



Allen, Oklahoma Community Wildfire Protection Plan



CWPP: AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Community Allen, Oklahoma **Date** January 2008

Prepared by Kelly Hurt, Ph.D.

Organization American Water Institute

Contact Information

Address 2020 Lonnie Abbott Boulevard, Ada, OK 74820

Phone (580) 272-2047

E-Mail kelly.hurt@chickasaw.net

The following report is a cooperative effort between various entities. The representatives listed below comprise the core decision-making team responsible for this report and mutually agree on the plan's contents.

Community Representatives

Name Doug Stinson, City Manager

Address 109 North Memphis Street, Allen, OK 74825

Phone Number (580) 857-2461

Name J. B. Nelson, Emergency Management Officer

Address 1102 East Gilmore Street, Allen, OK 74825

Phone Number (580) 399-6629

Local Fire Department Representatives

Name Doug Peay, Fire Chief

Address 29981 Highway 1 East, Allen, OK 74825

Phone Number (580) 857-2818

Local Oklahoma Forestry Services Representatives

Name Kevin Keys

Address P.O. Box 1844, Ardmore, OK 73402

Phone Number (580) 223-3973

The following federal and other interested parties were consulted and involved in the preparation of this report.

Name	Organization
Don Carpenter, State Farm Insurance	(580) 436-2808
David Lassiter, Allen Public Schools	(580) 857-2417
Dianna Brannon, Allen Advocate	(580) 857-2687
Del Johnson, Public Service Corporation	(580) 320-1583
Virgil Walker, Allen Fire Department	(580) 857-2818
Clay Horton, Natural Resources Conservation Service	(580) 332-3070

PLAN CONTENTS

Community Background and Existing Situation	5
Community Base Map and Other Visuals	18
Objectives and Goals	18
Prioritized Mitigation Recommendations	18
Action Plan	19
Wildfire Pre-Suppression Plan	20
Additional Comments	21
Attachments	22

1) COMMUNITY BACKGROUND AND EXISTING SITUATION

Community Description

County	Pontotoc and Hughes	Latitude/Longitude	34.878N/ -96.412W
Frontage Road	Highways 1 and 48	Nearest Intersection	Hwy 1 and Hwy 48
Local FD name and location	Allen Fire Department 100 North Memphis Street, Allen, OK 74825		
Interface Areas	WUI on each boundary with drainage area and abandoned railroad WUI penetrating the city	Year Established	1892

Community Size

Number of Lots	500	Number of Structures	441 homes
Estimated Acres	600	Development Status	Residential

Community Infrastructure

Home Owners Association or POA Yes No *If yes, attach a copy of ordinances.*

Contacts

Name	Doug Stinson, City Manager		
Address	109 North Memphis, Allen, OK 74825		
Phone Number	(580) 857-2461		
Name	Kelly Hurt		
Address	RR 1 Box 382, Allen, OK 74825		
Phone Number	(580) 857-2756		

Resident Population

Full Time	951 (2000 census)			
Part-Time	100-75%	75-50%	50-25%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> less than 25%

Wildfire Hazard Rating

Low	Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High	Extreme
-----	----------	-------------------------------------	------	---------

Ingress/Egress

Community Access. The two primary access points to Allen, OK are Highways 1 and 48. Both access points provide for adequate ingress and egress in the event of a major wildfire emergency.

Signage provides clear guidance into the Allen area from surrounding communities of Atwood, Ada and Lula. This signage will adequately guide firefighting resources coming from other regions. Both entries are well marked and are provided with all-weather roadways adequate to handle most emergency vehicle access into all areas of the community. All major intersections of primary and secondary roadways are well marked with “post” type street signs.

