



CAT Alert #1: Wednesday, September 7, 2011

## Out-of-Control Wildfires Wreak Havoc in Texas; Crawford & Company has Adjusters Standing By

More than 1,000 homes have been destroyed and four people reportedly killed as a result of Texas' most devastating wildfires in more than a decade.

The Bastrop County Complex fire is an ongoing wildfire in Bastrop County, near Austin, Texas. The fire began during Labor Day weekend and has already spread across 33,000 acres, forcing the evacuations of at least 5,000 people. This devastating wildfire has destroyed the highest number of homes ever lost to a single fire in Texas history.

The Texas Forest Service said Wednesday, that massive wildfires near the state capital of Austin have been 30% contained. The National Weather Service says Bastrop will experience northeast winds up to 10 mph (16 kph). Agency spokeswoman April Saginor says lighter winds have helped firefighting efforts in Bastrop County, where blazes have destroyed more than 800 homes and blackened about 45 square miles (115 sq. kilometers). Saginor says the weather conditions mean Wednesday "should be a good day for" those battling the wildfires.

Texas has endured a series of wildfires during 2011. Between September 4 and September 6, the state saw 63 new fires begin. The wildfires, which have been raging across the state for nearly 300 days, have claimed 120,000 acres in the past week alone. The disaster is blamed largely on a year-long drought, one of the most severe dry spells the state has ever seen, and is believed to have been exacerbated by windy conditions stemming from Tropical Storm Lee.

The Texas Forest Service released a statement saying "This is unprecedented fire behavior. No one on the face of this Earth has ever fought fires in these extreme conditions."

Crawford & Company has stationed adjusters throughout Texas, with additional adjusters on standby to handle claims generated by The Bastrop County Complex fire. You can count on Crawford to handle claims or back-fill any staff that may be mobilized as a result of this event.

[Crawford Catastrophe Services](#) has the experienced adjusters necessary to handle policyholders' claims as quickly as they come in. You can also count on [Crawford Global Technical Services](#)<sup>SM</sup> to adjust major and complex losses; [Vehicle Services Connection](#) to conduct auto appraisals; [Crawford Contractor Connection](#)<sup>SM</sup> to manage property repairs; and [Crawford Contents Services](#) to accurately value contents.

Working with Crawford helps leverage your internal staff most efficiently with our broad network of adjusters - scalable to the largest disasters. We keep policyholders' satisfaction high and aid customer retention.

For assistance now, contact:  
**Crawford ClaimsAlert**<sup>SM</sup>

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