

## FIRES DESTROY MORE THAN 1,000 HOMES

AUSTIN ([Associated Press](#), [examiner.com](#), Texas Forest Service) – State officials say more than 1,000 homes and more than 100,000 acres have burned in at least 57 wildfires in Texas over the past week.

According to an [online update](#) from the Texas Forest Service (TFS), the state agency yesterday responded to 22 new fires, including ten new large fires. In the past seven days, TFS has responded to 181 fires. More than 700 homes have been destroyed in the past 48 hours, according to TFS.

To help raise wildfire safety awareness, Lisa Carey with [examiner.com](#) offers the following tips for Texans:

- Sign up for notifications of emergencies in your area through the [Capital Area Council of Governments](#) (CAPCOG) Emergency Notification System. This service is available only to Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson Counties.
- Grab your [hurricane emergency kit](#) and follow proper evacuation procedures for your area when an evacuation is called for.
- Refrain from seemingly harmless things like outdoor grilling, dragging safety chains behind a trailer, welding and building campfires, activities that can accidentally start a dangerous wildfire.
- Do not burn on “red flag” or windy days, and think twice before burning outdoors.
- Keep your grass mowed short.
- Keep hoses where you can reach them in case of an accidental spark.
- Put flammable liquids and combustibles in a safe place and make sure they are stored in the proper containers.
- Store lighters and matches out of reach of children.
- Clear roof surfaces and gutters.
- Make sure you know the emergency exits from your home and your neighborhood.

For more information on protecting your home and property from the ravages of wildfire, watch "[Texas Wildfire](#)," our 2006 video produced with the help of TFS.

*Courtesy of*

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