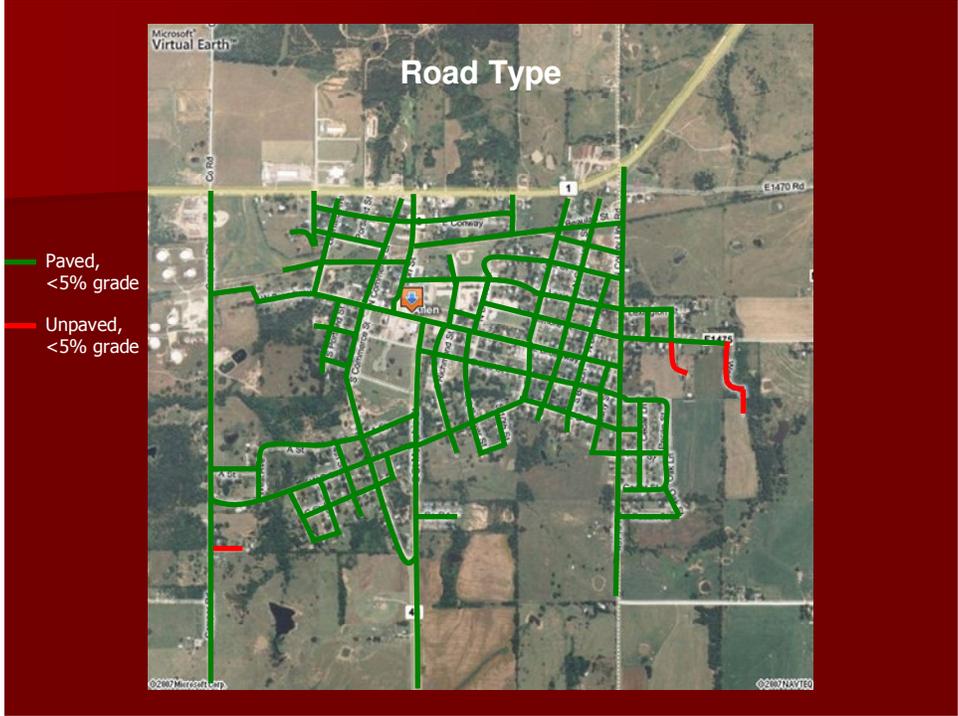
Subdivision Access. Most roadways and streets within subdivisions are of the hard surface type with sufficient width for adequate access by fire apparatus. However, due to the narrowness of the majority of subdivision roads, there is the potential for some slowing of traffic as ingoing fire equipment and outgoing residents approach one another. Certain areas, mostly on the fringes of the community, have limited development and are provided with streets that are narrow and sometimes with unimproved gravel surface. These areas could pose ingress and egress problems for pumper and tanker fire apparatus.

Emergency Evacuation Routes. Due to the small size and simplicity of the community’s street network, emergency evacuation routes are likely intuitive to most residents. However, not unlike most communities, emergency communications will be critical to ensure that citizens choose the proper evacuation route if multiple wildfires should threaten Allen.

Most of the community is comprised of through streets with minimal dead end developments, the most observed exception being in areas where streets are not completely developed. Where dead end streets exist it appears they are limited in terms of turning radius that provide safe and timely turnaround for standard pumper or tanker fire apparatus. Bridges encountered during field surveys were of a design that can handle the weight of the standard pumper or tender apparatus found in the fleet of the Allen Fire Department and other area fire agencies.

Street Signs. With few exceptions, most areas of the community are provided with high visibility, post-type street signs at intersections.

-





Public Fire Protection

Allen Fire Department. The AFD is a Level 5 volunteer agency that is well prepared to respond to all emergencies confronted by the community including wildland fires. The Department provides its services with a 13 member volunteer force working out of a single fire station strategically located in the center of Allen. The Department is equipped with two pumpers, 4700-gallon tanker, and three brush trucks. Surrounding fire departments augment the Department and its resources through a formal automatic and mutual aid system.

The Department takes the threat of wildfire seriously and has in place policies and procedures to mitigate the threat of wildfire including a rapid response to incidents not only within the confines of Allen, but also in areas on the peripheral of the community.

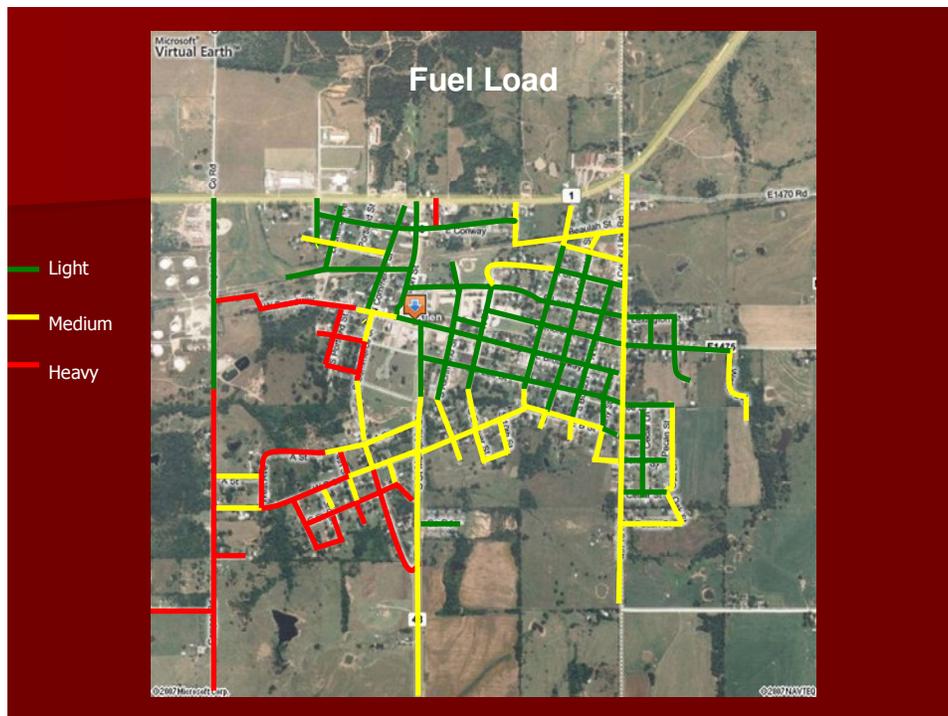
Fixed Fire Protection. No homes are known to be equipped with automatic fire sprinklers and related fixed fire protection systems.

