

For Immediate Release

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**Union Chapel Residents Begin to Return to Survey Homes—
Lieutenant Governor Pledges to Pursue Federal Disaster Declaration
And Bastrop Sheriff Asks Residents to Observe Barricades**

Bastrop, Texas—Residents of Cedar Creek have begun to return to their homes as neighborhoods are cleared for re-entry according to Bastrop County Judge Ronnie McDonald.

“The Union Chapel fire is now reported to be 90 percent contained and Highway 21 West has been reopened to traffic. While we still have a long road to travel to get back to some sense of normalcy in the county, the recovery process has begun,” McDonald said.

According to the Texas Forest Service the Bastrop Complex Fire is 30 percent contained. Officials were also able to produce a much more precise map of the fire’s perimeter by aircraft, resulting in a more exact acreage calculation of 33,349 acres.

Bastrop County Sheriff Terry Pickering asked residents to observe the barricades that law enforcement authorities are staffing. “I realize that people are tense, stressed and want to check on their homes. However, we have had some residents try to run through barricades and run over officers. We are asking everyone to calm down,” Pickering said.

Texas Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst traveled to Bastrop on Wednesday afternoon to meet with members of the Texas Division of Emergency Management and local authorities for a status briefing on the fire’s containment. Dewhurst pledged to move as quickly as possible in securing a federal disaster declaration for Texas.

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