Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

National Goals; Collective Solutions

Response to Wildfire

Fire Adapted Communities

Resilient Landscapes

Supported by Science

Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (TxWRAP)

A Southern Success Story

Web Tool lets Texans know fire risk in own backyard

Wildfire is a serious threat to the people, property, and natural resources across Texas. Just last year, a devastating wildfire season led to the destruction of nearly 3,000 homes – a tragedy Texas Forest Service doesn't want repeated.

With rapid population growth into Wildland Urban Interface areas and trends showing an increasing frequency of elevated fire weather conditions, wildfire will continue to be a major concern moving forward. Creating heightened awareness of wildfire risk issues and working with communities to develop sound prevention and mitigation strategies are becoming increasingly important to ensure safety. The Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal is a new resource to help address this growing concern.

Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, or TxWRAP, is the primary mechanism for the Texas Forest Service to deploy risk information and create awareness about wildfire issues across the state. TxWRAP is comprised of a suite of web tools tailored to support specific workflow and information requirements for the public, local community groups, government officials, professional hazard-mitigation planners, and wildland fire managers. Collectively these tools provide the baseline information needed to support mitigation and prevention efforts across the state.

TxWRAP allows users to identify wildfire threats for a particular area based on landscape characteristics, historical fire occurrence, weather conditions, terrain and potential fire behavior. It also routes users to resources that can help them implement wildfire prevention practices.

Accessible at texaswildfirerisk.com, the web tools are free to use. Professional users such as civic planners, wildland fire managers and elected officials can use TxWRAP to generate a detailed report - packaging all the wildfire risk data for their community. Such a tool can be useful in defining mitigation options, allocating resources and prioritizing programs to better protect communities.

Developed by Texas Forest Service GIS specialists, TxWRAP is the first web portal of its kind in the nation granting public access to risk assessment data that previously hasn't been readily available, particularly in a user-friendly format.
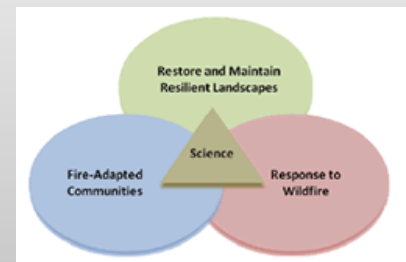
Texas Forest Service Director Tom Boggus called the website a "holistic approach to Texans helping Texans mitigate their wildfire risk." This can and should be a 'game changer' for Texans as they learn what their risks are and how to mitigate them," Boggus said. "It is a tool that neighbor can pass on to neighbor, making Texas a safer place to live."

The portal has been utilized by many members of Texas, from politicians, planners and managers across the state as a tool to help mitigate future disasters and enhance community preparedness.

Cohesive Strategy Overview

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy is a collaborative process with active involvement of all levels of government and non-governmental organizations, as well as the public, to seek national, all-lands solutions to wildland fire management issues.

The Cohesive Strategy will address the nation's wildfire problems by focusing on three key areas: Restore and Maintain Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities, and Response to Fire.

For planning and strategy development purposes, the country was split into 3 regions. The SE is made up of the 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

Phase II was recently completed where each region built objectives out of the national goals. Currently, a risk analysis is being performed through a science network and each region will be developing alternatives on how to further reduce risk.

More information is available at:

http://sites.nemac.org/southeast cohesivefire/

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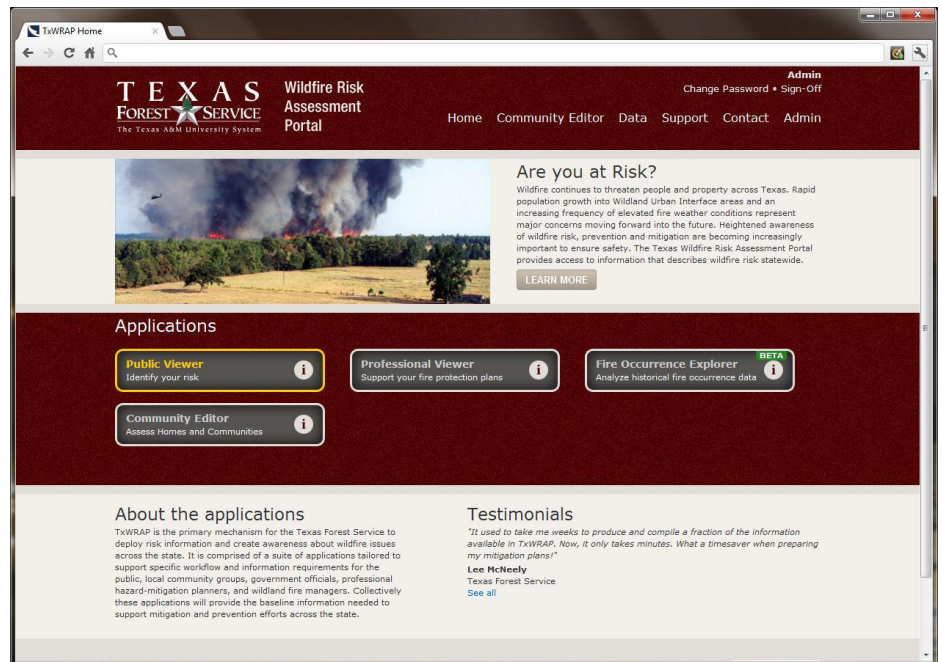*Supported by Science*

TxWRAP – A Southern Success Story

TxWRAP currently has four main applications:

Public Viewer - Users can zoom to any place in Texas to ask "What's Your Risk?" They will be able to find their risk level within a two-mile radius, plus information on how to reduce their risk.

Professional Viewer - Local governments will be able to better plan their wildfire protection with this tool. The highlights include the capability to define a project area, generate a detailed risk summary report, and export and download wildfire risk GIS data.

Fire Occurrence Explorer - Users will be able to analyze historic fire occurrences. This will help them sort out previous causes of fire in their area.

Community Editor – Certified users will be able to assess, collect, and manage risk assessment information collected for individual communities and homes.

In addition to the applications, TFS is also working on a plan to divvy up the volunteer firefighter funds available in the midst of a very costly wildfire season. "TFS is seeking input from constituent fire departments on how to best incorporate and implement wildfire risk into the ranking system," said Texas Forest Service spokeswoman Linda Moon. "An electronic survey is being developed and on schedule to be distributed in November."

FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON TXWRAP, PLEASE CONTACT: **TOM SPENCER tspencer@tfs.tamu.edu (979) 458-6530 or CURT STRIPLING cstripling@tfs.tamu.edu (979) 458-7332**

THANKS TO TEXAS FOREST SERVICE – LINDA MOON & CURT STRIPLING FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PAPER.

SERSC Lead Contact:	**Working Group Lead Contact:**
Mike Zupko	David Frederick
Southern Governors' Assoc.	Southern Group of State Foresters
mike@zup-co-inc.com	firerepsgsf@charter.net
(770) 267-9630	(334) 590-6711