Water Supply

The City of Allen receives its water service from the community water department. The water system is comprised of storage tanks and pumps supplying an array of distribution, feeder and branch mains. The system's water reservoir and tank capacities should be capable of sustaining the demand of firefighting operations during most wildfire operations. Standard hydrants are located approximately 1000 feet apart and the majority have adequate flow. In areas with limited flows the AFD utilizes its pumper and tanker to augment the system to insure adequate water is available for the suppression of structure fires or a large front wildfire where multiple structures are threatened.

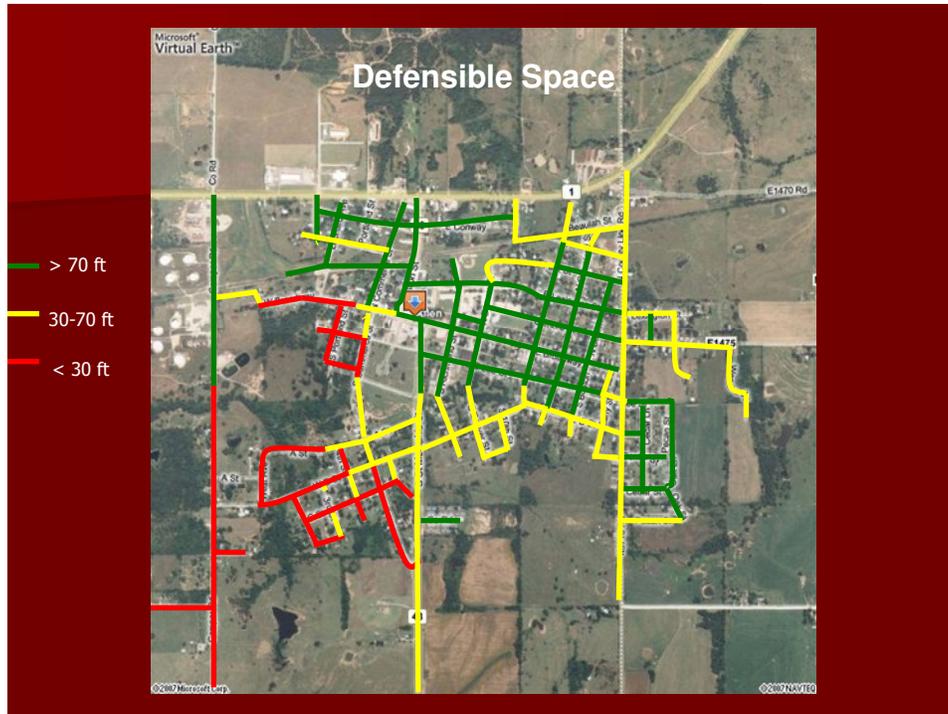
Fuel Load

Vegetation and fuel load are typical of the region with a mix of new growth native hardwood and evergreen trees. Surface fuels vary from moderate to heavy buildup. Fuels near homes and businesses are significant along the fringes of the community and internally along drainages and the abandoned railroad. Most areas of the community are located on gently sloping terrain.



