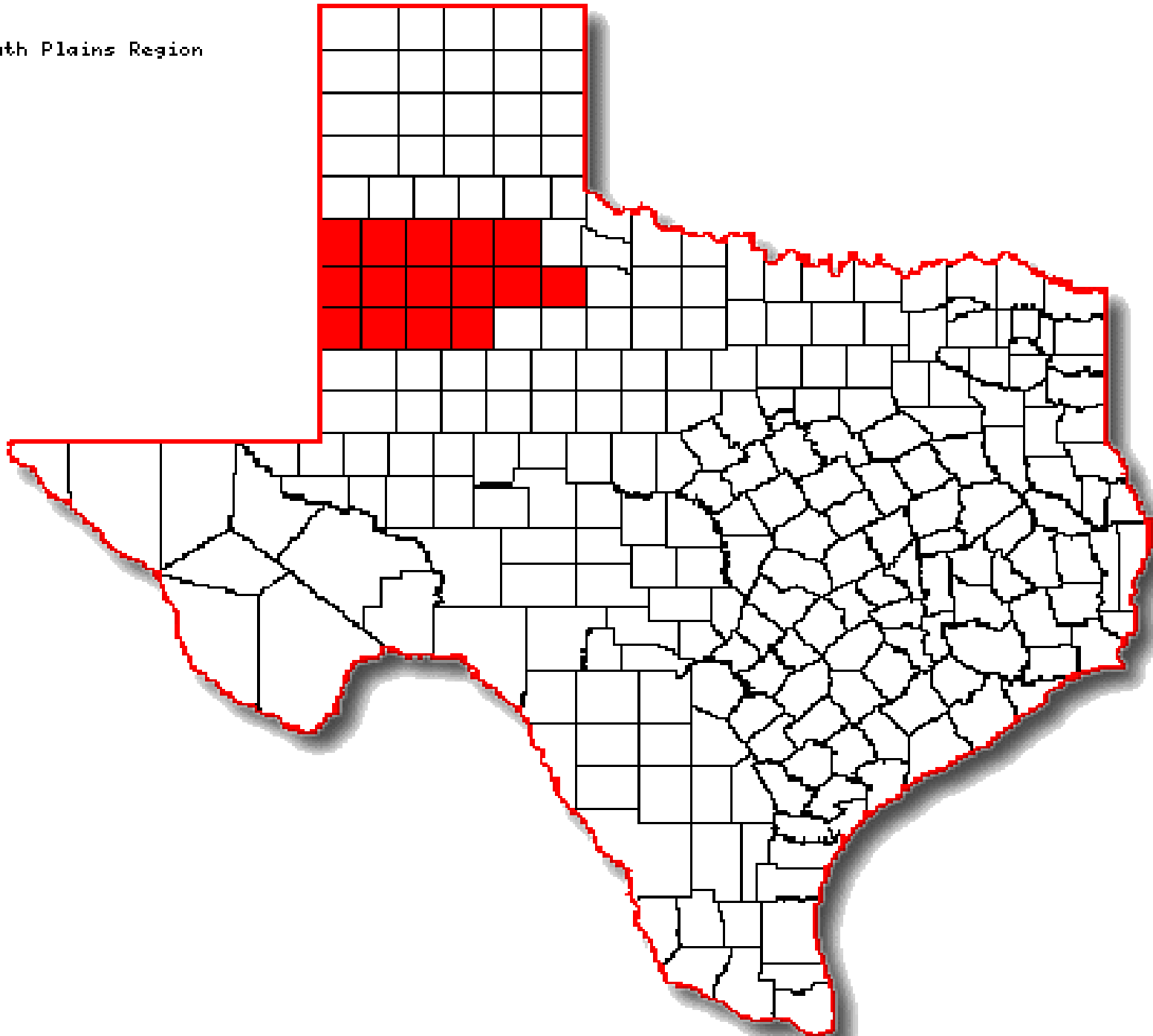




In The Line Of Fire

South Plains Association of Governments

● - South Plains Region





Weather Hazards

- 1970 – Deadly Tornado in Lubbock, TX
- West Texas – Unpredictable Weather: snow, flood, tornado, fires – 3yr period, 2009-2012
- White River Project
- The Political Climate - Rick Perry, Governor of Texas
- Mutual Aid in West Texas
- Networking & Relationship-Building

