Wildfire is among the most destructive natural hazards affecting communities in North America. Climate change is exacerbating the problem, creating conditions that favor greater frequency and severity of burns, while continued urbanization and prevailing development patterns increase the population and extent of the built environment in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Though currently most pronounced in California, wildfire risk is high and growing rapidly in many parts of Texas.

This presentation chronicles the early stages of a research effort to extend the Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard™ (PIRS) methodology to address wildfire hazards. Originally developed by a team of faculty, staff, and students at Texas A&M University, the PIRS™ method enables the spatial evaluation of a community’s network of plans to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to hazards. The process aims to harmonize a community’s network of plans by systematically assessing policies and facilitating their adjustment to improve the focus and coordination of plans on building resilience in the most vulnerable locations.