



## Texas Initiates State-wide TIFMAS Plan to Efficiently Mobilize Fire Resources during Emergencies

**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
# firefighters supporting TIFMAS (structural and wildland fire)	>5,000
# responses in 2011	13
# departments, firefighters, and engines involved in wildland firefighting through TIFMAS in 2011	207 departments, 1,274 firefighters, and 329 engines

In April 2006, the State of Texas began development of an intrastate mutual aid plan to improve response during catastrophic events. Intrastate mutual aid plans, sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, are used to efficiently transport fire resources within a state during a fire event.

With technical advice from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Texas A&M Forest Service worked closely with various, fire and emergency services stakeholders to create the comprehensive Texas Intrastate Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS). The goal of TIFMAS is to mobilize local fire and rescue resources when requested. TIFMAS utilizes the standard National Incident Management System to manage actions during a fire. Additionally, working with the Department of State Health Services, TIFMAS can coordinate the mobilization of fire-based Emergency Medical Services.

TIFMAS mobilized for the first time in 2008 for Hurricane Ike and again in 2009 for the Winter Wildfires. By the close of the 2011 fire season, the system had responded 13 times with 207 departments, 1,274 firefighters,

and 329 engines. TIFMAS has benefited thousands of citizens in the State of Texas and is now an important part of the state's Emergency Response Plan. TIFMAS has 5000 plus firefighters in the Incident Qualification System, covering both structural and wildland fires. Moreover, TIFMAS is an "all risk system", or is able to respond to a variety of catastrophes, from wildfires to hurricanes.

The creation and implementation of TIFMAS has been one of the most significant changes in the history of the Texas Fire Service and has become a nationally recognized model for other States to follow in developing their own intrastate mutual aid plans.



*TIFMAS Strike Team. Credit: Texas A&M Forest Service*

Success stories highlight regional wildland fire accomplishments that support implementation of the national cohesive wildland fire management strategy in the Southeast. The stories demonstrate how the Southeast is improving its "fire resiliency" through technology, education and outreach, forest management, collaboration, and more. Success stories also serve as a model for other communities to follow.



*TIFMAS 2014 Symposium in Dallas, Texas. Credit: Dallas Fire Rescue*



*Type VI engine TIFMAS fleet. Credit: Texas A&M Forest Service*

#### **Additional Information:**

International Association of Fire Chiefs TIFMAS success story:

<http://www.iafc.org/Operations/LegacyArticleDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=3328>

TIFMAS website:

<http://ticc.tamu.edu/Response/TIFMAS.htm>

Texas A&M Forest Service TIFMAS feature:

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=9216>

Texas A&M Forest Service, TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program:

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=11306>

National Incident Management System:

<https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system>

Incident Qualification System (IQS) website:

<https://sdda.sd.gov/wildland-fire/training-and-qualification/incident-qualification-system-iqs/>

<https://iqsweb.sd.gov/IQS/Login.aspx>

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**Partners:** Texas Fire Chiefs Association, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Fire Chiefs Association, State Firemen's and Fire Marshal's Association, Texas State Association of Firefighters, Texas Commission on Fire Protection, and Texas Division of Emergency Management



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