

Austin Fire Department

Wildfire Urban Interface Threat



2011 Epic Wildfires

▶ Wildland Urban Interface Threat

- 2003 – Threat identified
- 2009 – AFD implemented proactive approach
- 2011 – Region's approach significantly changed

▶ Significant Accomplishments of 2011

- AFD Door Hanger Program – 40,000 contacts
- AFD, AWU, & Parks – Nearly 100 neighborhood wildfire preparedness meetings
- Parks – Firewise programs for City of Austin Parklands
- AWU – Land management activities for area preserve lands
- AFD, AWU, & Corporate PIO – Public information campaigns



Joint Strategic Wildfire Committee

- ▶ Committees Developed
 - City Wildfire Task Force– Pinnacle
 - Labor Day Fires – 2011
 - Travis County Wildfire Committee
 - City of Austin Wildfire Committee
- ▶ City Manager & Travis County Commissioners
 - February 2012 – Approved the merger of the 2 committees



Joint Strategic Wildfire Committee

Vision, Goals, & Objectives

Vision

Fire Adapted Community – A community of informed and prepared citizens collaboratively taking action to safely co-exist with wildland fire.

Goals

Protect life and property

Improve public awareness of wildfire related issues

Partnerships and implementation

Enhance emergency services

Preserve natural systems

Objectives through the following areas:

Preparedness – Prevention – Response – Recovery



Joint Strategic Wildfire Committee

Wildfire Goals

▶ Protect Life and Property

- Explore the development of Wildfire Mitigation Teams to conduct home assessments and/or fuel removal
- Adoption of International Wildland Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) in cooperation with other agencies
- Development of an evacuation protocol in cooperation with local law enforcement in the event a neighborhood is threatened by wildfire



Joint Strategic Wildfire Committee

Wildfire Goals

- ▶ **Improve Public Awareness of Wildfire Related Issues**
 - Campaigns to promote Ready Set Go
 - Public Education
 - Mayor Summit
 - Wildfire Awareness Press Conference
 - Community wide notification plan for days with elevated fire danger
 - Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
 - A website for wildfire mitigation information that will be readily accessible for the community – TxWrap



Joint Strategic Wildfire Committee

Wildfire Goals

- ▶ **Partnerships and Implementation**
 - Collaboration between COA and County Wildfire Committees
 - Over 20 separate departments
 - Additional agencies at State and Federal level
 - Main focus Public Safety agencies, Austin Water Utility, Parks Department



Joint Strategic Wildfire Committee

Stakeholders

- ▶ Watershed Protection
- ▶ Public Works
- ▶ Parks & Recreation
- ▶ COA Public Information
- ▶ Austin Resource Recovery
- ▶ Travis County Public Information
- ▶ Travis County Emergency Management
- ▶ Austin Water Utility
- ▶ Austin Water Utility Wildland Conservation
- ▶ Office of Sustainability
- ▶ Travis County – 12 Emergency Service Districts in Travis County
- ▶ Travis County – Small Cities & Villages
- ▶ Travis County Emergency Wireless Communications
- ▶ Travis County Natural Resources
- ▶ City of Austin Urban Forestry
- ▶ GIS Enterprise Services
- ▶ Austin Fire Department
- ▶ Austin Police Department
- ▶ Austin Travis County EMS
- ▶ Travis County Sheriff Office
- ▶ City of Austin HSEM



