Texas A&M Forest Service: 100 years and it’s not over yet
Solutions
Texas Arbor Day & Forestry Association
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, TEMPLE, TEXAS.

Hon. Mayor,

January 15, 1891

Texas,

Dear Sir:

The second annual convention of the Texas Arbor Day and Forestry Association will meet at Galveston, Texas, February 9th, 1891, at 9 a.m., sharp. This is in response to an urgent welcome sent us by the citizens of Galveston to meet with them during their approaching great Mardi Gras festivities. We have a large membership and expect an enthusiastic gathering. We want your city represented, and beg that you will immediately appoint ten delegates—ladies and gentlemen—who on returning will assist you in properly observing Arbor Day—February 22nd. We wish to have a splendid State observance this year of Arbor Day. The subject of tree growing and flower culture is of great importance to our State and we trust you will assist us in your fullest capacity. Please find out who may attend this convention, make your appointments, and immediately notify the secretary. At this meeting an election of officers will take place for the ensuing year. All members and delegates will wear a sprig of Arbor Vitae on their dress.

Respectfully,

W. GOODRICH JONES,
Secretary.
Statutory Authority

• Created in 1915 by the 34th Legislature and is mandated by law to “assume direction of all forest interests and all matters pertaining to forestry within the jurisdiction of the state.”

• In 1993, the 73rd Legislature expanded TFS responsibility to include “Coordination of the response to each major or potentially major wildland fire in the state.”
Statutory Authority

• In 2006, RP-57 required the development “eight regional response teams to support multi-jurisdictional operations during catastrophic events.” TFS mobilizes regional teams at the request of the Texas Division of Emergency Management

Today:
• 18 teams
• 800 members
One of the first state agencies to adopt ICS

• During the 80s and 90s in Texas, ICS was used to manage wildfire suppression operations

• Adopted by TDEM, DPS, TxARNG, TxDOT and Red Cross

• TFS began using ICS for other types of incidents

• 1984—agency’s first incident management team was formed

• 1987—TDEM requested TFS to deliver ICS training to local emergency response agencies
March 10, 1988
Big Country Fire
Shackelford County
366,000 acres
(200,000+ acres in one day)
threatened Albany and Moran
Evolving Incident Management

**Phase 1**
- Incident Management Organization Succession Planning (January 2010)

**Phase 2**
- Strategic Implementation Plan (February 2012)

**Phase 3**
- Developing a new Incident Management Organization – phased in over a period of years (2016)
TFS All-Risk Responses

Hurricanes:
Bret (1999, Texas)
Isidore (2002, Louisiana)
Lili (2002, Louisiana)
Claudette (2003, Texas)
Isabel (2003, North Carolina)
Erika (2003, Texas)
- Charley (Aug.)
- Frances (Sept.)
- Ivan (Sept.)
- Jeanne (Sept.)
Katrina (2005, Louisiana)
Rita (2005, Texas)
*Dean (2007, Texas)
Humberto (2007, Texas)
*Dolly (2008, Texas)
*Gustav (2008, Louisiana)
*Ike (2008, Texas)
*Alex (2010, Texas)
*Hurricane Irene (New York, 2011)
*Hurricane Sandy (New York, 2012)

Tropical Storms:
Charley (1996, Texas)
Frances (1998, Texas)
Allison (2001, Texas)
Faye (2002, Texas)
Erin (2007, Texas)
*Edouard (2008, Texas)

Flooding:
Guadalupe River (1987)
Del Rio (1998)
Victoria, Cuero, San Antonio (1998)
San Antonio/Hill Country (2002)
Liberty County (2002)

Tornadoes:
Jarrell (1997)
Fort Worth (2000)
Hondo (2001)
Corpus Christi (2002)
Rusk County (2003)
Tulia/Cactus (2007)
Eagle Pass (2007)
North Texas (2013)

Law Enforcement:
Republic of Texas Standoff (1997)
*Latter Day Saints Support (2008)

Petrochemical:
Corpus Christi Exxon Oil Spill (1992)
*Alon Refinery Explosion (2008)

Sporting Events:
Super Bowl XXXVIII (2004)
MLB All-Star Game (2004)
World Series (2006)
Super Bowl XLV (2011)

*Formula One Race (2012)
Duck Commander 500 NASCAR (2014)
NCAA Final Four (2014)

Miscellaneous:
A&M Bonfire Collapse (1999)
Y2K FEMA Support (1999)
September 11th (2001)
*Natl Strategic Stockpile (2009)
*West Fertilizer Plant Explosion (2013)
*Texas Winter Weather Event (2013)
H1N1 Flu Response (2009)

Type 3 IMT Assists to TFS on Wildfires:
*Georgia State Fires (2007)
*Texas Fires (2008)
*North Texas Fire Siege (2009)
*Texas Fires (2009)
*Trans Pecos Fires (2010)
*Texas Fire Response (2011)
*New Mexico State Fire Support (2012)

Asterisk (*) indicates participation by T-3 local govt. resources.
Hurricane Ike

Team: North Texas
Tropical Storm Sandy

Team: San Jac
West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Team: Alamo
Local response and event planning incidents

**Tri County Complex Fire** *(Riley Road/ Crown Ranch Fires)*

Waller, Grimes, Montgomery Counties

**Team:** San Jac
But the real power of the IMT is at the local level
Local response and event planning incidents

Alon Refinery Explosion
Big Spring, Texas

Team: Midland
Local response and event planning incidents

**High rise fire at Castle Hills**
San Antonio, Texas

**Team: Alamo**

**Train wreck**

**Tanker rollover, Mutual Aid Assist in another county**

**Flood**
Local response and event planning incidents

Formula One Auto Racing
Austin, Texas

Team: Capitol Area
Local response and event planning incidents

Texas Reds,
Bryan, Texas

Team: Brazos Valley
It’s not over yet
Road clearing due to extreme winter weather

December 2, 2014
– January 3, 2015
Celebration
HISTORY IN THE MAKING

1915-2015

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

On exhibit from March 16–Nov. 18, 2015 at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Texas A&M Forest Service
FAMOUS TREES
OF TEXAS
TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE CENTENNIAL EDITION

Gretchen Riley and Peter D. Smith
with Stephanie Forsyth-Swepol

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE
1915 100 YEARS OF SERVICE 2015