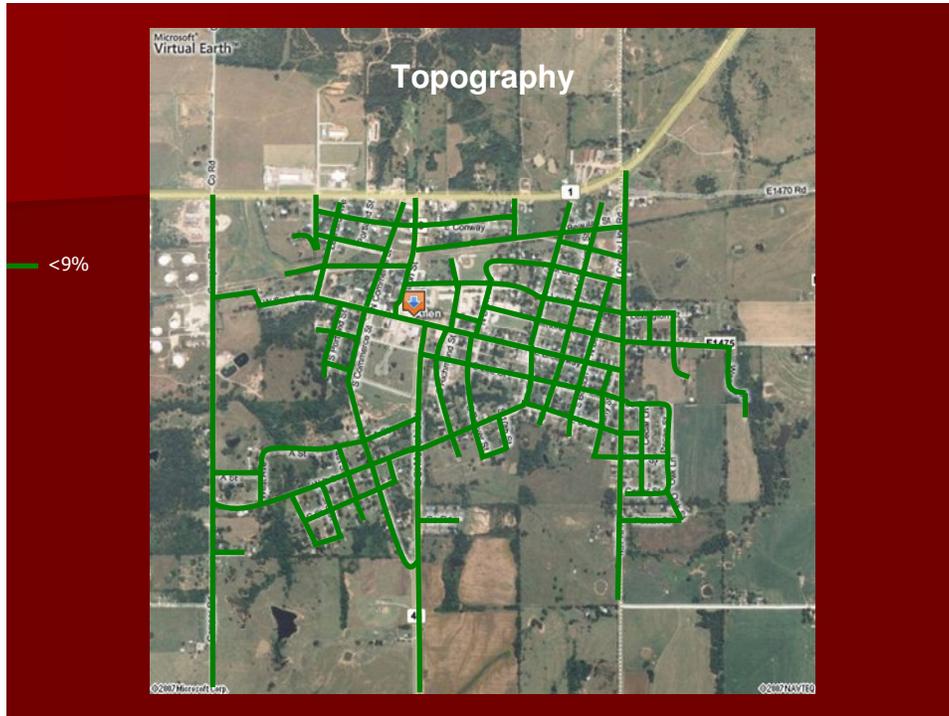
Defensible Space

As with similar Oklahoma communities, the City of Allen provides a rural lifestyle that is one with nature. This rural setting encourages the practice of allowing vegetation to grow close to dwellings and other structures. Many homes were built during the 1930s-60s. Many of these homes do not receive a high level of attention as seen with vegetation that has encroached upon homes and surrounding grounds.



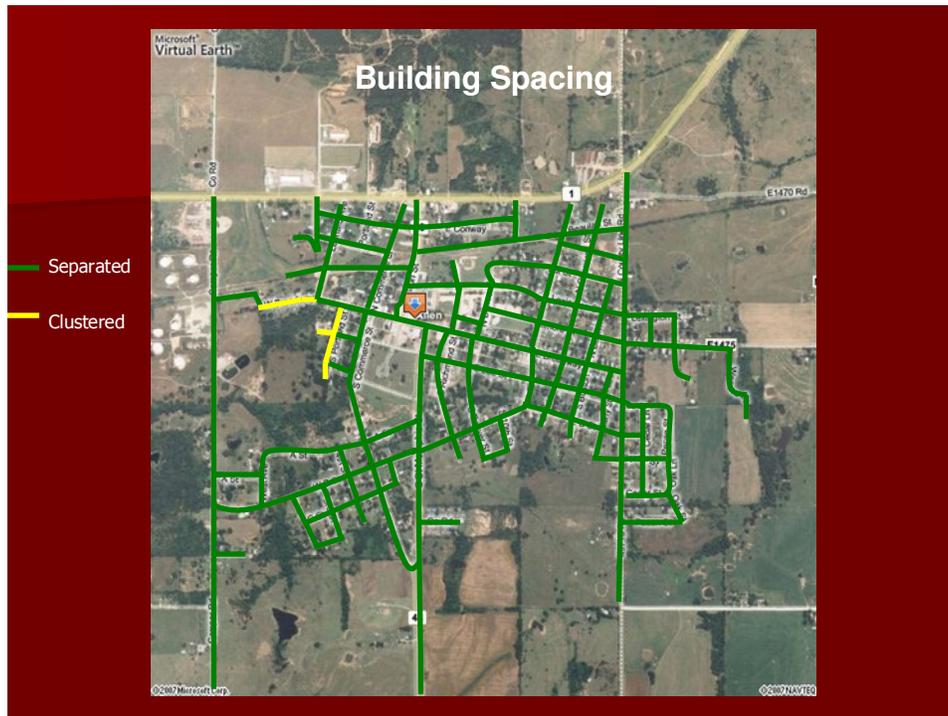
Topography

In general, homes within the City of Allen are located on gentle sloping to flat ground.



