



Paul Pape  
Bastrop County Judge

January 21, 2021

To the citizens of Bastrop County - we are thankful that the Rolling Pines fire is under control and largely contained. Swift and brave responses by our local fire departments, the Texas Forest Service, and a multitude of other supporting agencies kept this from being another destructive wildfire.

I have asked Texas Parks and Wildlife for a full accounting of what happened, what went wrong, what mistakes were made, what has been learned, and how what has been learned will be used to better protect the lives and property of our residents in the future. We want to know every detail about this fire. I expect to receive a plan from TPWD very soon that will lay out a full review of this event and I will keep you informed of the process and the findings.

To be clear, Texas Parks and Wildlife did not ask for our permission to conduct a prescribed burn this past Tuesday, nor did we give them permission to do so. As a state agency, they conduct these events under the direction of a fire boss using national standards for prescribed burns. I have made it clear to TPWD that the use of controlled burns in Bastrop County must never again threaten our citizens or their residences.

Thanks for the prayers for the safety of First Responders and Firefighters, as well as those who evacuated. We are thankful that no lives were lost, no residences suffered major damage, and that there were no serious injuries to the heroes who fought this fire. I also appreciate Mayor Schroeder of Bastrop and Mayor Ramirez of Elgin for opening shelters for evacuees and firefighters.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Pape". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

County Judge Paul Pape