

The **Town of Okarche** Community Wildfire Protection Plan



AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

DATE: 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 Richard Raupe, Mayor
Address P.O. Box 116 Okarche Oklahoma 73762-0116
Phone Number 405-263-7290
Other Contact
Information Fax 405-263-7592

Name Elise Turner, Town Clerk
Address 103 W. Oklahoma Okarche Oklahoma 73762-0116
Phone Number 405-263-7290
Other Contact
Information

Name Bob Gamble
Address
Phone Number 405-263-7972
Other Contact
Information

Local Fire Department Representative(s):

Name Gary Baustert, Fire Chief
Address P.O. Box 116 Okarche Oklahoma 73762-0116
Phone Number 405-368-7894
Other Contact
Information garyfire1@pldi.net

Name Gerald Kencht, Asst. Chief
Address P.O. Box 116 Okarche Oklahoma 73762-0116
Phone Number 405-263-7295
Other Contact
Information

Local Oklahoma Division of Forestry Representative(s):

Name Dan Stidham, Area Forester
Address 2901 N. Van Buren Enid Oklahoma 73703
Phone Number 405-237-4810
Other Contact
Information dan.stidham@oda.state.ok.us

Name Brian Hall, Staff Forester
Address ODAFF 2800 N. Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105
Phone Number 405-521-3264
Other Contact
Information brian.hall@oda.state.ok.us

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

Name	Organization
Steve Loftis	Kingfisher County Emergency Management
Keith Shroeder	Kingfisher County Commissioner District 3
Ed Wilczek	Kingfisher County Commissioner District 1
Cecil Michael	Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
Ryan Bixler	Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
Tom McNally	ODAAFF-Rural Fire Coordinator
Jerry Smith	Canadian County Civil Defense
Phil Carson	Canadian County Commissioner District 1
Dr. Kelly Hurt	Oklahoma Department of Forestry, Firewise Coordinator

PLAN CONTENTS

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1) COMMUNITY BACKGROUND AND EXISTING SITUATION

Community Description:

County: Kingfisher Latitude/Longitude: 35° 43' 33" N
97° 58' 35" W
Frontage Road: U.S. Highway 81 Nearest Intersection: Highway 81 and County Line
Nearest Fire Department (name/location): Okarche Fire Department 103 W. Oklahoma, Okarche, Oklahoma
Interface Areas: Town limits Year Established: 1892
Map #:

Community Size:

Number of Lots: 1000 mol Number of Structures: 531 mol
Estimated Acres: 640 Development Status: Active

Community Infrastructure:

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

Contacts:

Name N/A
Address
Phone Number
Other Contact Information

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: January 2010 *Attach Community Assessment Form.*

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

With assistance from ODAFF representatives and the Town of Okarche Firewise Board, Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA) completed Community Wildfire Risk Assessment in January 2010. Predominantly surrounded by agricultural land and having an extremely progressive Town Council as well as a highly trained and well equipped fire department, have significantly contributed to the extremely low cumulative score achieved in the assessment.

Community Wildfire History: (include surrounding areas)

Relative Frequency: Okarche Fire Department responds to approx. 120 calls per year.
Common Causes: Trash burning and carelessness.
Areas of Future Concern: Recent development and increased population has contributed to an increase in fire runs.
Additional Comments: With an increase in population from urban sprawl, urban dwellers wanting larger lots and a rural lifestyle have developed large lots without the ability to maintain in many cases. This often contributes to an increase in wildfire risk and increased property damage. These will be addressed in more detail later in the plan.

3) OBJECTIVES / GOALS

Objectives:

The objective of this plan is to set clear priorities for the implementation of wildfire mitigation in the Town of Okarche and the Okarche Fire District (OPA) henceforth referred to as Okarche. This includes prioritized recommendations for Okarche Fire District as a whole and also for individual homeowners where appropriate.

