



Hays County, Texas

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Information for the News Media

Jan 31 4 p.m. Update: Grass Fire Near Wimberley

Hays County Courthouse, San Marcos, TX – Fire Departments remain on the scene to manage areas that are smoldering.

Fire Marshal Clint Browning's investigation of the fire is ongoing due to multiple points of ignition, and no cause has been determined yet.

Hays County appreciates the quick response of fire departments from throughout the county – Buda FD, Kyle FD, South Hays FD, San Marcos FD, Wimberley FD, Chisholm Trail FD, North Hays FD and the Austin FD Wildland Division. Also assisting with response were Sheriff's Office deputies, Precinct 3 Constable's Office personnel and the County's Office of Emergency Services as well as Texas A&M Forest Service and Travis County's STAR Flight.

STAR Flight 1 carried out 19 water drops totaling approximately 2,500 gallons of water as well as performing reconnaissance flights; STAR Flight 4 carried out six drops totaling 2,000 gallons of water.

The Texas A&M Forest Service tanker plane made two flights dropping 3,000 gallons of fire retardant on each trip.

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Editors: There will be no additional updates unless the situation warrants or the Fire Marshal announces a cause for the fire.

At Noon Jan 31:

Hays County Courthouse, San Marcos, TX – The grass fire near Wimberley is now considered 100 percent contained. A reconnaissance flyover by STAR Flight Wednesday morning showed no areas of concern. Fire Departments are still on the scene to continue to extinguish roots and stumps that are still smoldering.

The Fire Marshal has not yet released a cause of the fire.

At 8pm Jan 30:

Hays County Courthouse, San Marcos, TX – The approximately 750-acre grass fire that began earlier today near Wimberley is estimated to be 90 percent contained as of 8 p.m. January 30. Area Fire Department personnel with brush trucks will be working at the scene overnight. The situation will be reassessed in the morning to determine if assistance from the Texas Forest Service air operations is needed again. Persons who were asked to leave their homes as a precaution have been allowed to return home, and no structures have been damaged by the fire.

At 5:15 p.m. Jan 30:

Fire Departments from throughout Hays County have responded to a major grass fire at FM 2325 and Valley Springs Road near Wimberley, and the Texas Forest Service is standing by to assist with an air tanker.

Some houses have been evacuated as a precaution and those residents are welcome at the Wimberley Community Center. There are no known burned structures at this time.

Hays County Director of Emergency Services Kharley Smith said that the fire is in a heavily wooded and brushy area with no road access, and fire department equipment may not be able to get to the head of the fire.

“A Forest Service tanker is standing by to begin water drops at the head of the fire when that location is determined,” Smith said. “STAR Flight is assisting by surveying the area and will report back as to an estimate of the size. A rough estimate from the ground indicates the fire could be in excess of 750 acres. We’ll know more when Starflight is able to finish its survey of the area,” Smith said.

Smith is urging motorists to avoid the area.