



Targeted Fuel Reduction Protects Texas Cancer Facility from Wildfire

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy is a national collaborative effort to bring a broad cross-section of stakeholders together to address wildland fire management challenges. The Strategy directs wildland fire planning activities and has three primary goals: restore and maintain landscapes, develop Fire-Adapted Communities, and improve wildfire response.

Activity	Impact
# Acres burned in Hidden Pines wildfire	4,582
# homes lost in fire	95
\$ value of the MD Anderson Cancer Center research facility	500 million

In October 2015, the Hidden Pines Fire in Bastrop County, Texas burned 4,582 acres and 95 homes. The fire also threatened the \$500 million MD Anderson Cancer Center research facility, but thanks to firefighters who stayed on site, retardant dropped from the air, and previous safety measures taken to create defensible space, the property survived the wildfire.

Following the destructive Bastrop County Complex Fire in September 2011, officials with the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Keeling Center asked Texas A&M Forest Service to assess wildfire risks surrounding their property in Bastrop County. Using the Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (TxWRAP) and data collected from a site visit, the task force developed a plan to create a wildfire safe environment around the facility. Texas A&M Forest Service task force mitigated about 150 acres using mulchers, bulldozers, and chainsaws, with a goal of reducing overgrown vegetation. Shaded fuel breaks were also created – areas where trees are thinned and pruned to create a break in vegetation but retain tree canopy.

Additional Information:

Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (TxWRAP): www.texaswildfirerisk.com

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