Goals:

1. Public awareness and education about Firewise landscapes.
2. Identification and reduction of areas with an increased level of risk due to excessive vegetation or debris.
3. Improve accessibility for emergency vehicles or to allow better egress in event of evacuation from properties with limited access.
4. Increase/improve frequency and accuracy of street markers and 911 addressing.
5. Annual evaluation of plan to monitor success and set new goals or address new problems.

4) PRIORTIZED MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were developed by the Okarche 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 and increase resident safety in the assessment area.

Proposed Community Hazard Reduction Priorities:

List area and treatment recommended.

1. Excessive vegetation on railroad right of way paralleling east side of town. Contact railroad about mowing or herbicide spraying to mitigate hazard created to surrounding properties.
2. Trailer park in southwest quadrant of town. Elevated decks, with southern exposure to wheat fields, constructed of flammable materials create an unusual hazard when exposed to wildfires. Homeowner education to these dangers and education to the benefit of deck skirting made of non flammable material will significantly decrease this hazard.
3. Overgrown and high density vegetation to southwest of school. Possible community clean up day or utilization of municipal employees and equipment to eradicate hazard.
4. Unmarked roadways and intersections. Work with county commissioners, 911 officials and emergency managers to increase and improve road signs, labeled intersections and 911 addresses.

Proposed Structural Ignitability Reduction Priorities:

Actions to be taken by homeowners. Example: Clean roofs and gutters.

1. Encourage residents to increase driveway widths, raise tree canopies and improve access to pasture and oilfield sites to allow better access for emergency vehicles.
2. Education of residents to advantages of defensible spaces surrounding structures, fire wise landscapes, predetermined evacuation routes and meeting places.
3. Develop community assistance program to enable elderly/under privileged residents with decreasing wild fire hazards.
4. Educate/assist home



Proposed Education and Outreach Priorities:

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

1. Engage community by making available Fire wise informational and educational material available at town hall, local banks and businesses.
2. Incorporate Fire wise education into Fire Prevention Week as well as open house at fire station.
3. Advertise and promote Fire wise day in local papers, radio and community bulletin boards.
4. Invite ODAFF area forester to speak to local civic groups concerning Fire wise.

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 community projects, educational articles should be created by the firewise board and be run in local newspapers and posted in prominent places throughout town, No funds needed.
2. Firewise information available at Fire Station. Firewise Brochures supplied by Oklahoma Forestry, no funds needed.
3. Invite area forester to speak and distribute Firewise Brochures at upcoming school events. Firewise Brochures supplied by Oklahoma Forestry, no funds needed.
4. Spring Clean-up/Big trash Day. The Town of Okarche already picks-up debris on a weekly basis as well as roll off dumpsters are made available monthly for large trash drop off. Extra-curricular events should help educate the public of available services and increase awareness of the elevated risk caused by debris. Nominal cost of large refuse containers.

5. Chemically treat or manual remove vegetation in railroad right-of-way. Work with Railroad company to provide chemicals or equipment at reduced or no cost.

Timetables:

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

1. Newspaper articles and community postings to begin May 2010
 - Should include information pertaining to Firewise education, contacts and upcoming events.
 - Run monthly, if possible, through Spring Clean-up.
2. Firewise brochures to be made available at town hall to begin May 2010.
 - Brochures to include information specific to Spring Clean-up and other community projects.
 - Done monthly, if possible, through community Firewise day.
3. Firewise presentations and brochure distribution to begin June 2010 and repeated as possible.
4. Promote Spring Clean-up/ Fall Big Trash Day April and October 2010.
5. Railroad right of way vegetation to be removed as soon as possible followed by chemical treatment after spring growth then followed by pre emergent to prevent future growth. (As recommended by RR)

Assessment:

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

1. Firewise board to monitor number of articles published, and apparent improvement of any affected properties.
2. Town clerk to ensure availability of brochures and report to Firewise board on feed back.
3. Evaluate response at presentations and proactively respond to questions and requests.
4. Review participation in clean up days and evaluate effectiveness as related to firewise parameters of properties.
5. Success directly related to participation of RR, increased effectiveness may be achieved by partnering with other communities in Kingfisher county affected by RR right of way.