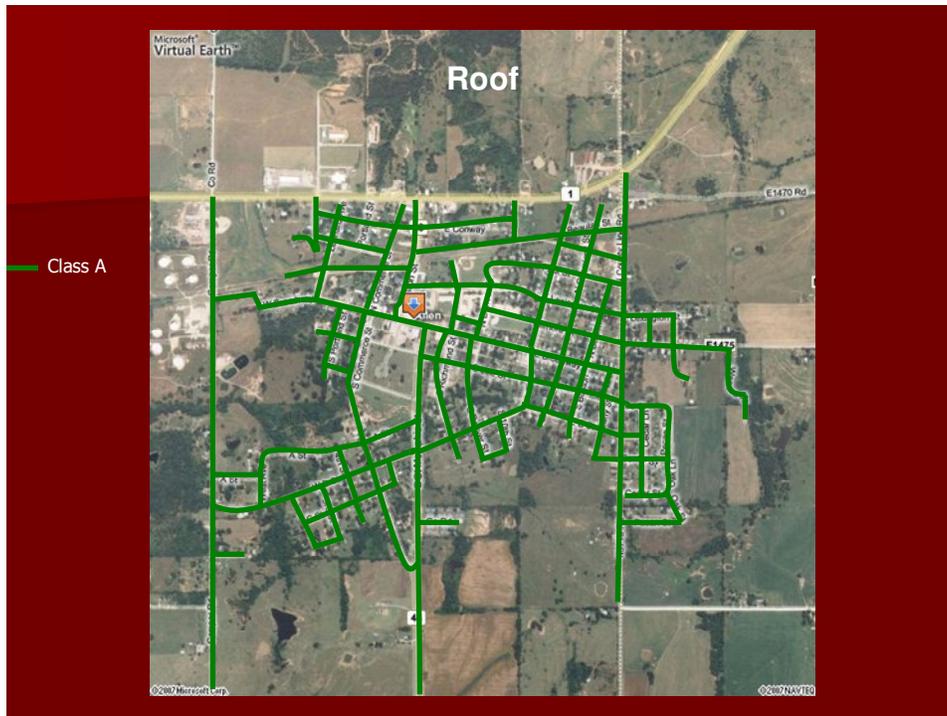
Building Spacing

Building spacing ranges from higher density in the more central sections of the community to sparsely spaced in outlying areas. Many of the surveyed homes in older sections are of higher density with minimum set back from property lines and surrounding structures.



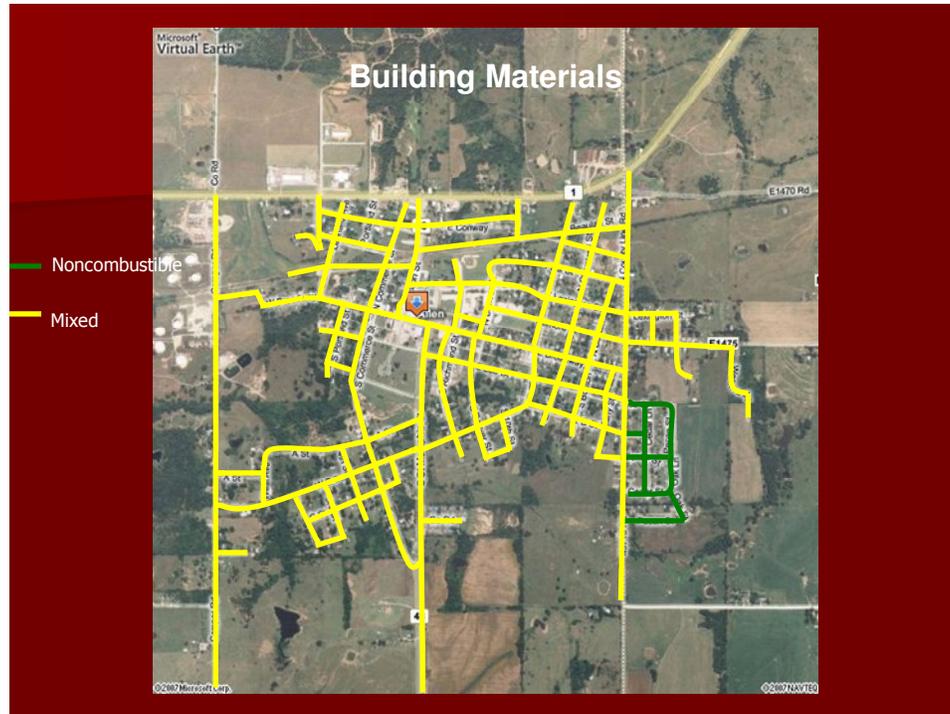
Roof Materials

Most properties assessed have either an asphalt/fiberglass shingle or metal roof.



