Fire and the Union Chapel Fire.

- ☐ As of 9/9/2011, total acreage for the complex is 34,068.

☒ The Bastrop Fire involves 33,349 acres and is 40% contained.

☒ Union Chapel Fire contains 719 acres and is 90% contained.

- Pockets of unburned fuel continue to ignite interior.
- Infrared flight map of Bastrop Complex fire updated and fewer hot spots identified by last night's flight
- Representatives from the Texas Division of Emergency Management, FEMA, and local government confirmed destruction of 1,386 homes for both fires.
- An additional 127 homes were identified by address as destroyed on Thursday. They have been added to the list of the 234 homes previously identified.
- The additional homes that were confirmed destroyed are located in the following areas:
 - Pine Forest
 - South Tahitian Village
 - Crafts Prairie Road areas
- A total of 844 personnel are working both fires
- Over 60 aircraft, including a DC 10 wide-body jet air tanker, are strategically located throughout the state as a tool in the suppression of wildfires. These aircraft are staffed and ready to be deployed at the request of firefighters. Air and ground operations managers evaluate the need for resources across the state and together allocate aircraft among the numerous wildfires burning across Texas - including the wildfires that have impacted Bastrop County.
- State Highway 71 will reopen on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 8 a.m. The highway will reopen with reduced speed limits. Travelers should be observant of all emergency vehicles. The reopening will be for

through traffic only, no ingress or egress will be permitted. Officials will monitor conditions for safe travel. If conditions should change, the roads may be closed.