

# The City of Broken Bow Community Wildfire Protection Plan

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## AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

DATE: 9/7/2010

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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 Representative(s):

Name Jerry Don Smith, Mayor  
Address 210 N. Broadway, Broken Bow, OK 74728  
Phone Number (580)584-2885  
Other Contact Information Fax: (580)584-6898

Name John Dean, Jr. City Manager  
Address 210 N. Broadway, Broken Bow, OK 74728  
Phone Number (580)584-2885  
Other Contact Information Fax: (580)584-6898

Name Vickie Pieratt, Clerk  
Address 210 N. Broadway, Broken Bow, OK 74728  
Phone Number (580)584-2885  
Other Contact Information Fax: (580)584-6898

### Local Fire Department Representative(s):

Name Scott LeForce, Fire Chief  
Address 11 North Main Street, Broken Bow, OK 74728  
Phone Number 580/584-3400  
Other Contact Information Cell: 580-306-9285

Name Ray Butler, Asst. Chief  
Address 11 North Main Street, Broken Bow, OK 74728  
Phone Number 580/584-3400  
Other Contact Information Cell: 580-306-9285

**Local Oklahoma Division of Forestry Representative(s):**

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Name                      | Andy James      |
| Address                   |                 |
| Phone Number              | (580)584-3351   |
| Other Contact Information |                 |
| Name                      | Michelle Walker |
| Address                   |                 |
| Phone Number              | (580)306-9463   |
| Other Contact Information |                 |

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

| Name            | Organization  |
|-----------------|---|
| Dr. Kelly Hurt  | Oklahoma Department of Forestry, Firewise Coordinator |
| Larry Morgan    | KEDDO, Rural Fire Coordinator                         |
| Steve Smalling  | KEDDO, Field Rep.                                     |
| Loretta Morris  | KEDDO, Secretary                                      |
| Randy Martin    | Property Owner  |
| Michelle Walker | Oklahoma State Forestry                               |
| Andy James      | Oklahoma State Forestry                               |
| Dereck R Warren | Weyerhaeuser  |

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## 1) COMMUNITY BACKGROUND AND EXISTING SITUATION

### Community Description:

County: McCurtain Latitude/Longitude: 34°1'47'N 94°44'16"W  
 Frontage Road: Highway 70 Nearest Intersection: 259/70  
 Nearest Fire Department (name/location): Broken Bow  
 Interface Areas: Town limits and fire district boundaries \_\_\_\_\_ Year Established: 1970's  
 Map #: Assessment, (See attached map)

### Community Size:

Number of Lots: 4000 Number of Structures: 6100  
 Estimated Acres: 48,960 Development Status: Residential/Commercial

### Community Infrastructure:

Home Owners Association/Organization:  Yes  No *If yes, attach a copy of ordinances.*

### Contacts:

Name Greg Campbell, Emergency Management  
 Address 741 S D St Ste 2  
 Phone Number (580)212-5907  
 Other Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

Name Scott LeForce  
 Address 11 North Mains Street, Broken Bow, OK 74728  
 Phone Number 580/584-3400  
 Other Contact Information Cell: 580/306-9285

### Resident Population:

Full Time  
 Part-Time:  100-75%  75-50%  50-25%  less than 25%

### Wildfire Hazard Rating: (check one)

Low  Moderate  High  Extreme

Date Evaluated: \_\_\_\_\_ *Attach Community Assessment Form.*

Community Assessment Highlights (roads, water sources, primary fuel types, utilities and topography)

Broken Bow is a City in McCurtain County, Oklahoma, United State. The population was 4,230 at the 2000 census. It is named after Broken Bow, Nebraska, the former hometown of the city's founders, the Dierks brothers.

The history of Broken Bow started when the land that would become Broken Bow was owned by the Choctaw tribe prior to being settled by non-Indians. Growing around a lumber company started by two brothers, Broken Bow had a population of 1,983, just a decade after its incorporation in 1911. The city lies within the Little Dixie region of Oklahoma, According to the United States Census Bureau; the city has a total area of 5.0 square miles. 5.0 square miles if it is land, and 0.04 square miles of it is water.

The Broken Bows lake covers 14,220 acres and has 180 miles of shoreline. The lake contains small islands, bass and is surrounded by pine trees.

