

Proclamation for 2021 Wildfire Preparedness Day May 1, 2021

Whereas, Travis County is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our county; and

Whereas, Travis County is nationally recognized as a desirable community noted for the natural beauty and environment created by our greenbelts, scenic preserves, and wooded canyons; and

Whereas, that same natural beauty creates the potential for a wildland-urban interface where our homes, schools and businesses are exposed to potential wildfire conditions; and

Whereas, Travis County residents experienced significant wildfire events in 2011 that destroyed more than 57 homes and burned more than 7,000 acres; and

Whereas, climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of wildfires not only in Travis County but also all over the world; and

Whereas, it is important that Travis County residents understand that wildfires can and will happen again and that it is everyone's fight to preserve and protect our community values and quality of life from wildfire; and

Whereas, developing community wildfire resistance and resilience fully supports the Travis County values of life safety and property protection; and

Whereas, the most effective and proven methods of decreasing wildfire risk to communities involves action taken at the individual and neighborhood levels, and

Whereas, individual efforts to reduce wildfire risk in our homes and properties creates significant improvements to community wildfire resilience; and

Whereas, the community has the power to protect people, pets and property by eliminating vulnerabilities in the home ignition zone; and

Whereas the planning and execution of the wildfire evacuation drill, prevention campaigns and public outreach are fundamental in reducing the threat of wildfires; and

Whereas each of us can do our part to prepare for wildfire emergencies by taking steps to make effective changes to our landscapes and homes and ensure that our Travis County community have the resources and knowledge to help protect themselves from wildfire losses; and

Whereas, working together our community can remain strong and resilient in the face of wildfire danger.

Now, Therefore Let It Be Resolved that we, the Travis County Commissioners Court, do hereby recognize the importance work collaboratively to reduce the risk of wildfires and proclaim Saturday May 1, 2021 as Wildfire Preparedness Day in Travis County. We further call on all citizens of Travis County to engage in preparedness activities that create awareness, education and action to reduce potential injuries and property losses caused by wildfire.