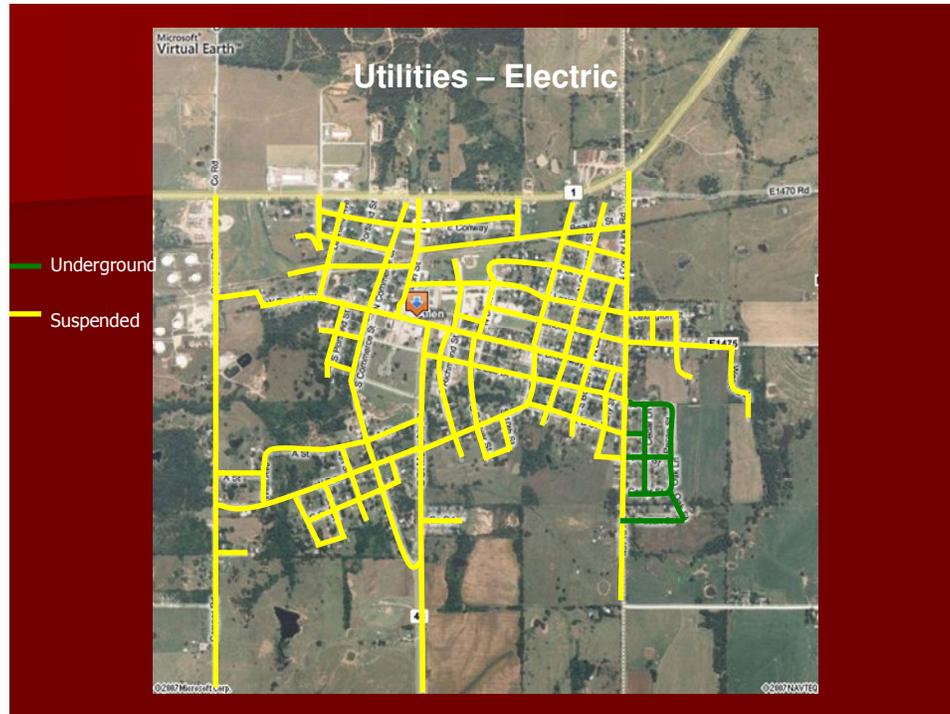
Building Materials

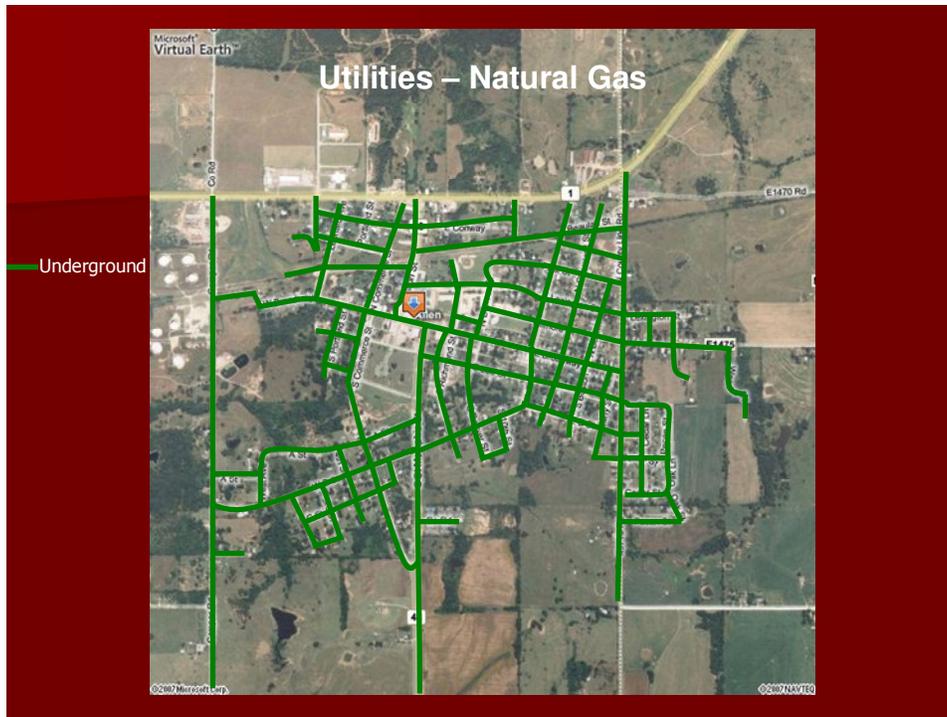
Most properties assessed are frame structures with exposed wood or vinyl covering or brick veneer. However, most homes in the Black Addition are brick homes.



Placement of Utilities

In all cases except in the Black Addition, homes had overhead electrical service. Natural gas is provided underground.





Evaluation Date: January 2008

Community Wildfire History *(include surrounding areas)*

Relative Frequency 50 grass fires per year

Frequency

Common Causes Trash and pile burning, cigarettes thrown in dry grass, lightning, pump jacks, arson

Future Concerns Prolonged drought coupled with the high grass grown during last year's rainy season, ice storm damage to trees and high winds

