



The Kemp VFD Wildfire Protection Plan

**AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION
November 2009**

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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.

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Other Contact Information _____

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Name Jeremy Sisemore
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Local Fire Department Representative(s):

Name Richard Crisp
Address P.O. Box 43 Achille, OK 74720
Phone Number _____
Other Contact Information _____

Name Sarah Morgan
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Address 4124 Kemp Rd. Hendrix, OK 74741
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Local Oklahoma Division of Forestry Representative(s):

Name Kevin Keys
 Address P.O. Box 1844, Ardmore, OK 73402
 Phone Number 580-223-3973
 Other Contact Information _____

Name Jim Pitts-Area Forester
 Address 820 NE 12th, Goldsby, OK 73093
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 Other Contact Information Jim.pitts@oda.state.ok.us

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

Name	Organization
Tommy Sheppard	SODA
Bo McIlvoy	SODA
Dottie DeMeulenaere	SODA
James Dalton	Bryan County Emergency Management
Norman Campo	Emergency Management
Ivan Kelly	Bryan County Commissioner



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1) COMMUNITY BACKGROUND AND EXISTING SITUATION (see appendix A)

Kemp is a community surrounded by hundreds of acres of Wildland interface. The vegetation throughout Kemp provides enough fuel to make fire behavior erratic and extreme during dry conditions. The interface type is considered intermix, where structures are sporadically located throughout the vegetation.

Community Description:

County: Bryan Latitude/Longitude: N 33.771/W -96.353
Frontage Road: Church St. Nearest Intersection: 6th St & Church St
Nearest Fire Department (name/location): Kemp Volunteer Fire Department
Interface Areas: 50 (+/-) square miles Year Established: 1975
Map #: See appendix

Community Size:

Number of Lots: 900 (+/-) Number of Structures: 500 (+/-)
Estimated Acres: 32,000 (=/-) Development Status: Active

Community Infrastructure:

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

Contacts:

Name N/A
Address
Phone Number
Other Contact Information
Name
Address
Phone Number
Other Contact Information

Resident Population:

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

Wildfire Hazard Rating: (check one)

[] Low [] Moderate [x] High [] Extreme

Date Evaluated: 9/17/2009 Attach Community Assessment Form.

Community Assessment Highlights

(roads, water sources, primary fuel types, utilities and topography) Southern Oklahoma Development Association (SODA) along with the Kemp Fire Department conducted the Community Wildfire Risk and Hazard Assessment in July 2009. The community of Kemp received a score of 173 placing it in the "Extreme Risk" hazard range.

Roads:

There is approximately 40 miles of roads in this fire district. The road system consists of primary roads being paved while most secondary roads are gravel and/or dirt. The majority of these secondary roads are narrow and overgrown in many places. There are several dead-end roads that are too narrow for wildfire suppression equipment and in some cases are

the only escape routes. The dead-end roads are mostly on the outskirts of town. All bridges are in good enough shape to cross.

Topography:

The topography of Kemp is basically flat with a slight slope to the southeast. This slope is very slight and not noticeable but still enough for the storm drainage to flow to the Red River.

Primary fuel types & Topography:

Vegetation consists of a mixture of hardwoods, red cedar, and native grasses. The heaviest concentrations of fuel can be found on undeveloped lots, and along low lying drainage areas. The topography is basically flat to rolling hills with rocky protrusions.

Water Sources in the community:

There are 15 hydrants located within the districts limits and 0 dry hydrants in the districts area. The fire department and everyone within the fire district rely only on rural water system. When there is a fire emergency, the fire department has to call the Rural Water Dist. so they can turn on a second pump to keep pressure up.

Utilities:

The electric lines are above ground and the right-of-ways are not regularly maintained. Red cedar grows in abundance and is heavily located along fence rows and under power lines.