6) WILDFIRE PRE-SUPPRESSION PLAN

A. Wildfire Protection Responsibility

Structural Protection: Okarche Volunteer Fire Department

Wildland Protection: Okarche Volunteer Fire Department, Kingfisher and Canadian County task force teams.

B. Incident Command Post Location

Okarche Volunteer Fire Department or mobilized depending on incident.

C. Incident Staging Area Location

Okarche Volunteer Fire Department- 103 W Oklahoma Okarche, Oklahoma

D. Medical Unit Staging Area Location

Okarche Volunteer Fire Department- 103 W Oklahoma Okarche, Oklahoma

E. Alarm Response

First Alarm

	Travel Distance	Response Time
Fire Department/Rescue Squad		
Okarche Volunteer Fire Department		5-15 minutes

Second Alarm (report to designated staging area)

	Travel Distance	Response Time
Fire Department/Rescue Squad		
Kingfisher Fire Department	< 10 miles	10-15 minutes
Piedmont Fire Department	< 15 miles	20-30 minutes
El Reno Fire Department	< 20 miles	25-30 minutes

F. Air Support

Fixed Wing

Aircraft	Contact Name	Dispatching Guidelines
N/A		

Helicopter

Aircraft	Contact Name	Dispatching Guidelines
N/A		

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

Location:	Scott Lake	Description:	5 East, 1.5 South
Location:	Elmers Lake- N of Kingfisher	Description:	Flood control reservoir
Location:	Wittrock Lake	Description:	Flood control reservoir
Location:	Dry Hydrant @ Wittrock Lake	Description:	3 north, 2.5 east, .5 north

Town of Okarche is equipped with 76 hydrants supplied by three municipal operated wells. Okarche VFD is equipped with a floating pump capable of drafting water from other available sources.

H. Communications (Attach Communications Plan if available)

Name	Phone Number	Radio Frequencies
Dispatch/Fire Departments		
Okarche Fire Department	405-263-7777	RX151.497500 TX159.337500 Okarche-155.76000
Kingfisher Fire Department	405-375-4070	RX151.190000 TX156.075000
Piedmont Fire Department	405-373-1331	RX154.175000 TX153.920000
Local Department of Forestry Office		
Dan Stidham	405-237-4810	
Other		

I. Evacuation (Attach Evacuation Plan)

Due to the small physical size of Okarche, evacuation routes are considered to be State Highway 81 (north and south) and county line blacktop (east and west). See attached Fire district map.