Additional

Comments

2) COMMUNITY BASE MAP AND OTHER VISUALS	
<i>Please refer to maps in Section 1.</i>	
3) OBJECTIVES / GOALS	
<p>Objectives The objectives of this plan/report are to set clear priorities for the implementation of wildfire mitigation in the identified community. This includes prioritized recommendations for the community as a whole and also for individual homeowners where appropriate.</p> <p>Goals The goals are fuel reduction and structure ignitability reduction that will protect this community and its essential infrastructure. It also includes a wildfire pre-suppression plan.</p>	
4) PRIORTIZED MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>The following recommendations were developed by the Community FireWise Board as a result of the community wildfire risk assessment and follow-up meetings with local, state, federal and community stakeholders. A priority order was determined based on which mitigation projects would best reduce the hazard of wildfire in the assessment area.</p>	
Proposed Community Hazard Reduction Priorities	
1.	Write a special EQUIP zone grant for brush management, fire break establishment and pasture planning for rural landowners surrounding the City of Allen.
2.	Encourage utility companies to adopt late fall mowing and rye grass seeding schedule on all pipeline and power line right-of-ways.
3.	Work with the city to identify funds that can be used to mitigate fuels in drainage areas and along abandoned rail road.
4.	Investigate prescribed burn possibilities and place fire hazard signs in Allen.
Proposed Structural Ignitability Reduction Priorities	
1.	Maintain, in the case of low fuel loading, or decrease fuel loads near homes.
2.	Increase defensible space by encouraging cooperative neighborhood efforts that produce an integrated defensible space.
3.	Remove leaves and pine needles from roofs, gutters and near the bases of homes. Generally relocated flammable materials to areas away from homes.
4.	Choose non-flammable or otherwise Firewise materials when renovating or expanding homes.
Proposed Education and Outreach Priorities	
1.	Educate homeowners about creating defensible space and reducing fuel loading near their homes via newspaper articles. State Farm Insurance is considering creating a Firewise insert for the Allen Advocate.

2.	Conduct annual Firewise Day.
3.	Conduct Firewise talks at Allen Public Schools for students and initiate an Allen Firewise Home of the Month program.
4.	Attempt to get local music star Blake Shelton to record Firewise PSA's.

5) ACTION PLAN

Funding Needs *(Projects are listed according to priority; estimated cost and potential funding sources are also given).*

1.	Publish Firewise articles in the Allen Advocate (free).
2.	Apply for EQUIP fuel mitigation grant (USDA cost-share program for land owners).
3.	Work with utilities to establish right-of-way buffers (free, in-kind service from companies)
4.	Conduct Firewise Day (free).
5.	Present to students at Allen Public Schools (free).

Timetables *(Projects are listed according to priority; an estimated duration, start date and targeted completion date are also given).*

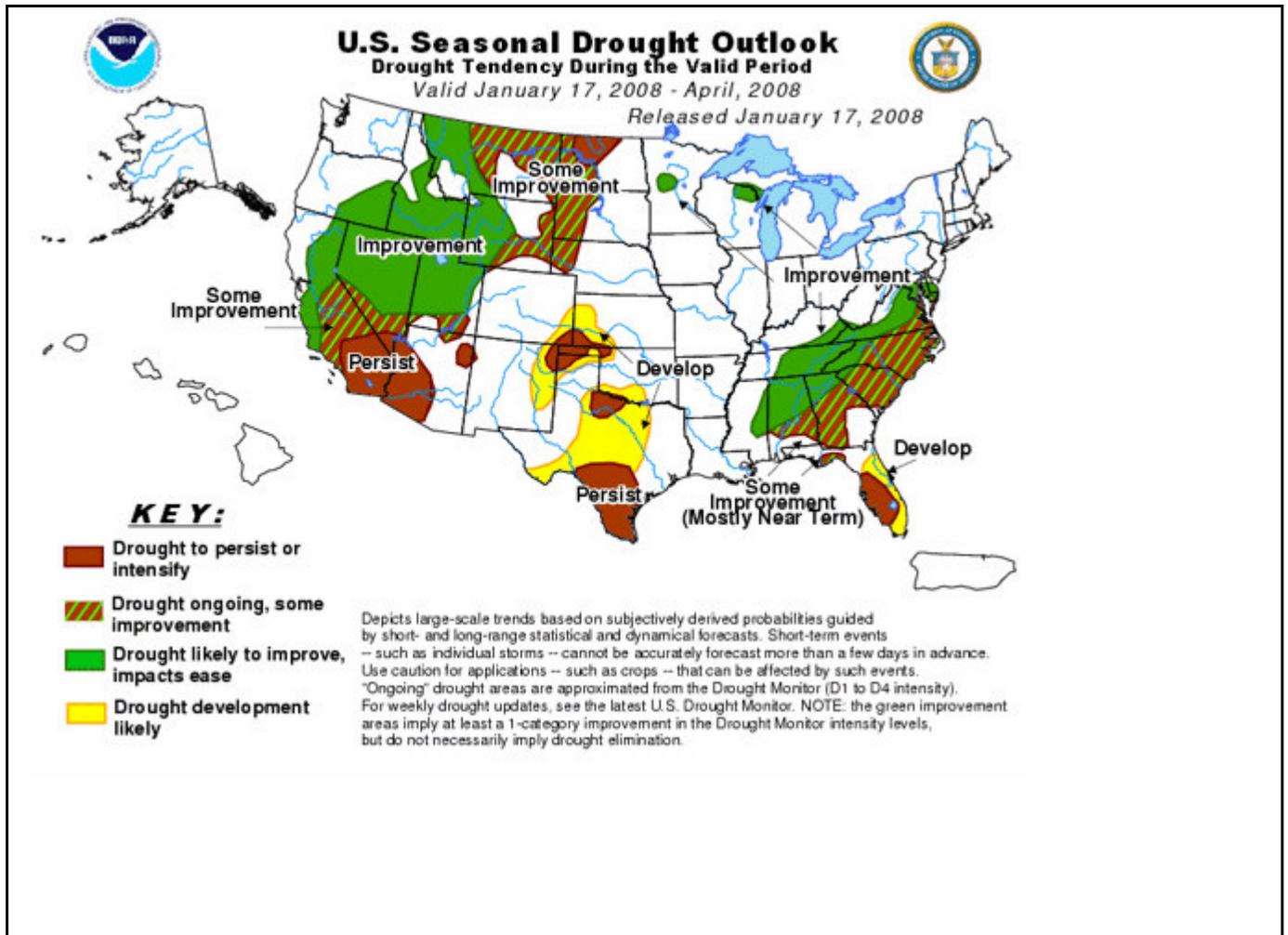
1.	Articles should be printed each year from January until April.
2.	This would be an annual program. The grant is due October 1, 2008
3.	This work would start in late fall, with rye grass seeding occurring before first frost.
4.	An annual event held in conjunction with the local bank's Customer Appreciation Day in June.
5.	An annual event held in February or March of each year.