Community Wildfire History: (include surrounding areas)

Over the past 10 years Kemps Fire District has been threatened several times by a number of large wildfires. Major fires such as the ones in the winter of 2005 posed major threats to critical infrastructures and to human life. Due to the actions of brave volunteer firefighters, Kemps Fire District has escaped several potentially catastrophic occurrences with only minor property damage.

Relative Frequency: There are approximately 20 wildland fires annually.

Common Causes: Common causes include Hwy 78 traffic/cigarettes; burning trash; agriculture equipment failure; welders and oilfield industry.

Areas of Future Concern: The concerns of Kemp VFD are the abandoned structures that exist and are over grown. When these site catch fire and with just a slight wind, major damage can be caused miles away.

Additional Comments:



2) COMMUNITY BASE MAP AND OTHER VISUALS (see appendix B)

Community base maps with and without aerial photography are instrumental in preparing a Wildfire Protection Plan

3) OBJECTIVES / GOALS

Objectives:

The objectives of this plan/report are to set clear priorities for the implementation of wildfire mitigation in the community and fire district of Kemp, Oklahoma. This includes prioritized recommendations for the community as a whole and also for individual homeowners where appropriate.

Goals:

1. Establish safety zones around all homes.
2. Reduce vegetative fuel loads along roadways, and other ignitable areas.
3. Replace poor performing fire hydrants and place additional fire hydrants to unprotected areas.
4. Increase accessibility for emergency vehicles.
5. Public Education
6. Clean up of vacant lots.



4) PRIORTIZED MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were developed by the Kemp Firewise Board Members and 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:

1. Seek funding for training of firefighters that includes fire suppression associated with the oil and natural gas industry.
2. Develop a greater defensible space around residential structures.
3. Clean-up of vacant lots located within Town limits.
4. Encourage and assist with increasing driveway widths and standardized accessibility, particularly to pasture and oilfield sites, for responding fire fighters or emergency personnel.

Proposed Structural Ignitability Reduction Priorities:

1. Develop easily identifiable addressing for all community residents
2. Community education concerning increasing defensible space around residential structures
3. Assistance to elderly for individual home assessment to include heat/air sources.
4. Encouraging development of increased driveway widths and standard method of accessibility for emergency vehicles

Proposed Education and Outreach Priorities: (see appendix C)

1. Distribute FireWise Informational packets
2. Plan Community Clean-up week in conjunction with State Trash-off Week during April
3. Firefighters hand out FireWise material from a fire truck during the Christmas Parade in Durant.





5) ACTION PLAN

Funding Needs:

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

1. Seek funding for new Wild land protection gear for all firefighters. Funding will be requested through any available grants from FEMA, REAP and/or Oklahoma Forestry.
2. Seek funding for new fire hydrants, and dry hydrants. There are only fifteen hydrants for 32,000 acres and the majority of the hydrants are in disrepair.
3. Minimal road signage was installed by Bryan County when the E911 program was established, but additional signage is needed and funding to replace stolen signs are needed also. Kemp VFD will be requesting funds from the Bryan County Commissioners Emergency Management and the E911 funds collected.
4. Currently the communities of Kemp and Hendrix do not have any sirens for warning the citizens of impending emergency conditions. Previous requests for funding for siren systems could not be granted due to the allocated money from Oklahoma Emergency Management being dispersed for larger emergencies such as the wildfires of 2005-2006. The Kemp FD will continue to seek funding from FEMA and Oklahoma Emergency Management as the money comes available.

Timetables:

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

1. The purchase of new Wildland protection gear will depend on when the grants are due and when REAP Grants are due.
2. Water improvements would depend upon the time frame of the grant awarded for the project. This large of a project could take up to 2 years to complete after grant money is awarded.
3. Money will probably not be forthcoming from Bryan County for any type of signage as the County is already strapped trying to meet unfunded mandates for the E911 program. Also, the community of Kemp is not a high priority in the larger picture of Bryan County. Should money become available for this priority, volunteers from the Kemp Fire Department as well as from the community would place proper signage within 60 days of receiving the requested signs.
4. Sirens can be professional installed within 60 days after funds have been received for this project.

