



September saw firefighters and emergency personnel responding to wildfires across the state as Texas withered under a hot sun and scarce rain. One of the worst fires was in Bastrop, just east of Austin, where blazes consumed more than 1500 homes and 34,000 acres of prime pine forest. The response to the fire drew emergency personnel from across the state, including air fire suppression from STAR Flight and the military.

Left page, top and middle, the Bastrop fire skipped some structures while reducing others to rubble. Bottom, emergency responders and volunteers gathered supplies such as water to hand out to families who'd been evacuated. Many went home to find nothing where their houses had once stood.

Right page, top, the Bastrop fire was so large that emergency personnel responded from several areas, including Montgomery County Hospital District. Middle, a command center and staging area was set up to coordinate assets. Bottom, Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC) brought its ambulance, which is built to transport many patients in a disaster. Fortunately, there were only two deaths and few injuries.

*Photos by Maxie Bishop*

