

## NEW BEGINNINGS by Susan Shifflett

“Nature, in her indifference, makes no distinction between good and evil.”  
—Anatole France

There is no better quote to describe the September 2011 Bastrop County wildfires. More than 34,000 acres charred, 1,600 homes burned, and countless memories lost.

Firefighters from across Texas and the U.S. fought for days to control Mother Nature’s fury. Mizzy Zdroj from nearby Heart of Pines Volunteer Fire Department fought to save her neighbors’ homes, all the while losing her own home and her livelihood, farm and art studio.

Though September brought fire’s death and destruction to Bastrop County, December brought fire’s gentler side, regrowth. The reality show *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* chose the Zdroj family to be the recipients of Bastrop County’s rebuilding project. *EM:HE*’s chosen Bastrop-area builder, EFC Custom Homes, brought Sharp Propane into this life-changing event.



34,000 acres were charred and 1,600 homes burned in the Bastrop County wildfire devastation.

a 5:00 a.m. underground tank installation.” “Community involvement is something our company values highly,” McKay continued. “Across this community, we have a lot of rebuilding to do, and we are rolling up our sleeves to support our neighbors.”

Sharp Propane is furnishing propane fuel and a Rinnai tankless water heater for the Zdrojs’ home. Additionally, with Sharp Propane’s Platinum sponsorship, half of donated funds will support the family’s home maintenance and help jump-start a fund for Habitat for Humanity in Bastrop County.



EFC President/Owner Eric Christophe and Sharp Propane CEO Steve McKay

EFC President/Owner Eric Christophe and Sharp Propane CEO Steve McKay have joined forces on the project. “Sharp Propane is a company I knew I could rely on,” Christophe says, “and once again they answered the call, even for



L to R: Frank Goree, Mike Gillmore, Randy Rodriguez, and Walter Pscenk with Sharp Propane work an early morning shift.



Before *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* knocked on their door, this shed was going to serve as the Zdroj family home.

Before *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* knocked on their door, a shed was going to serve as the Zdroj family home. During the build week, the family was whisked away to New York City for a Christmas extravaganza. When they returned, they received a Christmas gift of a new home, complete with

an art studio and critter cages, that incorporates green technologies like solar panels, a rainwater collection system, and clean-burning propane.

President Calvin Coolidge once said, "Remember that nature is your great restorer." We hope that holds true for the Zdroj family.



EFC and Sharp Propane crews work together to build the Zdrojs' new home.

## TRUCK INSPECTION, HYDRO TEST DUE DATES POSTED ONLINE

Want to verify when your trucks are due for their next RRC inspection or hydro test?

Visit [www.texaspropane.org](http://www.texaspropane.org) and click on the yellow tab that says "Check Your Due Dates." Enter your RRC license number and passcode into the boxes at the bottom of the screen. (The passcode is the same one you use to check your employees' certifications and continuing-education due dates.) Check the box that says "Truck Test and Inspection Due Dates," and hit SEARCH. The site will display the due dates on file in our records for each of your registered trucks.

Tests and inspections must be current before a truck can be registered and issued a Form 4 decal. To document a cargo tank test, submit LPG Form 8 with your license renewal packet. To schedule a Railroad Commission inspection, get your company's passcode, or for questions about a test or inspection due date, call LP-Gas Operations at (512) 463-6462.

## FOLLOWUP CALLS ON CEASE-OPERATIONS LETTERS

During the months of October, November and December, 2011, AFRED's team leader for administration called all recipients of cease-operations letters whose Category E, Category I or Category J licenses had expired. The purpose of the three-month trial was to see if the letters were being delivered and to help licensees who did not intend to let their licenses lapse resolve any outstanding issues.

In all, 31 companies were contacted. Of these 31 companies, 8 were Category E licensees and 23 were Category I licensees. None was a Category J licensee. All 31 companies said they had received their cease-operations letter.

This exercise benefited the licensees and the Commission. It verified lapsed licensees' intentions, avoided misunderstandings and saved time that an inspector might otherwise spend going to a licensee's location, only to discover that the company is out of business, was bought out, or is operating under a different license. It also offered a proactive means of addressing situations where a company has paid the required fees and believes in error that they have completed their renewal.