J. Resource List

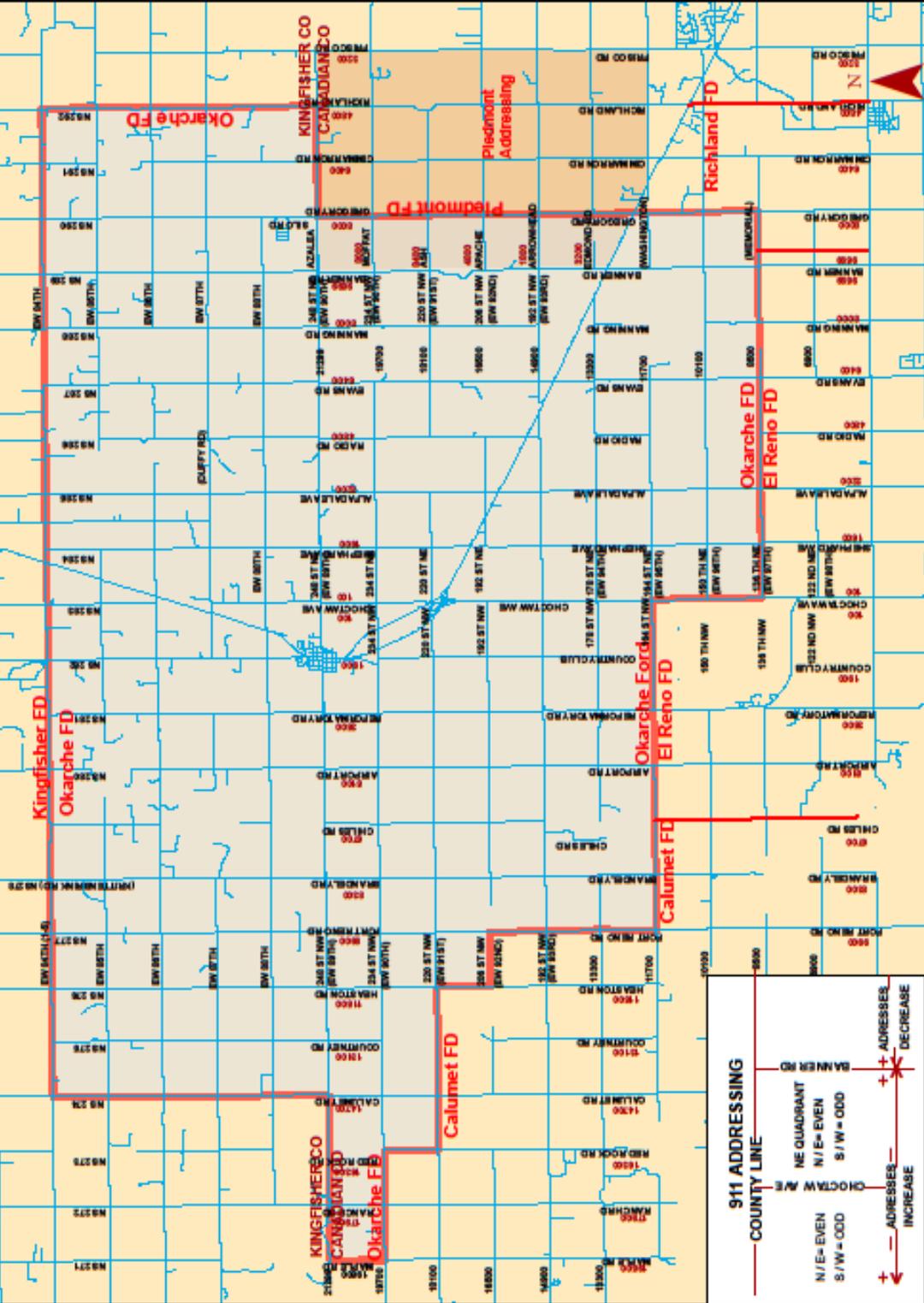
Name	Contact Information	Payment Information
Support Agencies		
ODAFF-Rural Fire Coordinator	Tom McNally 405-282-4802	
Kingfisher County Sheriff	Dennis Banther 405-375-4242	
Canadian County Sheriff	Randall Edwards 405-262-3434	
Parkview EMS	405-262-2640	
Kingfisher EMS	405-375-3599	
Tractor Operators		
Ed Wilczeck-King. Co. Dist 1	1-405-375-4380	
Keith Shroeder- King. Co. Dist.3	1-405-375-5471	
Phil Carson-Can. Co. Dist. 1	1-405-262-4753	
Grant Hedrick-Can Co. Dist 3		
Crews		
Ed Wilczeck -King. Co. Dist 1	1-405-375-4380	
Keith Shroeder-King. Co. Dist. 3	1-405-375-5471	
Phil Carson- Co. Dist. 1	1-405-262-4753	
Utilities		
OG&E	1-800-272-9741	
Cimmaron Electric	1-405-375-4121	
ONG	1-800-458-4251	
Fuel		
Wittrock Oil (Philips 66)	1-405-263-7217	Department Charge Account
Ranger Oil (Valero)	1-405-263-4826	Cash
Food and Supplies		
Red Cross-El Reno	1-405-262-5760	N/A
Wittrock Oil (Philips 66)	1-405-263-7217	Cash
Eischen's	1-405-263-9939	Cash
Tower Cafe	1-405-263-7911	Cash
Wal-Mart-Kingfisher	1-405-375-5743	Cash
Lodging		
Tower Inn-Okarche	1-405-263-4853	Cash
Payless Inn-Kingfisher	1-405-375-9000	Cash

7) ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

8) ATTACHMENTS (List here in order of attachment)

- Attachment 1 Okarche Fire District Map
- Attachment 2 Okarche Fire Hydrant Map
- Attachment 3 Okarche Assessment Map
- Attachment 4 Okarche Area Assessments

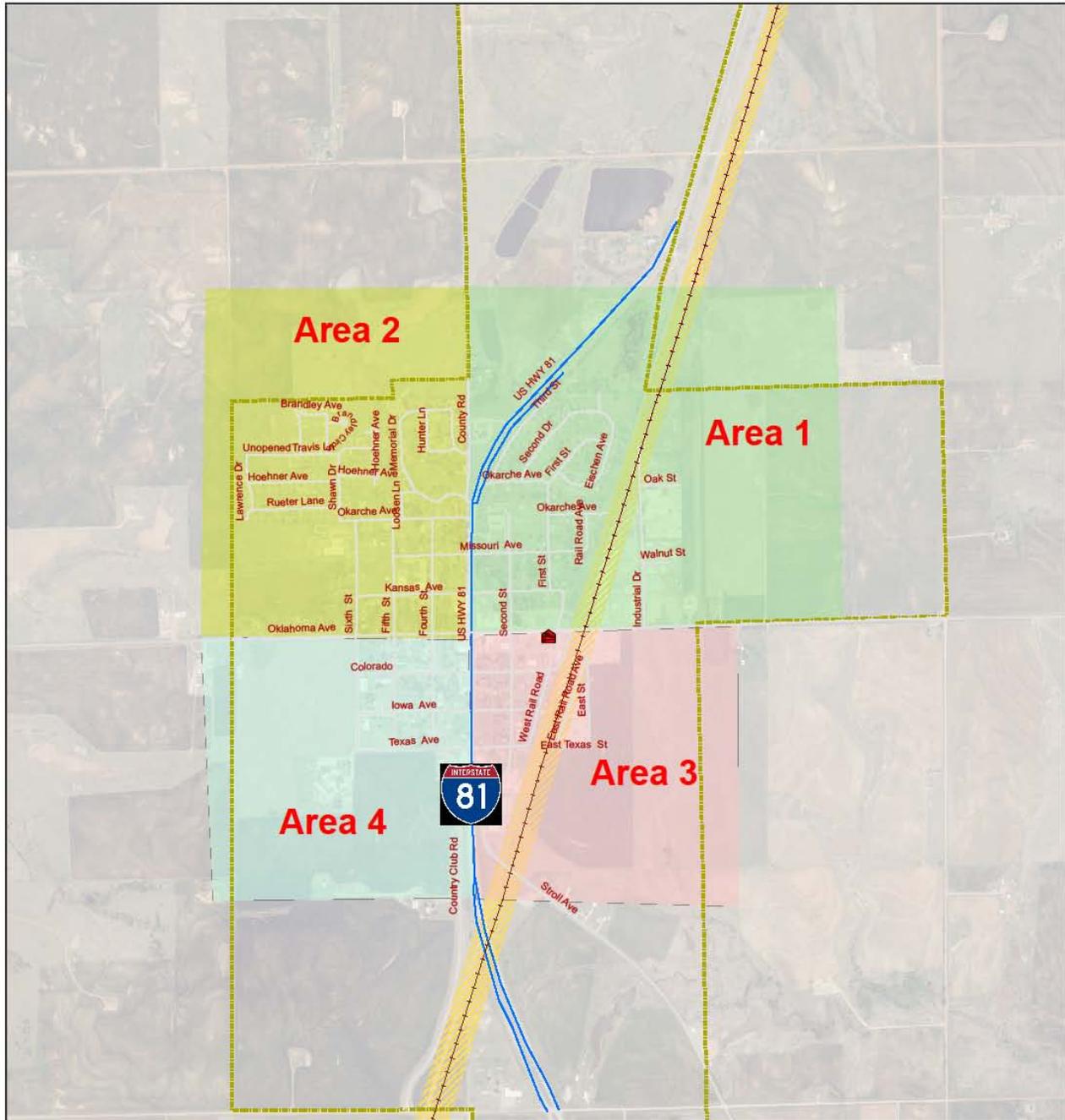
Town of Okarche Fire District



Town of Okarche



Okarche Risk Assessment Areas



Fire Building	Streets	Risk Assessment Areas
Fire Building	Highway	No.1
Canadian County RR	Hwy 81	No.2
Kingfisher County RR	Road	No.3
	Limits	No.4
		Buffer Zone