The city sits at the foothills of the Kiamichi Mountains, a sub range of the Ouachita Mountains, the Kiamichi Mountains sit within LeFlore, Pushmataha and McCurtain counties near the towns of Poteau and Albion. The Kiamichi peaks line up south of the Kiamichi River and reach 2,500 feet in elevation. The range is the namesake of Kiamichi Country, the official tourism designation for southeastern Oklahoma.

We divided Broken Bow into three sections for the assessment; there is Town, North Section and South Section. The Northern portion of the Broken Bow fire district is heavily wooded. This is due to the ownership of these properties by state and federal agencies as well as private timber companies. The areas are primarily managed for timber growth and harvest and as such, present a threat to residences in the area. This situation is compounded by the fact that over the past few years many vacationers have discovered the beauty of the area and have built expensive log cabins and other residential structures in these areas. Many, if not most, of these structures are built with flammable siding and decks with little defensible space between them and the surrounding timberland. In addition, the road systems and signage efforts for these areas are not sufficient to ensure safe egress and ingress during emergencies.

The Town Section encompasses the residential district within Broken Bow that includes approximate six square sections. One of the major fire hazards in this town section is the east/west railroad right-of-way. This right-of-way allows fire access into the town city limits. The railroad right-of-way is not adequately maintained to deter fire access. An additional concern is the lack of buffer zone around the city limits. Ideally a 60 to 80 foot defensible space that eliminates all underbrush and fire hazards would surround the city. The final issue of concern for the town section is the abundance of vacant and abandoned homes/structures. These structures are found on lots that have not been maintained and have lots of underbrush and overgrowth. The combination of vacant/abandoned structures and overgrown lots poses a severe threat to adjoining properties.

The South Section of the Broken Bow fire district is composed of farms, ranches and a few private timberlands. Adequate road signage is also a problem in this area. There are egress and ingress problems in this area due to one-lane bridges and narrow roads. Ideally a defensible space created around the private timberlands would add another measure of fire security to the south section.

### **Ingress/Egress**

Community Access, The two primary access points to Broken Bow, OK are Highways 259 and 70. Both access points provide for adequate ingress and egress in the event of a major wildfire emergency.

Signage provides good guidance into Broken Bow from all sides and to all subdivisions. The entries are well marked and provide all-weather roadways sufficient to handle emergency vehicle access into all areas of Town. All major intersections and secondary roads are marked with post type signs. Although there are some roads that are unmarked in the rural fire district area that needs signage.

### **Topography**

The topography is basically sloping hills with heavy timber and underbrush.

### **Water Sources**

In the city limits there are 211 fire plugs. Outside the city limits of Broken Bow but still in the Broken Bow Fire Districts we need to add more Fire plugs and dry hydrants in these outside areas. We do have Broken Bow Lake 3 miles north of Broken Bow, Glover river 17.89 Miles to the west, Little River 6 miles South of Broken Bow, Mountain Fork river 10.8 miles East of Broken Bow.

### **Fuel Types**

Vegetation is predominantly hardwood and pine. Forest, woods, or wildland fire. Includes fires involving vegetative fuels.

### **Fire Protection**

The Broken Bow Fire Department is proud to provide primary fire and rescue services to Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Broken Bow Fire Department has a staff of seven paid firemen and eighteen volunteer firemen. The department has an I.S.O. Rating of Class 4, with four Class A pumper trucks, one 75ft aerial ladder truck, three tankers, one portable tank. We are fortunate to have at our disposal two Amkus Rescue Tools (Jaws of Life), portable generators, and thermal imaging cameras. Our staff regularly trains at the three acre McCurtain County Fire Training Center, and

several are certified firefighter instructors as well as certified scuba divers, E.M.T.s, First Responders, and C.P.R. Instructors. All are Red cross and American Heart Association certified in CPR. Our Rescue Dive Unit has eleven P.A.D.I. certified scuba divers.

In cooperation with other rural departments, Broken Bow Fire Training Center is used in various training activities to aid the department in at least a 100 mile radius.



Fire Training Center

### **Community Wildfire History: (include surrounding areas)**

Relative Frequency: 1-2 Monthly

Common Causes: Arson

Areas of Future Concern:

Additional Comments:

## **2) COMMUNITY BASE MAP AND OTHER VISUALS**

*Attach or insert community base map and other visuals.*

## **3) OBJECTIVES / GOALS**

Edit as needed to match community needs.