Garza County, Texas





Motley County, Texas



Fire Season 2011

- 2011 Provided an Extraordinary Fire Season on the South Plains of Texas
- 2011 Provided a Perfect Combination of Wind, Low Humidity, and Drought Conditions to Fuel Rangeland Fires



Matador Fire,
Motley County, Texas



Cheyenne Fire,
Hockley County, Texas



Facts -2011 Fires

- On February 27th, 2011 alone:
- Estimated 68,480 acres burned
- 6 homes lost
- 47 local Fire Departments tasked
- 3 Fire engines damaged
- 3 Firefighters injured
 - 2 refused treatment
 - 1 treated and released



Fathers Day Fire,
Cochran County, Texas

Sundown Highway Fire,
Hockley County, Texas





Totals

- Local Volunteer Fire Departments responded in Mutual Aid to:
 - **More than 120 Rangeland Fires**
 - **More than 371,810.71 acres Burned**
 - **Average Fire Area was 3,265.902 Acres.**



Dickens Complex Fire





Richardson Fire, Garza County, Texas



Dickens Complex Fire, Dickens & King County, Texas



Swenson Fire, King County, Texas



VFD's Data

- Most of these fires required mutual aid from at least six other VFD's.
- On some fires, mutual aid came from as far as 100 miles away.
- Five fires lasted five or more days.



- Extended use in severe terrain caused damage to vehicles and equipment to break.
- VFD's expended their budgets within the first few months of the year.
 - **Tires**
 - **Fuel**
 - **Vehicle systems**

Dickens Complex Fire, Dickens County, Texas





Partnership Created

- Lubbock Area Foundation and the South Plains Association of Governments created the South Plains Disaster Recovery Fund
 - **Did not appear that there would be a Federal Disaster Declaration**
 - LAF – Fund Raising
 - SPAG – Coordination and assistance where necessary



- **SPAG**
 - **Began a mailing campaign to local VFDs to discover the needs of the VFDs**
 - **Accepted requests for funding from the VFDs and maintained the records of requests**
 - **Created an Advisory panel for the Lubbock Area Foundation**



Funding Criteria

- Serve as a Volunteer Fire Department
 - **Paid Fire Departments were not eligible**
- Assist in the Provision of Mutual Aid
- Provide a Written Request to SPAG
 - **Copies provided to Lubbock Area Foundation**



- Requests received totaled;
 - **\$113,543.95**



Selection Committee

- Composed of three members from the response community and two members from the Lubbock Area Foundation.
 - **The responders were from paid departments that would not request funding through this program.**
 - 2 Firefighters
 - 1 Emergency Management Coordinator



Process

- Requests for assistance were received by SPAG ranging from;
 - **\$550.00**
 - **\$14,140.00**
- Requests reviewed by the Selection Committee
- Awards were determined by the Selection Committee



Media

- Radio and television stations assisted in soliciting donations for the fund
 - **Interviews**
 - SPAG and LAF staff members
 - **Public Service Announcements**
 - Fundraising efforts
 - Golf Tournament to benefit the fund.



Other Marketing Efforts

- **Brochures printed and distributed**
 - Health fairs and community events
 - Local businesses in the Region
- News releases to the local newspapers and television
 - **Interviews with local VFD's**



Results

- Sixteen Volunteer Fire Departments were awarded
 - **More than \$35,000.00**
- First Annual Golf Tournament Developed to Benefit VFD's



Contact Information

Any Questions?

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