Town of Okarche Firewise Protection Plan



OKLAHOMA FORESTRY DIVISION
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK AND HAZARD ASSESSMENT

Forestry Office: Enid

Community: Okarche County: _____

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Fire Department: Okarche Fire Department

Date: _____

Acres: _____ Lots: _____ Homes: _____ Future Homes _____

CALCULATING THE WILDFIRE HAZARD RATING

SUBDIVISION DESIGN HAZARD RATING	+ SITE HAZARD RATING	+ BUILDING CONSTRUCTION HAZARD RATING	+ ADDITIONAL FACTOR HAZARD RATING	= OVERALL WILDFIRE HAZARD RATING
4	20	5	28	57

SUBDIVISION DESIGN RATING	Rating	
ACCESS		
Two or more roads	0	0
One road, plus alternative	3	
One road in/out	7	
SUBDIVISION BRIDGES		
No bridges or bridges with no weight and or width restrictions	0	0
Low weight or narrow bridges restricting emergency access	5	
PRIMARY ROAD WIDTHS		
>24 ft	0	
>20 ft and <24 ft	2	2
<20 ft	4	
ACCESSIBILITY		
Surfaced road, grade < 5%	0	0
Surfaced road, grade > 5%	2	
Non-surface road, grade < 5%	2	
Non-surface road, grade > 5%	5	
Other than all-season road	7	
SECONDARY ROAD TERMINUS		
< 300 ft with turnaround	0	
> 300 ft with turnaround	2	2
< 300 ft without turnaround	4	
> 300 ft without turnaround	5	
UNSAFE ROADWAY		
No flammable vegetation threat	0	0
Highly flammable vegetation along road	5	
STREET SIGNS		
Present 4 inches in size and reflective	0	0
Not present	5	
TOTAL SUBDIVISION DESIGN		4

OKLAHOMA FORESTRY DIVISION

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK AND HAZARD ASSESSMENT

SITE HAZARD RATING: (Within 30 feet of structure based on a majority of the properties in the community)	Rating	
DRIVEWAY CHARACTERISTICS		
Less than 150 feet long	0	0
More than 150 ft with minimum 45 foot outside radius turnaround	3	
More than 150 ft with inadequate turnaround	5	
Average driveway width more than 12 ft	0	0
Average driveway width less than 12 ft	5	
No obstructing overhead branches below 15 ft	0	0
Obstructing overhead branches below 15 ft	5	
No bridges or bridges with no weight or width restrictions	0	0
Bridges restricting emergency vehicle access	5	
Slopes level or less than 10 %	0	0
Slopes over 10%	5	
No gate/non-locking gate	0	0
Locked gate	5	
Address clearly visible from road	0	0
Address not visible from road	5	
DOMINANT TREES (within 100 ft of homes)		
Deciduous	1	
Mixed	5	5
Evergreen	10	
LADDER FUELS		
Evergreen branches close to ground	5	
Evergreen branches pruned up at least 6 ft	0	0
VEGETATION (predominant type throughout community)		
Light (e.g. grasses and forbs) NFDRS Fuel Models A, C, L, N, S and T	5	5
Medium (e.g. light brush and small trees) NFDRS Fuel Models D, E, F, H, P, Q and U	10	
Heavy (e.g. dense brush, timber and hardwoods) NFDRS Fuel Models B, G and O	20	
Slash (e.g. timber harvesting residue) NFDRS Fuel Models J, K and L	25	
SLOPE OF PROPERTY		
Flat (0-5%)	0	0
Moderate (6-20%)	2	
Steep (over 20%)	4	
DEFENSIBLE SPACE		
No trees, shrubs or tall grass within 30 ft	0	
Well spaced trees and shrubs within 30 ft	10	10
Touching crowns or tall grass within 30 ft	20	
No unthinned or unmanaged timber within 100 ft	0	0
Unthinned or unmanaged timber within 100ft	5	
TOTAL SITE HAZARD RATING		20