### **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.

### **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.

## **4) PRIORTIZED MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations were developed by the Community Firewise Working Group or Fire Council 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.

### **Proposed Community Hazard Reduction Priorities:**

List area and treatment recommended.

Examples: 1) Community Clean-up Day. Cut, prune and mow vegetation in shared community spaces. 2) Create an

emergency exit. Build an unimproved road from cul-de-sac on Jasper Lane to Old Rd.

1. Southeast, Fire District/Create 60-80 Ft. Buffer Zone
2. Install Fire Hydrant in small rural subdivision
3. Clearing Ladder Fuels underbrush
4. Mowing right of ways
5. Adding additional substations, equipment and manpower.
6. Forest Mulcher
7. Grass Rigs
8. Tankers/Pumpers

#### **Proposed Structural Ignitability Reduction Priorities:**

Actions to be taken by homeowners.

Example: Clean roofs and gutters.

1. Clean Roof and Gutters
2. Mow tall Grass
3. Trim/Thin Timber Area
4. Remove flammable house siding.
5. Additional fire breaks in fire district.

#### **Proposed Education and Outreach Priorities:**

Activities planned and implemented by community, local fire department and Department of Forestry

Examples: 1) Distribute Informational packets. 2) Create a neighborhood newsletter.

1. Hunter safety classes/Pamphlets on Firewise
2. Parent Teacher Meeting/community Firewise awareness
3. Display signage.

## **5) ACTION PLAN**

#### **Funding Needs:**

Outline each project (list highest priority projects first) including estimated cost and potential funding sources.

1. To increase public awareness and encourage citizens to participate in the Firewise program, articles should be published in the Broken Bow News. (Free)
2. Clean up day for all the area of Broken Bow, Citizens would put out anything that needed to be thrown away out by the curb and it would be picked up by the trash trucks. (Free)
3. Work with utilities and Railroad companies to remove vegetation in the right-of-ways.(Free)
4. Present Firewise to students at Broken Bow Schools. (Free)
5. Conduct Firewise Day. (Free)

#### **Timetables:**

For each project (list highest priority projects first), provide an estimated duration, start date and targeted completion date.

1. Newspaper articles should be printed each year from January until April.
2. Run weekly through clean up days designated.
3. To remove vegetation in the right of ways in early spring.
4. An annual event held in March or April of each year.

5. An annual event held in conjunction with the Kiamichi Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest, and the Beavers Bend Folk Festival.

### Assessment:

Describe the strategy used to assess the plans progress and effectiveness.

1. At least one article at the beginning of each burn season to be monitored by the Firewise Board.
2. Review participation in the clean up days and evaluate effectiveness as related to Firewise parameters of properties.
3. Review the effectiveness of removing vegetation in the right of ways.
4. The schools becomes active in promoting the Firewise program through varies scholastic activities.
5. Firewise Day becomes an annual event.

## 6) WILDFIRE PRE-SUPPRESSION PLAN

### A. Wildfire Protection Responsibility

Structural Protection: Broken Bow Fire Department

Wildland Protection: Broken Bow Fire Department, Eagletown, Hochatown, Idabel, Ringold, and Holly Creek Volunteer Fire Departments.

### B. Incident Command Post Location

Broken Bow Volunteer Fire Department or mobilized depending on incident.

### C. Incident Staging Area Location

Broken Bow Volunteer Fire Department-11 North Main Street-Broken Bow, OK

### D. Medical Unit Staging Area Location

Incident specific

### E. Alarm Response

#### First Alarm

| Fire Department/Rescue Squad         | Travel Distance | Response Time |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Broken Bow Volunteer Fire Department | 10 Miles        | 5-10 Minutes  |
|                                      |                 |               |
|                                      |                 |               |

#### Second Alarm (report to designated staging area)

| Fire Department/Rescue Squad          | Travel Distance | Response Time |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Eagletown Volunteer Fire Department   | 10 Miles        | 5-15 Minutes  |
| Hochatown Volunteer Fire Department   | 5 Miles         | 5-15 Minutes  |
| Idabel Volunteer Fire Department      | 10 Miles        | 5-15 Minutes  |
| Ringold Volunteer Fire Department     | 15 Miles        | 5-15 Minutes  |
| Holly Creek Volunteer Fire Department | 12 Miles        | 5-15 Minutes  |

