

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

*An Action Plan for Wildfire Mitigation and
Conservation of Natural Resources*

Rockdale County, Georgia

A Program of the Georgia Forestry Commission
with support from the U.S. Forest Service



October, 2016

SIGNATURE PAGE

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WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN: AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

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

- Rockdale County, Board of Commissioners
- Rockdale County Fire & Rescue/Emergency Management
- Michael Sapp, Chief Ranger
Dekalb/Henry/Newton/Rockdale County Unit
Georgia Forestry Commission
- Beryl Budd, Wildfire Prevention Specialist
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I. OBJECTIVES

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) provides a community with a road map to reduce its risk from wildfire. A CWPP is designed through collaboration between state and local fire agencies, homeowners and landowners, and other interested parties such as city councils, utilities, homeowner associations, environmental organizations, and other local stakeholders.

The plan identifies strategic sites and methods for risk reduction and structural protection projects across jurisdictional boundaries.

Comprehensive plans provide long-term guidance for growth, reflecting a community's values and future expectations. The plan implements the community's values and serves to protect natural and community resources and public safety. Planning also enables communities to address their development patterns in the Wildland Urban Interface and determine how they can reduce their risk through alternative development patterns. The formal legal standing of the plan and its central role in local government decision making underscores the opportunity to use this planning process as an effective means for reducing wildfire risk.

The mission of the following plan is to set clear priorities for the implementation of wildfire mitigation in Rockdale County. The plan includes prioritized recommendations for the appropriate types and methods of fuel reduction and structure ignitability reduction that will help protect this community and its essential infrastructure. It also includes a plan for wildfire suppression. Specifically, the plan includes community-centered actions that will:

- Educate citizens about wildfire, its risks, and ways to protect lives and properties.
- Support fire rescue and suppression entities.
- Focus on collaborative decision-making and citizen participation.
- Develop and implement effective mitigation strategies.
- Develop and implement effective community ordinances and codes.

II. COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Wildfire risk reduction strategies are most effective when approached collaboratively – involving groups of residents, elected officials, community decision makers, emergency managers, and natural resource managers –and when combined with effective outreach approaches.

Collaborative approaches make sense as the initial focus of any community attempting to work toward wildfire risk reduction. In all Community Wildfire Protection Plan collaborations, the goal is to cooperatively identify problems and reach a consensus for mutual action. In the case of wildfire mitigation, a reduction in the wildfire risk to the community's lives, houses, and property is the desired outcome.

The collaborative core team convened in 2013 to initiate development of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The group is comprised of representatives from local Rockdale County Board of Commissioners, Rockdale County Fire & Rescue, Rockdale County Emergency Management, Rockdale County GIS, Rockdale County Extension Service, and the Georgia Forestry Commission. The benefits that will be gained from the development of this CWPP are summarized below:

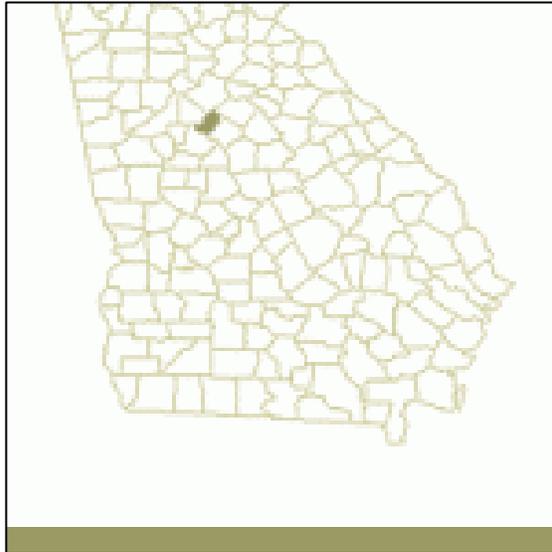
- Identify areas that are most prone to wildfire
- Identify areas that may require additional tactical planning, specifically related to mitigation projects and Community Wildfire Protection Planning
- Provide the information necessary to justify resource, budget and funding requests
- Allow agencies to work together to better define priorities and improve emergency response, particularly across jurisdictional boundaries
- Define wildland communities and identify the risk to those communities
- Increase communication and outreach with local residents and the public to create awareness and address community priorities and needs
- Plan for response and suppression resource needs
- Plan and prioritize hazardous fuel treatment programs

Georgia Forestry Commission contact information:

Name:	Dekalb/Henry/Newton/Rockdale County Unit
Contact:	Michael Sapp
Title:	Chief Ranger
Address:	2707 Access Road Covington , GA 30016
Phone:	770-784-2480
Fax Number:	770-784-3151
E-mail Address:	msapp@gfc.state.ga.us
Unit Location:	4 miles west of Covington on the Access Rd. along I-20. Original Entry: 33 48 44.73N, 84 9 48.41W
County Statistics	
Total Land Area:	83,600 Acres
Total In Forest:	22,193 Acres
Percent In Forest:	26.55%
GFC Forester for this County	
Forester:	Joseph Moore
Email:	jhmoore@gfc.state.ga.us
Phone:	770-254-7373
Forester Office Location:	187 Corinth Rd. Newnan, Ga 30263

III. Community Background and History

Rockdale County, from the Georgia Encyclopedia (*online*)



Rockdale County in north central Georgia was created from parts of Henry and Newton counties in 1870. Its name was inspired by the granite strata underlying the surface soil in the area, which was originally inhabited by mound dwellers, and then by Creek and Cherokee Indians. The first white settlers arrived in Rockdale County during the 1820s.

The only incorporated community in the 131-square-mile county is Conyers, the county seat, although two other communities, Magnet and Milstead, are included on current maps. Conyers was incorporated in 1854 but had been

inhabited for several decades before that under the name Rockdale.

History of Rockdale County *Information provided by:*
"A History of Rockdale County" [1978]



Conyers Depot

In the early 1700s, the first settlers came to the area, which later became Rockdale County, and built their cabins along Hightower Trail. This area was officially opened to settlers in 1816. Soon a railroad was built to connect Augusta and Marthasville (now Atlanta).

Conyers, first known as Conyers Station, grew along this railroad. The town was named for Dr. W. D. Conyers, a Covington banker. The town's first inhabitant was a blacksmith by the name of Holcombe, who owned a lot of land where the town now stands and ran a shop nearby. He was bitterly opposed to the railroad's coming and when the grading reached his land, legend has it that he swore he would kill the first man who struck a pick in his dirt. Dr. Conyers happened upon the scene and found Mr. Holcombe walking up and down the lot making his threats. Dr. Conyers offered to buy the blacksmith's land. Mr. Holcombe agreed on seven hundred dollars, sold the land to Dr. Conyers, who donated it to the railroad. The railroad authority named the place for Dr. Conyers for negotiating the land transaction so simply.

Conyers had a population of 400 in 1854, and its citizens wanted the town to be incorporated. A Bill was introduced and passed in the Legislature; it provided that the boundary line would be ½ mile from the depot. On February 16, 1854, Conyers became a town. The Charter was amended on October 26, 1870, extending the boundary one mile from the depot of the Georgia Railroad.

The Reconstruction Period, 1867 - 1877, was one of tremendous growth. Reports showed an increase in population from 300 to 2,000 people. The rapid growth and growing independence led to the desire to separate from what was known as the "Upper End" from Newton County. This impetus led to the creation of Rockdale County. John F. Hardin and John Harris of Newton County were elected to the Legislature. Being very much in favor of forming a new county, the two men drew up a bill, and Mr. Harris introduced it. The bill, creating a new county from Newton and Henry counties, was approved October 18, 1870. It was stipulated that the first election of county officials would take place in Conyers on the first Wednesday in February. The first election in Rockdale County was held in Dr. J. A. Stewart's Drug Store. The first voter at the polls was an ex-slave named Churchfield.

A law, that authorized the ordinary to levy taxes and sell bonds to raise money to build a courthouse, was passed soon after the county was created. For many years Rockdale County was governed by a Board of County Commissioners. The act creating the county provided for the erection of a courthouse to be carried out by the commissioners. The Board could not agree on a suitable location for the building. Finally in a 3-2 verdict, they officially decided on the location of the building. The two dissenting voters rendered their resignation on November 7, 1871. The remaining three commissioners signed a contract with a contractor to build the courthouse. The lot was secured and a courthouse was erected on it. This building cost the citizens \$500. The courthouse was a two-story, brick Georgian structure with a center hall and adjoining rooms. The courthouse was completed on June 29, 1872 and dedicated in July.



This was the first of three courthouse buildings erected in the county. In 1939, the original building was demolished and replaced by another brick building on the same lot. Following the phenomenal growth of Rockdale County during the 1960's, it soon became apparent that existing facilities were inadequate, and plans were made for a larger courthouse building adjacent to the 1939 structure. Rockdale County voters approved a Bond Referendum in excess of one million dollars for a new courthouse. This three-story brick building was erected in 1974, and is connected to the existing courthouse, which still stands in Old Town Conyers.

On January 20, 1872 the commissioners hired Mr. Addison Riley to build a jail for \$2,490. This was a rock building completed March 1872. Until this time law breakers were jailed in Newton County or in a calaboose at Costley's Mill. In 1897 a red brick jail was built on Milstead Avenue, and that jail served for 71 years. A new jail was built in 1968, which served as a full time detention center/jail for over 30 years. The current detention center/jail was built in 2001 and now serves all of Rockdale County.



Historical Jail is now a museum

Conyers continued to grow, and on August 24, 1881, Conyers became a city, with the office of mayor and six aldermen. The county created by Act of the Legislature October 18, 1870, is named for Rockdale Church, so named for the fine underlying granite strata.

Rockdale County became the 133rd county of the state and now ranks 158th (out of 159) in size. Its boundaries have been changed several times. The county is bounded on the north by Gwinnett and Walton counties, on the south by Newton, and on the west by Henry and DeKalb counties. It covers 128 square miles.