Assessment:

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

1. Meetings of the Kemp FireWise Board will review all projects and evaluate the efforts by holding periodical Public Hearings of the community and encouraging public discussion and input.
2. Before and after water flow reports.
3. Before and after pictures of street intersections throughout the Kemp Fire District.
4. A siren installed in between Hendrix and Kemp. Each siren can be heard from a quarter mile away.



6) WILDFIRE PRE-SUPPRESSION PLAN

A. Wildfire Protection Responsibility

Structural Protection: Kemp Volunteer Fire Department

Wildland Protection: Kemp Volunteer Fire Department, 18 other Bryan County fire departments, Bryan County Volunteer Fire Departments along with the City of Durant has a mutual aid agreement with Kemp Volunteer Fire Department.

B. Alarm Response

First Alarm

Fire Department/Rescue Squad	Travel Distance	Response Time
Kemp Volunteer Fire Department		5-15 minutes
Achille Fire Department	Within 15 miles	10-30 minutes
Yuba Fire Department	Within 10 miles	20-40 minutes

Second Alarm (report to designated staging area)

Fire Department/Rescue Squad	Travel Distance	Response Time
Colbert Fire Department	Within 15 miles	20-40 minutes
Calera Valley	Within 15 miles	20-40 minutes
Albany	Within 15 miles	20-40 minutes

Water Availability (see appendix D)

C. Kemp has 15 fire hydrants and 0 dry hydrants that are accessible to emergency crews. More hydrants are needed to keep up with community growth and dry hydrants are needed for the rural areas. Farmers are not happy when their ponds get emptied.

D. Communications

Name	Phone Number	Radio Frequencies
Dispatch/Fire Departments		
Kemp Fire Department	295-3775	
Durant Fire Department	911	
Bryan Co	911	153.8450
Local Department of Forestry Office		
Kevin Keys	580-223-3973	
Other		
Tommy Sheppard (Rural Fire Dir.)	580-920-1388	

E. Evacuation (see appendix E)

Evacuation map was determined by focusing on bringing the outermost residents living on gravel roads to paved roads and on to State Highways and then to destinations out of harm's way. Residents living within the community will be directed to State Highways and then to pre-determined safe destinations according to type of emergency incident. Evacuation map is attached.

F. Resource List

Name	Contact Information	Payment Information
Support Agencies		
SODA	Tommy Sheppard	Paid through State grant
OSU Extension Agency	Clay Jones	OSU
Bryan County Sheriff	Bill Sturch	Taxes
Bryan County EMS	Joe Barrett	911 Tax
Tractor Operators		
Bryan County Commissioners	Main Office 580-924-2201	
Monty Montgomery – District #1	Shop 580-924-5814	
Tony Simmons – District #2	Shop 580-283-3711	
Ivan Kelly – District #3	Shop 580-295-3737	
Crews		
District #1 Road Crew	580-924-5814	
District #2 Road Crew	580-283-3711	
District #3 Road Crew	580-295-3737	
Utilities		
Southeastern Electric Coop	580-924-1315	
Rural Water District # 5	580-924-8235	
Fuel		

Food and Supplies		
Lodging		
Comfort Inn & Suites	2112 W Main Street, Durant 580-924-8881	
Days Inn Durant	2121 W Main Street, Durant 580-924-5432	
Holiday Inn Express	613 University Place, Durant 877-863-4780	
Best Western-Markita Inn	2401 W Main Street, Durant 580-924-7676	



7) ADDITIONAL COMMENTS – Critical Facilities (see appendix F)

Legend

Critical Facilities



Kemp Fire Station



Kemp Baptist Church



Kemp Senior Center



Hendrix Senior Center



Phone Tower

8) HIGH BULNERABILITY AREAS & ROCOMMENDATIONS (see appendix G)