### F. Air Support

#### Fixed Wing

| Aircraft                | Location       | Telephone Number |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Weyerhaeuser            | Broken Bow, OK | 580-981-1508     |
| Oklahoma State Forestry | Broken Bow, OK | 580-584-3354     |

**Helicopter**

| Aircraft                | Contact Name                 | Dispatching Guidelines |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Weyerhaeuser            | Dereck R Warren              | 580-981-1508           |
| Oklahoma State Forestry | Andy James<br>Michelle Finch | 580-584-3354           |
|                         |                              |                        |

**G. Water Availability (must be accessible to fire engines)**

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Location: Broken Bow Lake                    | Description: North of City |
| Location: Hydrants throughout the City       | Description: City Limits   |
| Location: Glover River and Gravity Flow Plug | Description: West of City  |
| Location: Mountain Fork River                | Description: East of City  |
| Location: Little River                       | Description: South of City |

**H. Communications (Attach Communications Plan if available)**

| Name                                       | Phone Number  | Radio Frequencies             |
|--|---------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Dispatch/Fire Departments</b>           |               |                               |
| Broken Bow Fire Department                 | 580-584-3400  | 159.105 tx, 154..740 rx &t.a. |
| Broken Bow Police Department               | 580-584-3310  | 158.895 tx, 155.415 rx        |
| Eagletown Fire Department                  | 580-835-2200  | 159.030 tx, 154.385 rx        |
| Hochatown Fire Department                  | 580-494-6333  | 158.970 tx, 154.100 rx        |
| Ringold Fire Department                    | 580-981-2150  | 153.890 tx, 155.220 rx        |
| EMS  | 580- 208-2604 | 150.775 tx, 155.340 rx        |
| <b>Local Department of Forestry Office</b> |               |                               |
| Oklahoma State Forestry                    | 580-584-3351  | 159.45000                     |
| <b>Other</b>                               |               |                               |
| US Forest Service                          | 580-494-6402  | 451.02500                     |
|  |               |                               |
|  |               |                               |

**I. Evacuation (Attach Evacuation Plan)**

**J. Resource List**

| Name                             | Contact Information | Payment Information |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Support Agencies</b>          |                     |                     |
| McCurtain County Sheriff         | 580-286-3331        | Free                |
| McCurtain County EMS             | 580-286-7584        | Free                |
| McCurtain County Commissioner    | 580-584-2434        | Free                |
| McCurtain County Highway Patrol  | 580-286-3331        | Free                |
| <b>Tractor Operators</b>         |                     |                     |
| Oklahoma Forestry                | (580) 494-6479      | Free                |
| District One County Commissioner | (580) 584-2434      | Free                |
| Weyco Sub-Contractors, Jim Latta | (580) 494-6705      |                     |

| <b>Crews</b>               |               |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Oklahoma Forestry          | 580-584-3351  | Free                |
|                            |               |                     |
|                            |               |                     |
|                            |               |                     |
| <b>Utilities</b>           |               |                     |
| Public Service Company     | 580-584-5254  |                     |
| Mountain Fork Water Supply | 580-584-2918  |                     |
| Broken Bow Water Company   | 580-584-3407  |                     |
| Center Point Energy        | 866-275-5265  |                     |
|                            |               |                     |
| <b>Fuel</b>                |               |                     |
| Love's Travel Stop         | 580-584-3813  | Cash & Credit Cards |
| E-Z Mart                   | 580-584-2851  | Cash & Credit Cards |
| Binger Oil Company         | 580-584-2444  | Cash & Credit Cards |
|                            |               |                     |
| <b>Food and Supplies</b>   |               |                     |
| Pruitt's Food              | 580-584-6056  | Cash & Credit Cards |
| Wal Mart                   | 580-584-3324  | Cash & Credit Cards |
|                            |               |                     |
| <b>Lodging</b>             |               |                     |
| Highway Inn and Suites     |               | Cash & Credit Cards |
| Broken Bow Inn             | 580- 584-9103 | Cash & Credit Cards |
| Charles Wesley Motor Lodge | 580-584-3303  | Cash & Credit Cards |
| Microtel Inn               | 580-584-7708  | Cash & Credit Cards |

## 7) ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

Ingress/Egress Map  
City of Broken Bow Fire Hydrant Locations, Map  
Broken Bow Fire District Hydrant Locations, Map  
Fire District Map  
Fire Assessment Zone Map  
Aerial Map of Fire District  
Pictures of Problem Areas