Joint Strategic Wildfire Committee

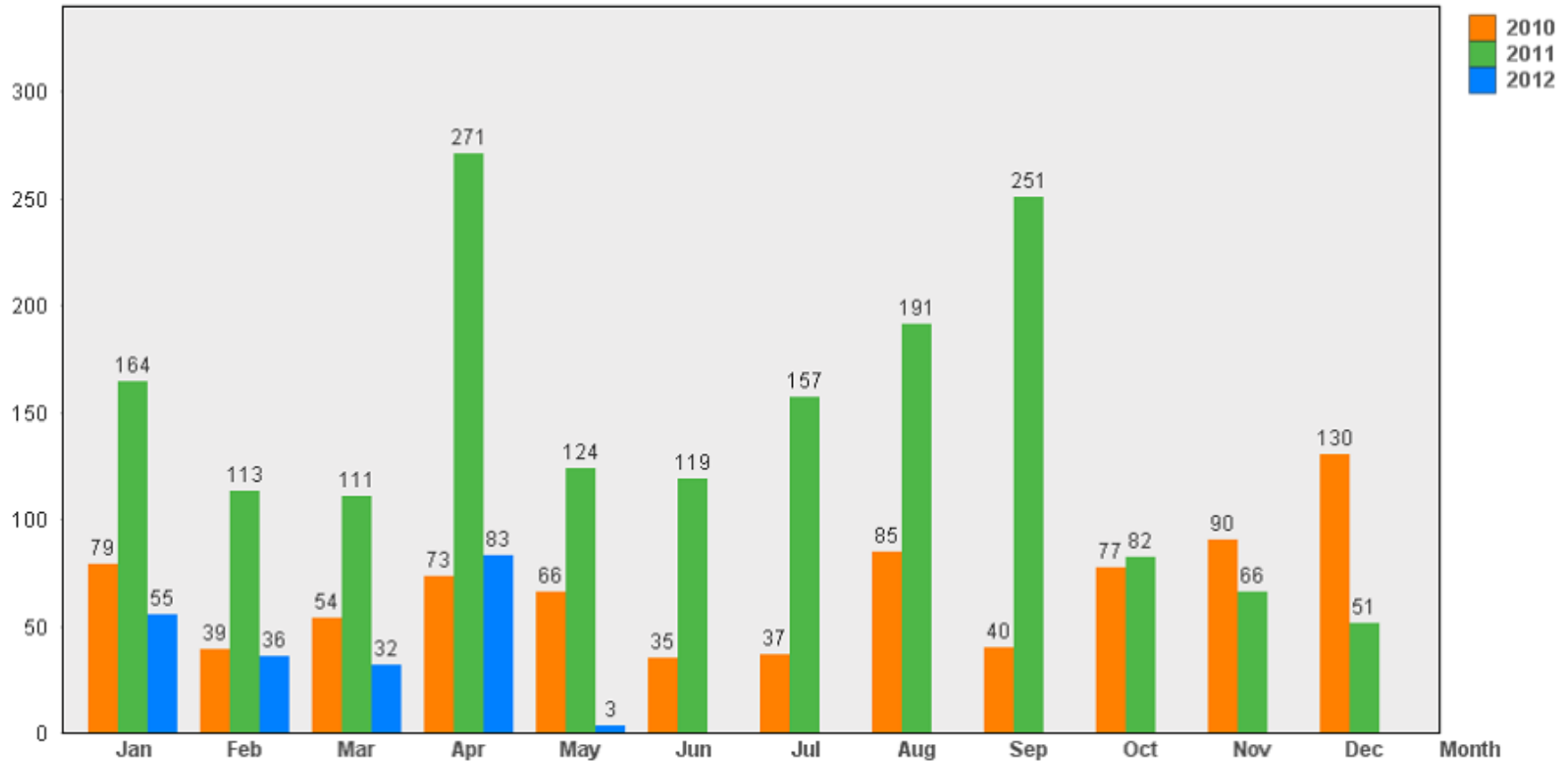
Wildfire Goals

- ▶ **Enhance Emergency Services – AFD**
 - S130/190 Wildfire training to all AFD members
 - Additional brush trucks
 - Expand the use of Incident Support Teams (IST)
 - Formalize “Just in Time Staffing”
 - Wildland Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Automatic Aid Agreements with adjoining agencies
 - Possible aircraft firefighting program



Joint Strategic Wildfire Committee

Travis County & COA - Grass and Brush Fires



Questions