OKLAHOMA FORESTRY DIVISION

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK AND HAZARD ASSESSMENT

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION HAZARD RATING	Rating	
ROOFING MATERIALS		
Greater than 75% of homes have metal, tile or Class A shingles	0	0
50 to 75% of homes have a metal, tile or Class A shingles	10	
Less than 50% of homes have metal, tile or Class A shingles	15	
SIDING / SOFFETS		
Greater than 75% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffets	0	5
50 to 75% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffets	5	
Less than 50% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffets	10	
UNDERSKIRTING		
Greater than 75% of homes have the equivalent of fine mesh screening underneath	0	0
50 to 75% of the homes have the equivalent of fine mesh screening underneath	5	
Less than 50% of the homes have the equivalent of fine mesh screening underneath	10	
TOTAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION HAZARD RATING		5

ADDITIONAL HAZARD FACTORS	Rating	
FIRE CONTROL WATER SUPPLY		
Pressurized hydrants with minimum 500 gpm < 1,000 ft apart	0	2
Pressurized hydrants with < 500 gpm or spaced > 1,000 ft apart	2	
Dry hydrant(s) available year round within the community	2	
Other accessible sources within community	5	
Water sources located within 4 road miles of community	7	
No water sources within 4 miles of the community	15	
UTILITIES		
Both underground	0	3
One underground, one above ground	3	
Both aboveground	5	
SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
Community is not surrounded by any large natural landscape	0	20
Large natural landscape adjoins one side of the community	5	
Large natural landscape adjoins two sides of the community	10	
Large natural landscape adjoins three sides of the community	15	
Community is completely surrounded by natural landscape	20	
UNDEVELOPED LOTS		
Less than 10% of lots have not been developed and pose no additional wildfire hazard due to lack of maintenance	0	3
10 to 50% of lots have not been developed	3	
51 to 75% of lots have not been developed	5	
Greater than 75% of lots have not been developed	10	
RISK LOCATION		
Community is located within the following designated Wildfire Risk Areas according to the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment		
Low	0	0
Medium	10	
High	20	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL HAZARD FACTORS		28

OKLAHOMA FORESTRY DIVISION
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK AND HAZARD ASSESSMENT

What does the Wildfire Hazard Rating mean?

Using the Wildfire Hazard Assessment, the highest possible rating is 247 points.

Communities can be divided into the following four risk categories:

- Low Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 0 – 90 points**
The chances of a majority of homes in the community surviving a wildfire are **GOOD**. Little is needed to improve the community. Keep up the good work.
- Moderate Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 91 – 155 points**
The chances of a majority of homes in the community surviving a wildfire are **FAIR**. Some minor improvements will make the community more fire resistant. Check the areas on the form in which you scored poorly.
- High Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 155 points**
The chances of a majority of homes in the community surviving a wildfire are **NOT GOOD**. Some improvements in structure and site are necessary.
- Extreme Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 170 points**
The community **MAY NOT SURVIVE** if a wildfire passes through the area. Take a serious look at your community and make improvements. If you don't, you may be facing disaster. You will find that even small changes could make the difference.

HAZARD is defined as the potential fire behavior based on physical fuel characteristics.

Risk is defined as the probability of fire occurrence determined by the number, presence and activity of potential ignition sources.

This form may be used to evaluate your community to determine the level of wildfire risk. It covers roughly one-half of the hazards normally taken into account in calculating fire risk, but does provide an approximate indication of true risk. For more information on your home's fire risk, or for more complete evaluation of your property, contact your local Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Forestry Services office.