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
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
Sundown Highway Fire, Hockley County, Texas

Fathers Day Fire, Cochran 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
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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