9) ATTACHMENTS



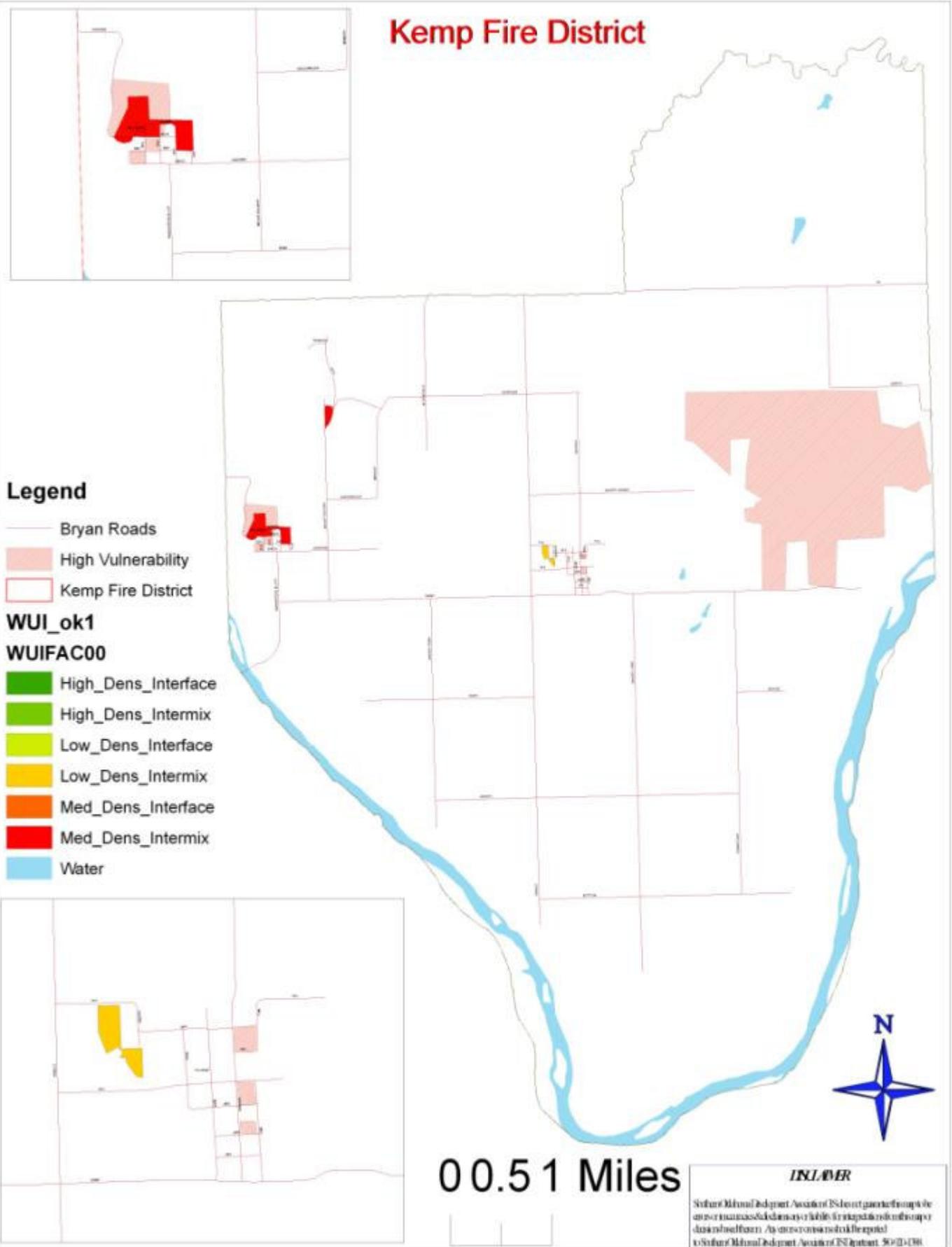
Appendix G

High vulnerability Areas

&

Recommendations

Kemp Fire District



0.51 Miles

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