Assessment *(Strategy used to assess the plans progress and effectiveness.)*

1.	At least one article at the beginning of each burn season with additional articles during large outbreaks.
2.	To create a "green" buffer of managed, low fuel, rye grass pasture surrounding Allen
3.	To create longer pipeline "green" buffers to protect rural homes and to provide fire breaks for local fire fighters.
4.	Firewise Days become an annual event

5.	The school becomes active in promoting the Firewise program through scholastic activities.		
6) WILDFIRE PRE-SUPPRESSION PLAN			
A.	Wildfire Protection Responsibility		
	Structural Protection	Allen Fire Department	
	Wildland Protection	Allen Fire Department	
B.	Incident Command Post Location		
	Incident specific		
C.	Incident Staging Area Location		
	Incident specific		
D.	Medical Unit Staging Area Location		
	Incident specific		
E.	Alarm Response First Alarm		
	Fire Department/Rescue Squad	Travel Distance	Response Time
	Allen Fire Department	Local	10 minutes
Second Alarm (report to designated staging area)			
	Fire Department/Rescue Squad	Travel Distance	Response Time
	Atwood VFD	5	15
	Francis VFD	15	20
	Homer VFD	15	20
	Happyland VFD	15	20
	Lula VFD	15	20
	BIA Wildland Crew	20	30
F.	Fixed Wing Air Support		
	Aircraft	Location	Telephone
	Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management	OKC	(405) 206-0872

G.	Water Availability		
	Location	Hydrants are located throughout the city.	Description Standard hydrants
H.	Communications (<i>Attach Communications Plan if available</i>)		
	Name	Phone Number	Radio Frequencies
	Dispatch/Fire Departments		
	Central Dispatch	911	154935
	Local Oklahoma Forestry Commission Office		
	Kevin Keys	(580) 223-3973	
I.	Evacuation (<i>Attach Evacuation Plan</i>)		
J.	Resource List		
	Name	Contact Information	Payment Information
	Support Agencies		
	BIA Bulldozers	911	Free
	Pontotoc County Commissioners – Gary Starns	(580) 332-8977	Free
	Pontotoc County Sheriff	911	Free
	Pontotoc County Emergency Management	911	Free
	Fuel		
	Allen Quick Pic	(580) 857-2459	Cash/Credit Card
	Food and Supplies		
	Allen Food Center	(580) 857-2627	Cash/Credit Card
	Allen Hardware	(580) 857-2763	Cash/Credit Card
	Lodging		
	None available		
7) ADDITIONAL COMMENTS			
	The latest NOAA drought outlook indicates that drought conditions are expected to develop in areas near Allen, OK. This developing drought coupled with the high fuel load of the community will increase the wildfire risk to the City of Allen. Homeowners should be encouraged to adopt or continue fuel management techniques in the home ignition zone.		



8) ATTACHMENTS *(List here in order of attachment)*

	Firewise Board Meeting
	Firewise Plan Review