In March of 1941, an act of the General Assembly abolished the six member board of commissioners to a one-man board with an advisory board. During the 1960's many new departments were added to the county government. The county police department was established in November 1962. The Rockdale Planning Commission was organized in 1965. The zoning ordinance was adopted in 1966.

In 1977 House Bill 610 was written and maneuvered through the Georgia legislature. The legislation created the three-man commission form of government for Rockdale County. In May, voters in the county went to the polls and approved the new multi-man commission. On July 1, the Justice Department overturned the multi-man bill and cancelled the July 19 election. On September 9 the Justice Department withdrew its objection to the multi-man commission. Members assumed seats on the new commission on December 1, 1977.

Economy



McCart Farm Sawmill

During the heyday of textile manufacturing in the South, Rockdale County was a prosperous place with several mill towns. The decline of those mills signaled the drastic reduction—often the disappearance—of the communities surrounding them. However, the construction of Interstate 20 in the 1960s enabled the county to grow and thrive once more. Today the county is a bedroom community for many who are employed in the metropolitan Atlanta area, and the historic district, "Old Town Conyers," draws visitors to shop in its boutiques and visit its museums and gardens

Points of Interest

Rockdale County has several sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including two districts in Conyers that incorporate numerous individually historic buildings. Among the others is Panola Mountain, a 100-acre granite mountain, located in Panola Mountain State Park (photo on right), and added to the register in 1976, and the Rockdale County Jail in Conyers, added in 1982 and now a museum.



Other places of interest in the county include Randy Poynter Lake at Black Shoals Park, a 650-acre reservoir and water sports recreation area; the Lewis Vaughn Botanical Garden, part of the revitalized downtown in Conyers; and the Haralson Mill Covered Bridge, completed in 1997 and the first of its kind to be built in the state since the 1890s.



Perhaps the most well-known place in Rockdale County is the Monastery of the Holy Spirit (photo on left); a Trappist monastery founded and built in 1944 on a 2200-acre plantation once owned by the actress Colleen Moore. The monastery supports itself by selling religious books, art, bonsai plants, and other products, and its Monastery of the Holy Spirit store is open to the public. The agricultural fields and pastures that supported the Monastery

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for many years have all been converted into forestry operations and a green cemetery “Honey Creek Preserve” is the latest successful business venture to support the Monastery.

One of the newest attractions in the county is the Georgia International Horse Park, developed for the 1996 Olympics equestrian events and mountain bike competition. Its 1,400 acres, owned and operated by the City of Conyers, now host a wide range of events, from horse shows to wedding receptions. A hotel, golf course, and 500 acre wetland nature preserve are also located on the property

WILDFIRE HISTORY

The chart below indicates the number of wildfires by cause during the last 10 year period. These were wildfires in which the Georgia Forestry Commission responded and reported. Numerous other wildfires during this period were suppressed by the rapid response by Rockdale County Fire & Rescue, eliminating the need to call GFC. Early detection and dispatch by the 911 center helps keep wildfire size to a minimum.



Rockdale County Fire & Rescue respond to many vehicle caused wildfires along I-20. When fire danger is high these fires can rapidly spread as pictured above.

The primary cause of these wildfires was careless debris burning, which is the #1 cause for about half of Georgia’s wildfires. The secondary cause was machine use and lightning caused wildfires.

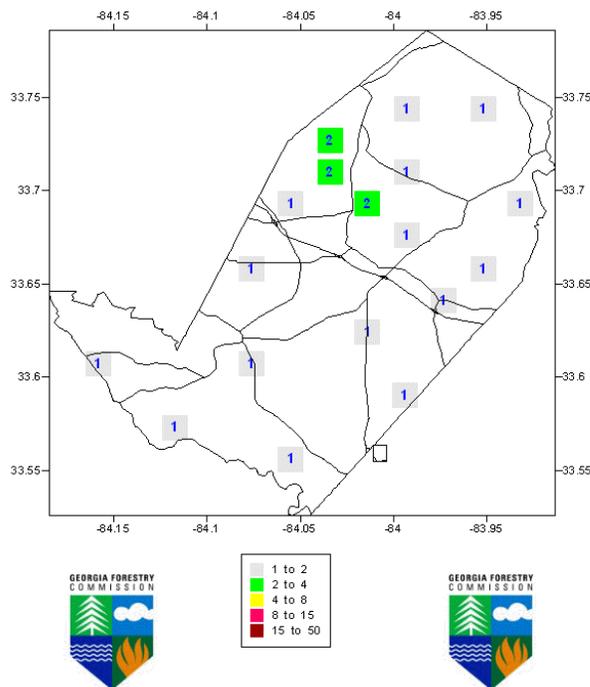
Number of wildfires by Cause for Rockdale County for FY 2007 to 2016

Year	Campfire	Children	Debris Burning	Incendiary	Lightning	Machine Use	Misc	Railroad	Smoking
2007	0	0	4	1	3	4	1	0	1
2008	1	1	5	3	0	2	5	0	0
2009	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
2010	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
2011	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
2012	0	3	0	2	1	3	1	0	1
2013	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
2014	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	1
2015	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Totals	2	7	18	8	12	12	11	0	3

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County = Rockdale	Cause	Fires	Acres	Fires 5 Yr Avg	Acres 5 Yr Avg
Children	Children	0	0.00	0.60	1.30
Debris: Residential, Leafpiles, Yard, Etc	Debris: Residential, Leafpiles, Yard, Etc	0	0.00	0.60	1.08
Incendiary	Incendiary	0	0.00	0.60	0.72
Lightning	Lightning	0	0.00	0.40	1.68
Machine Use	Machine Use	0	0.00	0.80	3.40
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous	0	0.00	0.20	0.20
Miscellaneous: Power lines/Electric fences	Miscellaneous: Power lines/Electric fences	1	0.20	0.20	0.04
Miscellaneous: Spontaneous Heating/Combustion	Miscellaneous: Spontaneous Heating/Combustion	1	0.10	0.20	0.02
Smoking	Smoking	0	0.00	0.40	0.58
Totals for County: Rockdale Year: 2016		2	0.30	4.00	9.02

Fire Occurrence Map for Rockdale County for Fiscal Year 2011-2015



The table above indicates fire cause and acreage during fiscal year 2016 and the Fire Occurrence Map (left) indicates locations where the Georgia Forestry Commission responded to wildfires during the last five years (FY 2011-2015).

IV. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The Wildland-Urban Interface

There are many definitions of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), however from a fire management perspective it is commonly defined as an area where structures and other human development meet or intermingles with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. As fire is dependent on a certain set of conditions, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group has defined the wildland-urban interface as a set of conditions that exists in or near areas of wildland fuels, regardless of ownership. This set of conditions includes type of vegetation, building construction, accessibility, lot size, topography and other factors such as weather and humidity. When these conditions are present in certain combinations, they make some communities more vulnerable to wildfire damage than others. This “set of conditions” method is perhaps the best way to define wildland-urban interface areas when planning for wildfire prevention, mitigation, and protection activities.

There are three major categories of wildland-urban interface. Depending on the set of conditions present, any of these areas may be at risk from wildfire. A wildfire risk assessment can determine the level of risk.

1. “*Boundary*” wildland-urban interface is characterized by areas of development where homes, especially new subdivisions, press against public and private wildlands, such as private or commercial forest land or public forests or parks. This is the classic type of wildland-urban interface, with a clearly defined boundary between the suburban fringe and the rural countryside.

2. “*Intermix*” wildland-urban interface areas are places where improved property and/or structures are scattered and interspersed in wildland areas. These may be isolated rural homes or an area that is just beginning to go through the transition from rural to urban land use.

3. “*Island*” wildland-urban interface, also called occluded interface, are areas of wildland within predominately urban or suburban areas. As cities or subdivisions grow, islands of undeveloped land may remain, creating remnant forests. Sometimes these remnants exist as parks, or as land that cannot be developed due to site limitations, such as wetlands.

Wildland Urban Interface Hazards



The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) reflects housing density depicting where humans and their structures meet or intermix with wildland fuels.

Firefighters in the wildland urban interface may encounter hazards other than the fire itself, such as hazardous materials, utility lines and poor access.

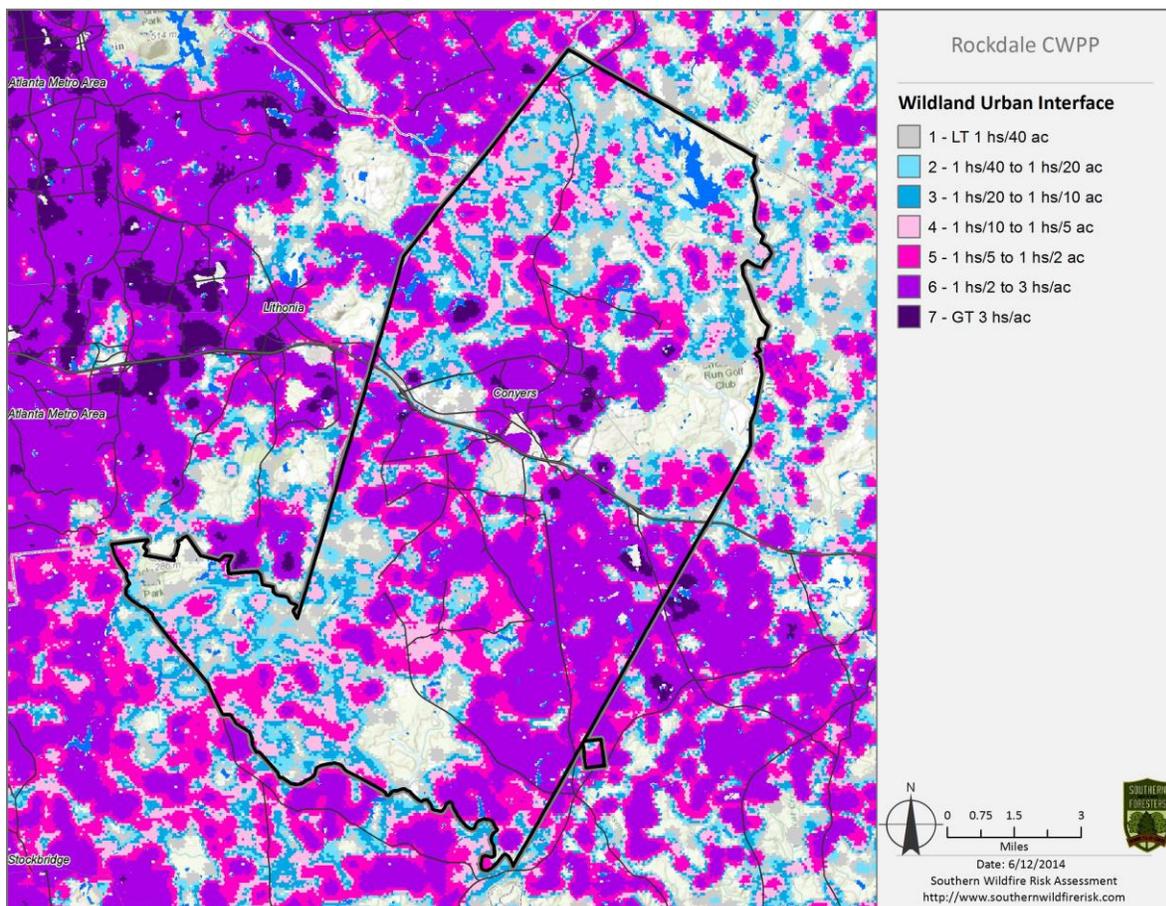
- **Hazardous Material** Common chemicals used around the home may be a direct hazard to firefighters from flammability, explosion potential and/or vapors or off-gassing. Such chemicals include paint, varnish and other flammable liquids; fertilizer; pesticides; cleansers; aerosol cans, fireworks, batteries and ammunition. In addition, some common household products such as plastics may give off very toxic fumes when they burn. Stay OUT of the smoke from burning structures and any unknown sources such as trash piles.
- **Illicit Activities** Marijuana plantations or drug production labs may be found in wildland urban interface areas. Extremely hazardous materials such as propane tanks and flammable/toxic chemicals may be encountered. These areas may also contain some type of booby trap.

- **Propane Tanks** Both large (household size) and small (gas grill size) liquefied propane gas (LPG) tanks can present hazards to firefighters, including explosion.
- **Utility Lines** Utility lines may be located above and below ground and may be cut or damaged by tools or equipment. Don't spray water on utility lines or boxes. Four large natural gas pipelines run through Rockdale County.
- **Septic Tanks and Fields** Below-ground structures may not be readily apparent and may not support the weight of engines or other apparatus.
- **New Construction Materials** Many new construction materials have comparatively low melting points and may "off-gas" extremely hazardous vapors. Plastic decking materials that resemble wood are becoming more common and may begin softening and losing structure strength at 180 degrees Fahrenheit though they normally do not sustain combustion once direct flame is removed. However, if they continue to burn they exhibit the characteristics of flammable liquids.
- **Pets and Livestock** Pets and livestock may be left when residents evacuate and will likely be highly stressed, making them more inclined to bite and kick. Firefighters should not put themselves at risk to rescue pets or livestock.
- **Evacuation occurring** Firefighters may be taking structural protection actions while evacuations of residents are occurring. Be very cautious of people driving erratically. Distraught residents may refuse to leave their property, and firefighters may need to disengage from fighting fire to contact law enforcement officers for assistance. In most jurisdictions firefighters do not have the authority to force evacuations. Firefighters should not put themselves at risk trying to protect someone who will not evacuate!
- **Limited Access** Narrow one-lane roads with no turn-around room, inadequate or poorly maintained bridges and culverts are frequently found in wildland urban interface areas. Access should be sized-up and an evacuation plan for all emergency personnel should be developed.
- **Abandoned wells** Found around old home sites, open wells can be a hazard for firefighters, especially while working a wildfire during the night.

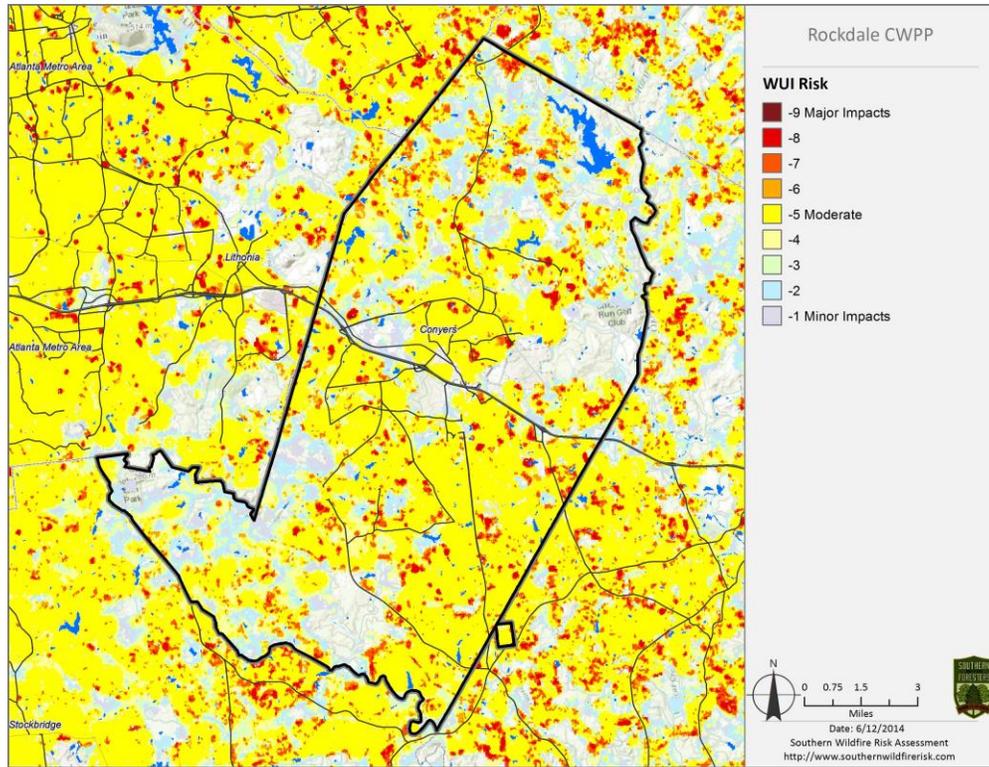
Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary (SouthWRAP)

The Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment tool, developed by the Southern Group of State Foresters, was released to the public in July 2014. This tool allows users of the Professional Viewer application of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment (SWRA) web Portal (SouthWRAP) to define a specific project area and summarize wildfire related information for this area. A detailed risk summary report is generated using a set of predefined map products developed by the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment project which have been summarized explicitly for the user defined project area. A risk assessment summary report was specifically generated for Rockdale County and this entire report is contained in the appendices of this CWPP.

The following map, from the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment summary report, indicates the wildland urban interface areas in Rockdale County. For additional information visit the SouthWRAP website at www.southernwildfirerisk.com

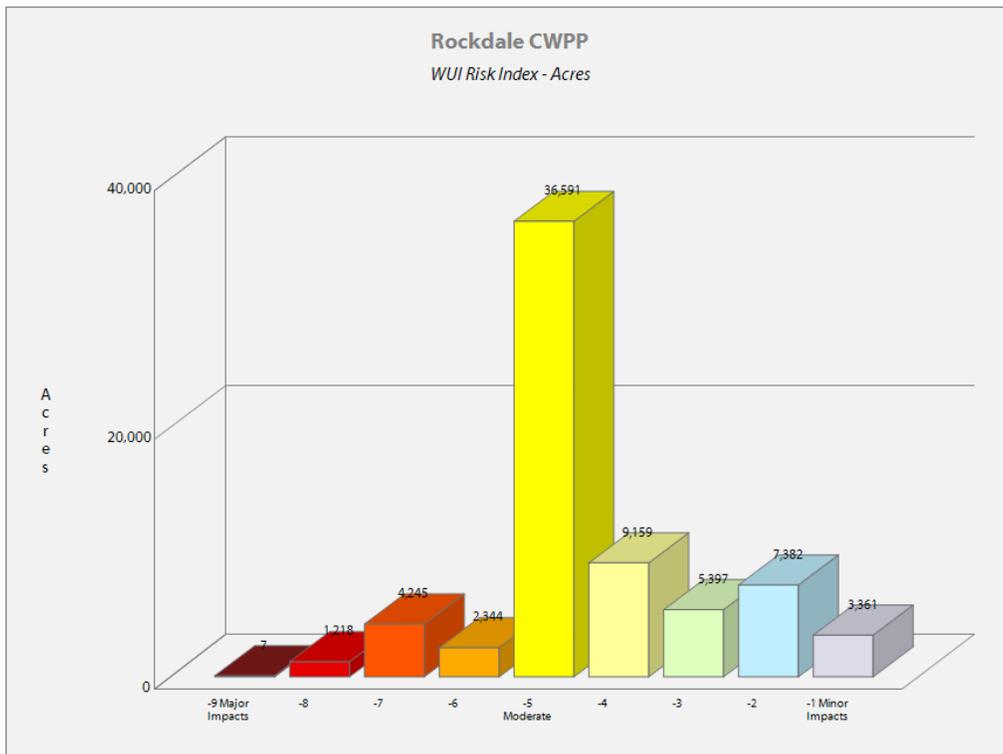


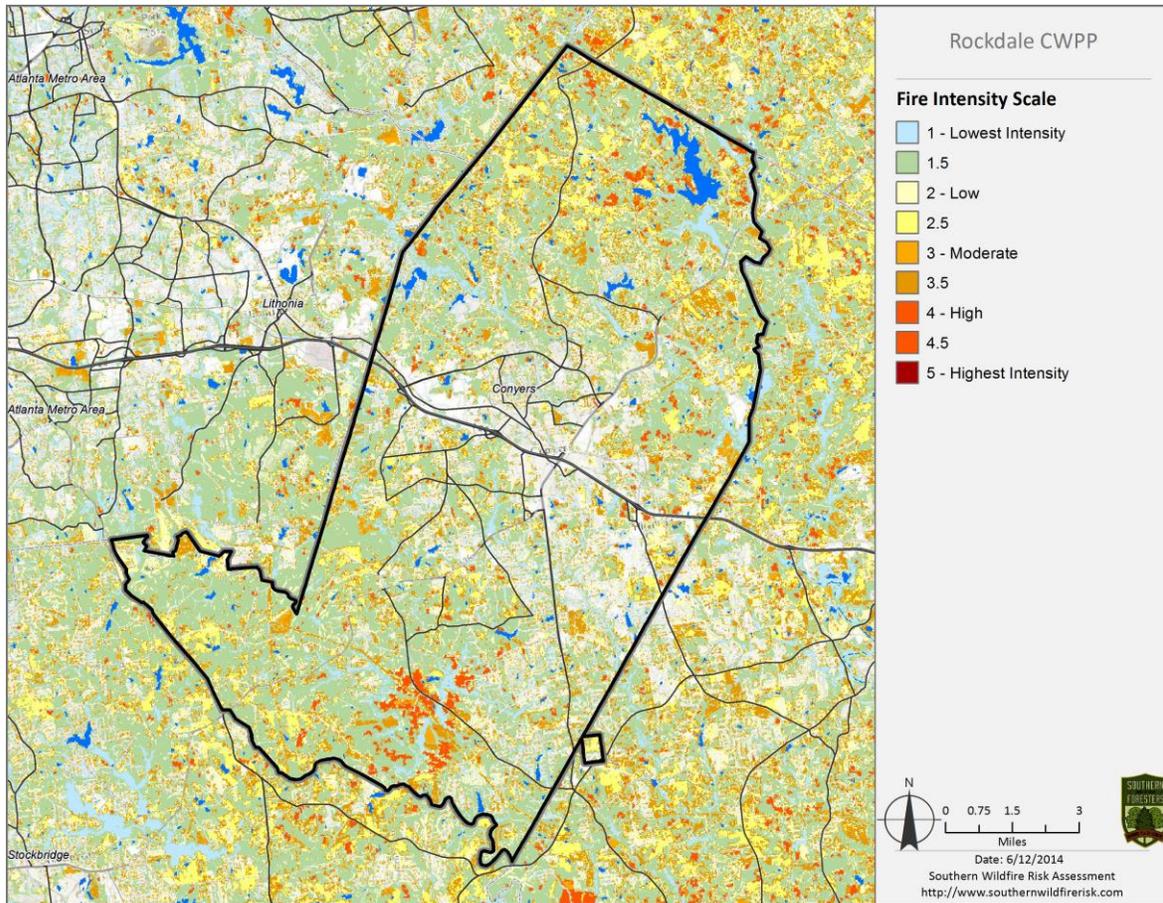
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Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map from the SouthWRAP report (above)

WUI Risk acreage map (below)





Rockdale County Wildfire Risk Assessment

To begin the assessment process the Georgia Forestry Commission provided Firewise and wildfire community risk assessment training to Rockdale County Fire & Rescue. Sessions were held at Station 7, headquarters, for each of the A,B,and C shift command staff personnel. The command staff then followed up with additional training and each station performed community risk assessments of subdivisions and developments within their responding areas. Risk assessments were completed on a total of 365 subdivisions and developed areas within the County. Kent Asher, GIS Coordinator, provided mapping and compiled data for the risk assessment project.

Once the assessment process was completed a numerical rating was given to each area based on the wildfire risk. The following sections contain a hazard risk map and table that identifies the wildfire risk in each assessment area.

Wildfire Risk (rating scale)

Low Risk: Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 0 - 75 points:

The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are GOOD. Little is needed to improve your situation.

Moderate Risk: Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 76 - 130 points:

The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are FAIR. Some Minor improvements will make your home more fire resistant.

High Risk: Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 130 points:

Your home is at risk and improvements are necessary to reduce risk!

Extreme Risk: Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 140 points:

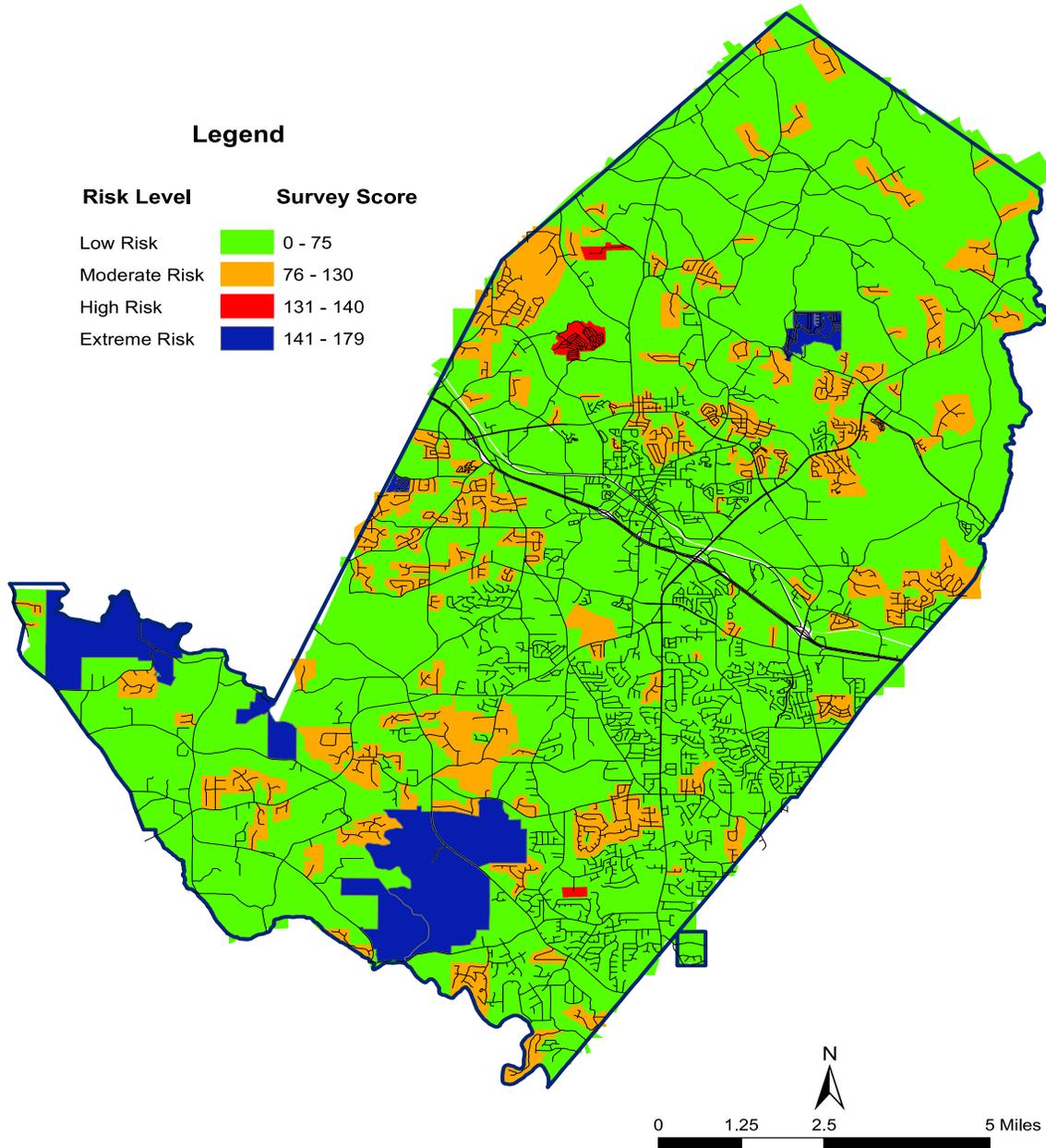
Your home MAY NOT SURVIVE if a wildfire passes through the area. In fact, a fire could even start on your property. Take a serious look at your property and make improvements.

The wildland fire risk assessments conducted by Rockdale County Fire & Rescue and the Georgia Forestry Commission returned an average score of 80, placing Rockdale County in the “moderate risk” hazard range. The risk assessment instrument used to evaluate wildfire hazards was the GFC Community Wildfire Risk Assessment. This instrument takes into consideration accessibility, vegetation (based on fuel models), roofing assembly, building construction, and availability of fire protection resources, placement of gas and electric utilities, and additional rating factors. The following factors contributed to the wildfire hazard score for the higher risk communities and developments in Rockdale County:

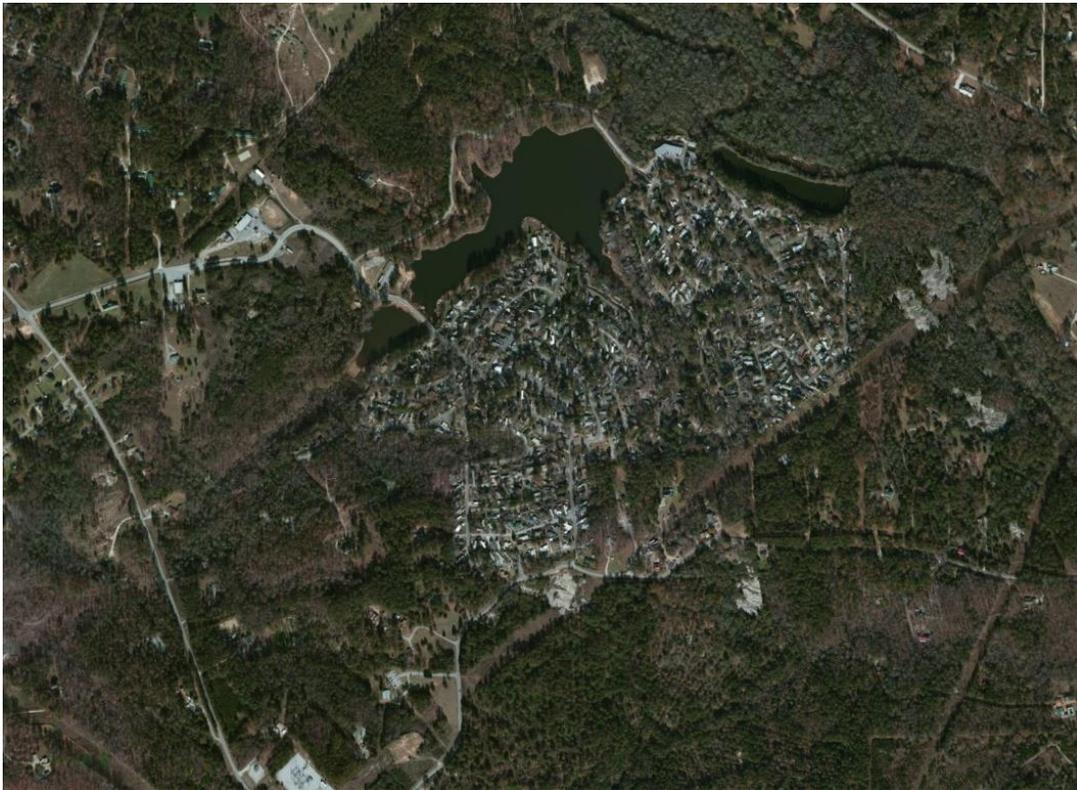
- Dead end roads with inadequate turn arounds
- Narrow roads without drivable shoulders
- Long, narrow, and poorly labeled driveways
- Limited street signs and homes not clearly addressed
- Thick, highly flammable vegetation surrounding many homes
- Minimal defensible space around structures
- Homes with wooden siding and roofs with accumulations of vegetative debris
- No pressurized or non-pressurized water systems available
- Above ground utilities
- Large, adjacent areas of forest or wildlands
- Heavy fuel buildups in adjacent wildlands
- Undeveloped lots
- High occurrence of wildfires in several locations
- Distance from fire stations
- Lack of homeowner or community organizations

V. ROCKDALE COUNTY COMMUNITY HAZARDS MAP & DATA

Wildfire Hazard Assessment Results



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The Lake Rockaway community area (aerial photo above) has a history of numerous human caused wildfires. This area has a high risk rating



Hi Roc Shores community (aerial photo above) is rated an extreme wildfire risk area.

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The Monastery of the Holy Spirit is rated as an extreme risk area. The 2200 acre forest is well managed. Practices such as selective thinning and prescribed burning help lower wildfire risk. The Monastery was certified in the National Firewise Community program in December, 2013. Mitigation efforts to reduce wildfire risk are ongoing.

Community Hazard Risk Assessment Table:

Subdivision/Development Area	# Lots	Acreage	Fire Zone	Wildfire Hazard Rating
Abbott	46	33.8	6	107 Moderate
Abbott Estates	70	35.6	6	109 Moderate
Adrian Villas	71	38.1	6	114 Moderate
Alexandria	16	8.5	6	107 Moderate
Allen's Landing	36	25.4	2	43 Low
Allison Estates	41	167.2	9	90 Moderate
Almand Creek	76	22.4	8	57 Low
Almand Estates	11	10.3	5	85 Moderate
Amber Cove	38	76.5	4	95 Moderate
Amherst Chase	61	32.5	9	80 Moderate
Annsbrooke	99	94.0	3	45 Low
Arbor Glen	128	62.1	3	45 Low
Arden Woods	16	11.7	2	48 Low
Arlington Woods	45	21.6	1	128 Moderate

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Ashley Trace	17	22.6	2	53 Low
Autumn Chase	99	100.9	4	90 Moderate
Avignon	31	25.2	9	85 Moderate
Avondale Springs	305	123.9	3	85 Moderate
Bailey Court	11	5.7	2	48 Low
Beechwood	22	13.2	3	60 Low
Bell Creek	20	19.5	2	70 Low
Belmont Village	198	29.6	1	73 Low
Bent Creek Farms	45	66.9	2	50 Low
Biltmore Place	102	28.9	9	60 Low
Blackberry Run	13	8.2	2	42 Low
Blacklawn Industrial	25	12.2	7	46 Low
Boulder Branch	16	49.1	4	99 Moderate
Boulderview	6	27.7	5	92 Moderate
Bradford	134	78.7	2	50 Low
Brandon Glen	190	22.0	1	94 Moderate
Brandy Shoals	25	33.6	2	72 Low
Brandywine	168	90.8	2	75 Low
Brentwood	272	133.5	3	52 Low
Briar Creek Apts	157	20.5	8	49 Low
Briarwood	87	52.1	6	94 Moderate
Bridgestone Village	148	37.6	1	88 Moderate
Bridgewater Place	165	115.4	6	107 Moderate
Bridle Creek	86	57.3	6	102 Moderate
Bridleridge Walk	167	36.5	7	55 Low
Brighton Estates	86	70.6	9	70 Low
Bristol Woods	124	67.8	2	65 Low
Brookfield Station	68	86.2	2	60 Low
Brookstone Lakes	104	32.7	1	87 Moderate
Brookwood South	15	22.1	9	67 Low
Brynlyn Woods	59	49.2	1	82 Moderate
Buchanan Estates	48	40.6	1	106 Moderate
Buckingham	31	50.3	2	77 Moderate
Callaway Crossing	301	49.8	1	81 Moderate
Camary Chase	24	14.2	2	70 Low
Camary Place	21	13.8	2	60 Low
Cambridge Creek	112	75.4	6	97 Moderate
Camden Industrial	16	21.3	7	100 Moderate
Cameron Woods	12	10.1	2	60 Low
Caritas Meadow	14	9.4	2	60 Low
Carlisle Estates	19	41.0	2	60 Low
Castle Point	17	15.3	6	115 Moderate
Cedar Brook	146	85.0	2	65 Low
Cedar Grove	55	43.3	9	70 Low
Centennial Village	32	38.8	1	83 Moderate
Channing Cove	46	46.6	2	56 Low
Charles Baker	7	3.6	7	101 Moderate
Chelsea Downs	96	41.4	1	90 Moderate

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN: AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Cherry Creek	66	47.4	2	75 Low
Chimney Ridge Estates	63	81.0	9	80 Moderate
Christian Hills	8	7.1	2	70 Low
Colonial South	56	59.2	2	77 Moderate
Columns	38	47.2	6	112 Moderate
Country Lane Estates	159	87.7	5	77 Moderate
Country Walk @ Fieldstone	95	12.7	3	52 Low
Courtney Lake	43	24.2	9	75 Low
Coventry	64	58.3	6	117 Moderate
Creekwood Manor	55	33.1	5	87 Moderate
Crescent View	61	58.7	5	107 Moderate
Crystal Springs	22	23.7	2	70 Low
Cumberland Pines	17	8.5	2	70 Low
Deacon's Walk	20	33.8	2	90 Moderate
Deer Forest	197	217.0	2	72 Low
Deer Hollow	21	77.4	4	92 Low
Deer Run	351	597.5	2	77 Low
Deerwood	141	167.2	2	72 Low
Downing Park	36	18.2	3	62 Low
Druids Keep	33	24.0	2	70 Low
Eagles Ridge	33	28.7	9	80 Moderate
Earl Court	22	10.2	3	72 Low
East Irwin Place	101	86.9	3	62 Low
East Mill Forest	87	238.5	9	83 Moderate
East View Forest	52	12.5	1	71 Low
Eastmont	132	21.8	7	56 Moderate
Eden Glen	33	16.7	2	65 Low
Elm Tree	8	7.7	1	57 Low
Enchanted Lake Estates	27	30.1	5	92 Moderate
Estates @ Golden Creek	12	19.1	2	122 Moderate
Evergreen	54	26.2	3	47 Low
Fair Oaks	70	70.0	9	70 Low
Falls @ Bridgewater	62	54.6	6	112 Moderate
Fern Creek	45	207.7	1	128 Moderate
Fieldstone	254	141.6	3	62 Low
Fieldstone View	400	53.7	3	62 Low
Five Oaks	11	49.8	5	129 Moderate
Flat Shoals Acres	52	30.2	3	77 Moderate
Flintridge Estates	74	49.9	2	55 Low
Fontainbleu	112	170.4	2	77 Moderate
Forest Edge	37	55.3	2	77 Moderate
Forest Hills	34	38.1	2	75 Low
Forest Villas	95	11.7	7	92 Moderate
Fountain Crest	347	179.3	2	65 Low
Fountainhead Lakes	28	7.4	3	47 Low
Four Seasons	74	63.6	6	99 Moderate
Foxwood Hills	95	67.4	2	55 Low
Francis Hollow	75	56.7	6	94 Moderate

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN: AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Gates @ Sandy Creek	15	34.6	5	90 Moderate
Gates of Deer Run	44	42.5	2	62 Low
Gees Mill Business Park	37	67.9	1	64 Low
GIHP	7	1181.4	1	60 Low
Ginger Lake Estates	78	51.8	1	108 Moderate
Gleaton Trace	23	20.6	1	102 Moderate
Glen Meadow	35	33.3	7	108 Moderate
Glendale Acres	48	95.0	1	95 Moderate
Gleneagle	21	88.0	7	120 Moderate
Glenstone	24	61.8	5	132 Moderate
Golden Acres	25	25.2	6	94 Moderate
Graceland Estates	35	41.9	9	75 Low
Grand Cayman Estates	23	34.1	4	89 Moderate
Granite Mountain Farms	57	101.6	5	107 Moderate
Greyfield	39	27.3	9	75 Low
Gross Gardens	191	84.4	3	57 Low
Hammock Creek	23	61.4	7	122 Moderate
Hanover Square	28	36.0	9	75 Low
Happy Hollow Farmettes	97	233.8	9	73 Low
Harvest Mill	175	85.2	1	85 Low
Havenridge	64	76.0	6	112 Moderate
Haynes Ridge	20	80.9	5	109 Moderate
Hearthstone	27	18.9	3	82 Moderate
Heavenly Acres	5	19.1	5	116 Moderate
Hedgewood	47	46.9	5	62 Low
Henson Village	85	26.9	3	52 Low
Heritage Estates	33	11.6	9	75 Low
Heritage Heights	64	36.0	9	70 Low
Hewlett Hills	64	46.5	7	90 Moderate
HI ROC SHORES	549	288.2	5	154 Extreme
Hidden Acres	268	171.4	9	75 Low
Hidden Lake	32	30.4	2	60 Low
Hidden Valley	25	12.9	2	55 Low
Highland Chase	50	9.7	3	47 Low
Hightower Hills	55	23.4	7	75 Low
Hiroc Plantation	157	84.2	1	97 Moderate
Hodges Lake	49	5.5	7	75 Low
Holly Hill	116	60.6	9	70 Low
Home Station Apts	202	26.1	1	106 Moderate
Honey Creek	693	500.3	2	76 Moderate
Honey Creek Commons	28	19.8	2	72 Low
Honey Creek/138	0	0.0	0	97 Moderate
Honey Springs	129	82.5	2	62 Low
Honeysuckle Estates	19	12.6	7	110 Moderate
Horseshoe Springs	40	103.5	1	67 Low
Howard Stowers	23	28.9	7	102 Moderate
Hunters Hollow	128	88.1	7	107 Moderate
Hunter's Point	148	18.3	8	55 Low

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN: AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Hunting Creek	331	43.2	3	52 Low
Indian Ridge	87	41.5	2	65 Low
Indian Shoals	46	132.7	5	77 Moderate
Iris Glen Apts	82	9.5	3	77 Moderate
Irwin Place	196	213.7	3	57 Low
Ivy Bluff	62	30.7	3	52 Low
J L Shipp	29	18.1	7	87 Moderate
Jackson Creek Plantation	65	54.4	4	75 Low
Jeff Hudson	6	3.0	6	94 Moderate
Jeremiah Industrial	13	11.7	7	62 Low
Kachina	5	34.7	2	137 High
Keeneland	7	23.9	2	73 Low
Keswick Village Apts	285	36.3	1	127 Moderate
Keys of St Lucia	32	103.2	9	64 Low
Kilmer Forest	15	79.8	9	83 Moderate
King Forest	39	19.2	3	67 Low
Kings Mountain	77	85.9	1	116 Moderate
Kingsland Place	49	52.4	6	102 Moderate
Kingston Woods	63	34.9	5	84 Moderate
Kinmor Industrial	19	42.9	7	95 Moderate
Klondike Heights	65	61.7	6	125 Moderate
Knight's Bridge	20	17.4	6	97 Moderate
Lake Capri Estates	378	376.0	7	112 Moderate
Lake Green Estates	22	53.2	7	122 Moderate
Lake Haynes Estates	25	91.6	5	97 Moderate
Lakes @ Honey Creek	17	9.7	2	55 Low
Lambeth Estates	116	85.4	3	65 Low
Land Application Site	1	563.0	4	179 Extreme
Laurel Woods	131	79.5	9	Low
Leisure Woods	19	8.1	2	75 Low
Letha Marie Woods	20	24.3	4	72 Low
Lighthouse Village	11	27.7	7	72 Low
Limberlost Farms	73	111.9	4	112 Moderate
Lindy Court	11	5.6	7	105 Moderate
Lionsgate	64	32.8	6	102 Moderate
Little Mountain	54	39.3	4	87 Moderate
Lochinver	165	185.6	9	65 Low
Lonnie McCullum	45	40.8	9	72 Low
Lost Valley	52	71.0	3	90 Moderate
Lynbrook	103	196.4	4	97 Moderate
Lyndhurst	31	61.3	3	60 Low
Madison Creek	49	66.0	2	82 Moderate
Maggie Valley	44	23.7	2	67 Low
Mainstreet @ Conyers Apts	194	22.3	1	80 Moderate
Manchester	128	83.0	2	62 Low
Martha's Vineyard	101	123.1	3	60 Low
Martingale	98	61.1	2	55 Low
McCart Landing	192	455.7	1	77 Moderate

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN: AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

McClane's Ridge	20	17.5	2	75 Low
Meadow Springs	43	33.1	6	97 Moderate
Meadowbrook	322	222.5	2	62 Low
Merle Estates	16	46.5	4	92 Moderate
Miller's Landing	25	13.8	6	107 Moderate
Mills Ridge	47	47.1	4	97 Moderate
Millstone Manor	57	28.7	1	67 Low
Milstead	311	157.8	1	80 Moderate
Milstead Commons	11	15.0	1	77 Moderate
Milstead Place	76	12.5	1	81 Moderate
Mission Ridge	84	41.5	3	51 Low
Misty Valley	8	3.7	2	70 Low
Monastery of the Holy Spirit	1	2200.0	2	164 Extreme
Montclair Estates	45	71.9	9	70 Low
Morgan's Park	33	36.3	4	112 Moderate
Mountain Laurel Estates	26	89.1	5	107 Moderate
Mountain Valley Estates	123	68.9	1	103 Moderate
Mt Zion	10	8.4	5	75 Low
Nantucket	50	30.7	2	55 Low
Nantucket Summit	38	23.8	2	55 Low
New Haven	77	59.2	9	70 Low
New Lake Estates	61	152.0	4	117 Moderate
Nob Hill	42	49.3	3	58 Low
Northampton	95	147.3	5	92 Moderate
Northpark	37	29.2	7	83 Moderate
Northridge	296	97.4	7	80 Moderate
Oak Forest	48	13.4	3	65 Low
Oakley Downs	102	65.2	9	57 Low
Oaks @ Brentwood	26	17.4	3	60 Low
Oaks @ Haynes Creek	34	101.9	5	122 Moderate
Old Covington Junction	162	56.6	1	86 Moderate
Old Mill	71	22.6	9	70 Low
Old Salem Estates	32	34.2	3	60 Low
Olde Salem Township	370	100.3	3	41 Low
Paces Landing	120	91.5	7	120 Moderate
Panola State Park		1200	4	153 Extreme
Park @ Windridge	92	85.8	1	105 Moderate
Park Place	24	12.4	3	63 Low
Parks of Stonecrest	78	47.9	6	145 Extreme
Parkview Estates	15	4.2	9	48 Low
Peak's Landing Apts	264	34.1	8	65 Low
Pembroke Place	18	8.0	2	70 Low
Pennington Hills	21	36.9	2	67 Low
Pickett's Ridge	27	20.8	3	65 Low
Pine Forest	207	114.1	3	60 Low
Pinedale Townhomes	137	14.4	7	70 Low
Pinetree	9	7.0	5	102 Moderate
Pinewood Shores	216	120.1	2	52 Low

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN: AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

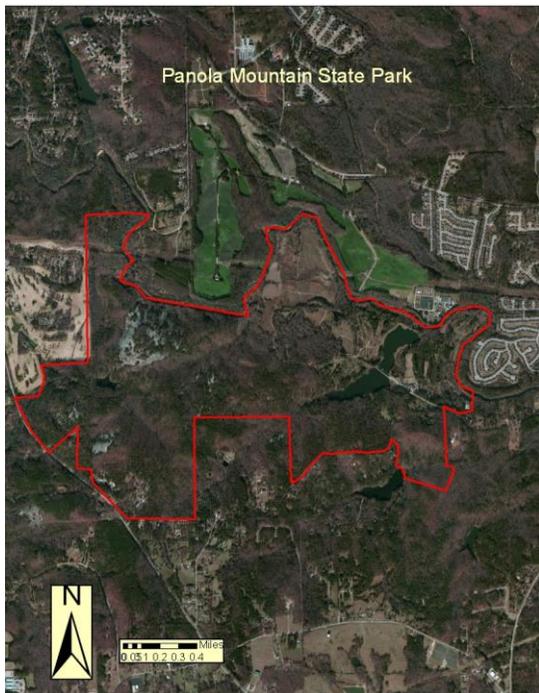
Plantation Acres	115	42.7	8	60 Low
Plantation Woods	144	87.3	2	64 Low
Point Royal	48	47.2	1	107 Moderate
Preserve @ Travers Creek	127	43.6	7	67 Moderate
Quail Manor	119	76.7	2	67 Moderate
Quail Run	69	42.0	2	67 Moderate
Queenie Woods Village	40	23.2	1	83 Moderate
Raintree	56	19.1	9	61 Low
Ramal	11	8.8	6	94 Moderate
Remington	38	22.1	8	63 Low
Revel Cove	21	10.2	8	63 Low
Richmond	69	58.2	9	80 Moderate
River Club @ Boar Tusk	261	122.2	1	63 Low
River Ridge	137	65.8	1	96 Moderate
Riverchase	112	41.2	1	110 Moderate
Riverclift	77	41.5	2	70 Low
Rockbridge	27	20.3	7	100 Moderate
Rockdale Acres	16	8.8	1	85 Moderate
Rockdale North	26	84.7	5	97 Moderate
Rockingham	16	11.6	2	60 Low
Rockmont Apts	96	11.5	8	63 Low
Rolling Green	90	37.4	2	55 Low
Rose Arbor	73	44.8	2	55 Low
Ross Manor	45	24.2	9	69 Low
Royal Lake Estates	38	79.9	7	113 Moderate
Salem Chase Apts	66	8.8	3	36 Low
Salem East	63	30.3	3	70 Low
Salem Lake	118	76.5	3	65 Low
Salem Village	72	37.2	3	60 Low
Salem Woods	83	20.9	3	60 Low
Savory Acres	76	44.4	2	62 Low
Serenity Cove	20	14.0	2	65 Low
Shadow Creek	32	21.8	2	70 Low
Shadow Lake	125	107.6	2	70 Low
Shannon Woods	13	14.0	8	68 Low
Shephard's Landing	6	4.4	7	116 Moderate
Shoal Creek	66	55.9	6	95 Moderate
Sierra View	32	60.7	4	112 Moderate
Sigman East	34	19.0	7	105 Moderate
Smokerise East	56	378.1	7	110 Moderate
Smyrna Downs	138	81.4	6	97 Moderate
Smyrna Place	30	26.0	6	97 Moderate
South Mill	114	92.3	4	100 Moderate
South Ridge	140	120.0	2	77 Moderate
South Rockdale Community Park		0.0	4	158 Extreme
Southpark	44	34.2	9	80 Moderate
Southpark @ Salem Lake	104	17.1	3	70 Low
Springwood Hill	5	34.4	4	124 Moderate

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN: AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

St Charles Square	16	8.0	9	75 Low
St James/St Charles Apts	486	53.8	6	114 Moderate
St Julian's Place	107	40.8	1	72 Low
Stafford Glen	22	16.2	2	100 Moderate
Stanton Point	10	5.1	9	49 Low
Stanton Ridge	100	27.0	9	49 Low
Stanton Woods/Landmark	367	148.7	9	70 Low
Starr	35	42.3	6	94 Moderate
Stonecrest @ Abbott Lake	42	38.9	6	107 Moderate
Stoneleigh	18	12.8	6	112 Moderate
Stoneview Acres	12	6.5	5	84 Moderate
Stoney Brook	73	38.2	2	72 Low
Stratford	41	56.7	2	70 Low
Sugar Hill	297	94.6	9	60 Low
Summit Creek	107	96.0	2	80 Moderate
Sunrise Lakes	890	180.6	7	136 High
Surrey Estates	90	48.6	3	65 Low
T C Williams	11	5.9	8	45 Low
Tall Oaks	176	23.8	3	65 Low
Terrace Ridge	19	30.7	5	90 Moderate
Terraces @ Fieldstone Apts	303	37.7	3	55 Low
Thornwood	49	37.6	2	32 Low
Timber Ridge	36	65.0	2	65 Low
Tom Hicks	106	44.2	7	100 Moderate
Tony Valley	39	22.6	2	52 Low
Tucker Mill Corridor	0	0.0	0	78 Moderate
Tucker Mill Forest	17	56.4	9	82 Moderate
Turner Valley	55	30.2	6	104 Moderate
Underwood Springs	5	13.9	2	75 Low
Valley Brook Estates	50	38.5	8	75 Low
Valleydale	25	99.3	5	110 Moderate
Victoria Landing	42	36.2	6	112 Moderate
View Point East Condos	81	9.4	8	55 Low
Village @ Almand Creek Apts	242	95.2	8	68 Low
Village @ Travers Creek	217	26.5	7	80 Moderate
Village Green	63	62.8	2	55 Low
Village Place	68	18.6	1	50 Low
Weatherstone	264	142.2	8	65 Low
Wedgewood	11	7.6	2	70 Low
Wellbrook Park	60	8.9	1	67 Low
Wellbrook Place	29	19.9	1	68 Low
Wellington Creek	19	57.4	5	65 Low
Wellington Lake	23	100.2	5	76 Moderate
Westbury Park	71	23.9	1	75 Low
Westchester @ Glen Thompson	11	5.0	3	41 Low
Westchester Highlands	11	4.9	3	41 Low
Westchester Lakes	301	172.7	3	75 Low
Whispering Pines	11	50.1	5	88 Moderate

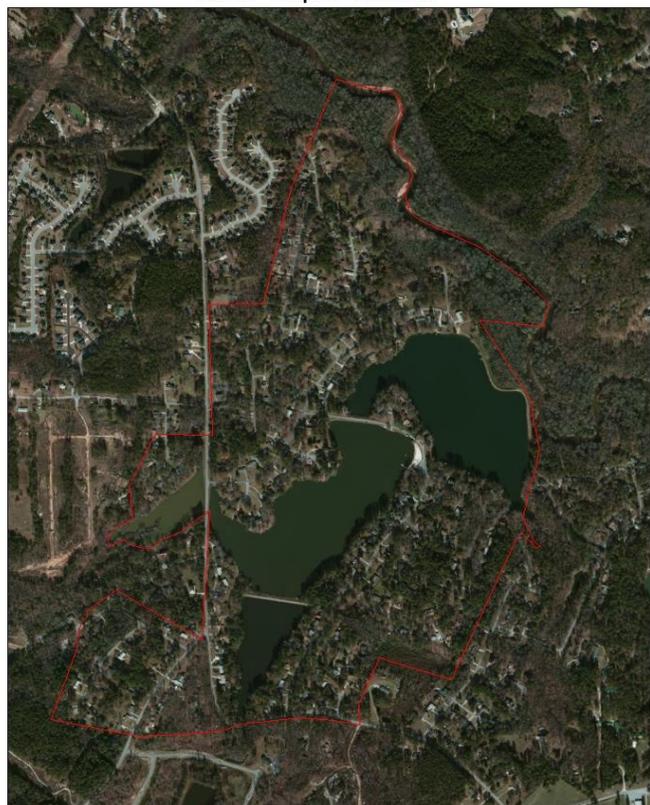
WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN: AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

White Hill	10	26.9	5	97 Moderate
Wildwood	23	11.6	2	50 Low
Willow Bend	43	43.0	4	92 Moderate
Willow Creek	99	47.1	2	55 Low
Wilson Place	11	11.3	3	88 Moderate
Winchester Hills	84	50.0	1	103 Moderate
Windridge	100	50.2	1	100 Moderate
Windsor Creek	131	46.3	8	65 Low
Windward Chase	31	79.8	5	110 Moderate
Woodbridge	84	24.6	8	75 Low
Woodcrest Estates	21	21.3	5	97 Moderate
Woodland Forest	64	34.6	2	62 Low
Woodland Hills	41	90.0	4	102 Moderate
Wynnwood/St Remy	106	67.3	3	75 Low



Panola Mountain State Park area (left) is rated as an extreme risk area. The park was certified as a Firewise Community in 2013 and is practicing some forest management to mitigate wildfire risk. This 1200 acre State park adjoins the Arabia Mountain Conservation Area, in Dekalb County, which includes several thousand acres of mostly unmanaged forest that significantly increases wildfire risk potential to surrounding communities.

Lake Capri Estates



On the right is an aerial photo of Lake Capri Estates, which is rated as a moderate risk community. This community was certified as a Firewise Community in 2015.

0 330 660 1,320 1,980 2,640 Feet

VI. MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTION PLAN

Rockdale County Forest Management

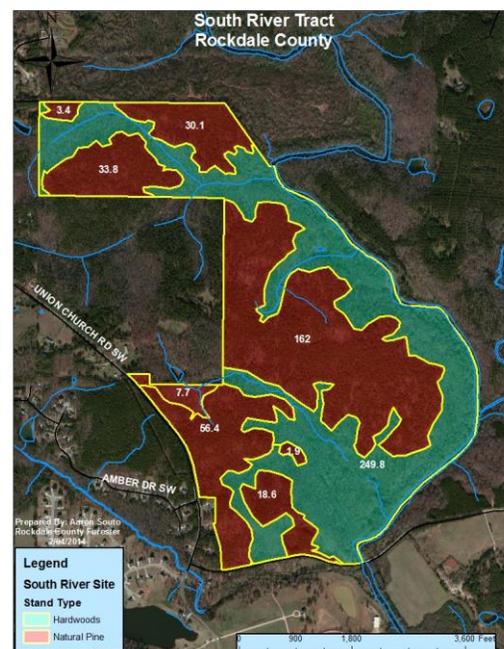
Rockdale County has several large tracts of forest land in need of management to reduce the potential risk of wildfire. Most of these properties have had very little management activity, if any at all, for many years. Hazardous fuels for wildfire accumulate over time. When forest growth slows down health declines and many tree species become susceptible to insects and disease problems. As the forest is naturally thinning out the weaker trees this accumulation of deadwood contributes to increased fuel loads. Trees damaged from wind and ice storms also contribute additional fuels increasing the potential wildfire risk.

Good forest management activities such as selective thinning greatly improve overall forest health. Weak, damaged, and crowded trees are removed which leaves the best trees to continue growing in a healthier forest. Wildlife benefit from the natural food plots created from the sunlight that is able to reach the forest floor. A huge benefit is the income generated from the marketing of these forest products. Wildfire risk is significantly reduced following a timber harvest thinning operation.

Prescribed burning is a beneficial management practice for reducing fire risk by reducing the amount of forest debris found in the understory. Fire also provides other forest management benefits such as improved wildlife habitat, improved access, and helps to control competing vegetation. This type of burning should be well planned and conducted by a prescribed burn manager under ideal weather conditions.

Rockdale County Forester, John Colberg, has developed forest management plans for all large forested County owned tracts. These long term management plans include timber harvest, thinning, and prescribed burning recommendations that will provide multiple benefits including reduced wildfire risk, while maintaining a much healthier forest. Management plans have been developed for the following County properties:

- Miller Bottom Road tract - 208 acres
- Reservoir tract - 316 acres
- Smyrna Road tract - 214 acres
- South River tract - 563 acres
- South Rockdale Park and Decastro tract 271 acres



Example of a forest stand type map for the South River tract management plan



The Georgia Forestry Commission can assist with developing a prescribed burning plan, installation of firebreaks, and can provide equipment standby and burning assistance when personnel are available.

Primary Protection for Community and Its Essential Infrastructure		
Treatment Area	Treatment Types	Treatment Method(s)
1. All Structures	Create minimum of 30-feet of defensible space in home ignition zone.*	Trim shrubs and vines to 30 feet from structures, trim overhanging limbs, replace flammable plants near homes with less flammable varieties, remove vegetation around chimneys.
2. Applicable Structures	Reduce structural ignitability*	Clean flammable vegetative material from roofs and gutters, store firewood appropriately, install skirting around raised structures, store water hoses for ready access, and replace pine straw and mulch around plantings with less flammable landscaping materials.
3. Community Clean-up Day	Cutting, mowing, pruning*	Cut, prune, and mow vegetation in shared community spaces.
4. Driveway Access	Culvert installation	See that adequate lengths of culverts are installed to allow emergency vehicle access. Remove trees or limbs that may restrict access for fire equipment.
5. Road Access	Identify needed road improvements	As roads are upgraded, widen to minimum standards with at least 50 foot diameter cul de sacs or turn arounds.

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN: AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Proposed Community Wildland Fuel Reduction Priorities		
Treatment Area	Treatment Types	Treatment Method(s)
1. Adjacent WUI Lands	Reduce hazardous fuels	Encourage prescribed burning for private landowners and industrial timberlands particularly adjacent to residential areas. Seek grants for WUI mitigation.
2. Railroad and utility Corridors	Reduce hazardous fuels	Encourage railroads and utilities to better maintain their ROW by eliminating brush and grass through herbicide and mowing. Maintain firebreaks along ROW adjacent to residential areas.
3. Existing Fire Lines	Reduce hazardous fuels	Clean and re-harrow existing lines. Maintain existing logging roads, trails, etc. as fuel breaks in high risk areas.
Proposed Improved Community Wildland Fire Response Priorities		
1. Water Sources	Dry Hydrants	Inspect, maintain and improve access to existing dry hydrants. Add signage along road to mark the hydrants .Install additional dry hydrants if need is established.
2. Fire Stations	Equipment	Wildland hand tools. Lightweight Wildland PPE Gear. Upgrade existing “brush” truck and acquire ATV for fire and rescue in remote areas such as the recently developed Rockdale County trail system.
3. Water Sources	Drafting equipment	Acquire additional drafting pumps and other equipment that may be needed to meet department needs.
4. Personnel	Training	Obtain Wildland Fire Suppression training for fire personnel to include S130, S190, and S215. Ready Set Go training.

Actions to be taken by homeowners and community stakeholders	
1. Conduct “How to Have a Firewise Home” Workshop for County Residents	
	GFC and Rockdale County Fire & Rescue education specialist should set up and conduct a workshop for homeowners that teach the principles of making homes and properties safe from wildfire. Topics for discussion include home ignition zone defensible space, landscaping, building construction, etc. Workshop will be scheduled for evenings or weekends when most homeowners are available and advertised through local media outlets. Utilize Rockdale County cable channel 23 to promote and broadcast the workshop. Distribute materials promoting Firewise practices and planning through local community and governmental meetings.
2. Conduct “Firewise” Workshop for Community Leaders	
	Arrange for GFC Wildfire Prevention Specialist to work with local community leaders and governmental officials on the importance of “Firewise Planning” in developing ordinances and WUI codes in the county as the need arises. Identified “communities-at-risk” should be contacted and encouraged to participate in the National Firewise Communities Program.
3. Spring Clean-up Event	
	Conduct clean-up event every spring involving the Georgia Forestry Commission, Rockdale County, and local residents of rural Rockdale County. Set up information table with educational materials and refreshments. Initiate the event with a morning briefing by GFC and local fire officials detailing plans for the day and safety precautions. Activities may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean flammable vegetative material from roofs and gutters • Trim shrubs and vines to 30 feet away from structures • Trim overhanging limbs • Clean hazardous or flammable debris from adjacent properties
4. Informational Packets	
	Develop and distribute informational packets to be distributed by realtors and insurance agents. Included in the packets are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be Firewise Around Your Home • Firewise Guide to Landscape and Construction • Firewise Communities and Fire Adapted Community information • Ready, Set, Go, program information
5. Wildfire Protection Display	
	Create and exhibit a display for the general public at local events. Display can be independent or combined with a Georgia Forestry Commission display.

6. Media

Invite the local and regional news media to community “Firewise” functions for news coverage and regularly submit press releases documenting wildfire risk improvements in Rockdale County. Utilize Rockdale County Channel 23 on Comcast cable for promotion of all prevention education programs.

VII. GRANT FUNDING AND MITIGATION ASSISTANCE

Community Protection Grant: US Forest Service sponsored prescribed fire program. Communities with “at-risk” properties that lie within ten miles of a National Forest, National Park Service or Bureau of Land Management tracts may apply with the Georgia Forestry Commission to have their land prescribe burned free-of-charge.

FEMA Mitigation Policy MRR-2-08-01: through GEMA – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM).

1. To provide technical and financial assistance to local governments to assist in the implementation of long term, cost effective hazard mitigation accomplishments.
2. This policy addresses wildfire mitigation for the purpose of reducing the threat to all-risk structures through creating defensible space, structural protection through the application of ignition resistant construction and limited hazardous fuel reduction to protect life and property.
3. With a completed registered plan (addendum to the State Plan) counties can apply for pre-mitigation funding. They will also be eligible for HMGP funding if the county is declared under a wildfire disaster.

Georgia Forestry Commission: Plowing and prescribed burning assistance, as well as forest mastication, can be obtained from the GFC as a low-cost option for mitigation efforts.

The Georgia Forestry Commission Firewise Community Mitigation Assistance Grants – Nationally recognized Firewise Communities can receive up to \$5000 grants to help address potential wildfire risk reduction projects. Grant submission can be made through local Georgia Forestry Commission offices or your Regional Wildfire Prevention Specialist.

VIII. GLOSSARY

Community-At-Risk – A group of two or more structures whose proximity to forested or wildland areas places homes and residents at some degree of risk.

Critical Facilities – Buildings, structures or other parts of the community infrastructure that require special protection from an approaching wildfire.

CWPP – The Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Defensible Space – The immediate landscaped area around a structure (usually a minimum of 30 ft.) kept “lean, clean and green” to prevent an approaching wildfire from igniting the structure.

Dry Hydrant - A non-pressurized pipe system permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds and streams that provides a suction supply of water to a fire department tank truck.

FEMA – The Federal Emergency Management Agency whose mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Fire Adapted Community – A community fully prepared for its wildfire risk by taking actions to address safety, homes, neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure, forest, parks, open spaces, and other community assets.

Firewise Program – A national initiative whose purpose is the reduction of structural losses from wildland fires.

Firewise Community/USA – A national recognition program for communities that take action to protect themselves from wildland fire.

Fuels – All combustible materials within the wildland/urban interface or intermix including, but not limited to, vegetation and structures.

Fuel Modification – Any manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition or the resistance to fire control.

Hazard & Wildfire Risk Assessment – An evaluation to determine an area’s (community’s) potential to be impacted by an approaching wildland fire.

Healthy Forests Initiative - Launched in August 2002 by President Bush (following passage of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act by Congress) with the

intent to reduce the risks severe wildfires pose to people, communities, and the environment.

Home Ignition Zone (Structure Ignition Zone) - Treatment area for wildfire protection. The “zone” includes the structure(s) and their immediate surroundings from 0-200 ft.

Mitigation – An action that moderates the severity of a fire hazard or risk.

National Fire Plan – National initiative, passed by Congress in the year 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while ensuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - An international nonprofit organization established in 1896, whose mission is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.

Prescribed Burning (fire) – The use of planned fire that is deliberately set under specific fuel and weather condition to accomplish a variety of management objectives and is under control until it burns out or is extinguished.

Ready, Set, Go - A program fire services use to help homeowners understand wildfire preparedness, awareness, and planning procedures for evacuation.

Southern Group of State Foresters – Organization whose members are the agency heads of the forestry agencies of the 13 southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Stakeholders– Individuals, groups, organizations, businesses or others who have an interest in wildland fire protection and may wish to review and/or contribute to the CWPP content.

Wildfire or Wildland Fire – An unplanned and uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels.

Wildland/Urban Interface - The presence of structures in locations in which the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) determines that topographical features, vegetation, fuel types, local weather conditions and prevailing winds result in the potential for ignition of the structures within the area from flames and firebrands from a wildland fire (NFPA 1144, 2008 edition)

IX. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Publications/Brochures/Websites

- FIREWISE materials can be ordered at www.firewise.org
- Georgia Forestry Commission www.georgiafirewise.org
- Rockdale County Fire & Rescue
<http://www.rockdalecounty.org/main.cfm?ID=3317>
- Examples of successful wildfire mitigation programs can be viewed at the website for National Database of State and Local wildfire Hazard Mitigation Programs sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the Southern Group of State Foresters www.wildfireprograms.com
- Information about a variety of interface issues (including wildfire) can be found at the USFS website for Interface South: www.interfacesouth.org
- Information on codes and standards for emergency services including wildfire can be found at www.nfpa.org
- Information on FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) can be found at www.firegrantsupport.com
- Information on National Fire Plan grants can be found at <http://www.federalgrantswire.com/national-fire-plan--rural-fire-assistance.html>
- