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This morning, at the request of TIFMAS (Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System), the Burleson Fire Department deployed a strike team to Cass County in East Texas to assist with fighting wildfires.

Cass County is between Longview and Texarkana, around the Atlanta, Texas, area. The Burleson firefighters are serving with the SERPA (Southern Emergency Response and Preparedness Association) strike team which includes four brush trucks and a commander. The brush trucks are from Burleson, Dalworthington Gardens, Rendon and Everman. Brent Batla, battalion fire chief over training for Burleson, is serving as the commander of the team that also includes two Burleson firefighters.

According to news from the Longview area, wildfires that continue to rage through Cass County have already claimed approximately 30,000 acres of land. Cass County has the largest single wildfire in northeast Texas.

This is not the first time that the Burleson Fire Department has deployed to help other fire departments across the state. In March and April of 2011, city firefighters deployed for a total of 10 days to:

- Jacksboro (two Burleson firefighters on a brush truck, one day/night for wildland fire response);
- Aspermont (one brush truck, two Burleson firefighters, and Burleson Battalion Chief over Operations Tom Foster joined brush trucks from Edgecliff Village, Dalworthington Gardens, and Everman for five days for wildland fire response);
- And, Robert Lee (one engine with four Burleson firefighters joined fire engines from Benbrook, Euless and Dalworthington Gardens as well as a tanker from Rendon for four days for a structural fire response).

A strike team may be a wildfire team or a structural fire team with different units required for each team. A wildfire team is four brush trucks and a commander. A structural fire team is four engines and a commander. Each department that responds as part of the strike team will submit reimbursement to the Texas Department of Emergency Management for salaries and equipment costs.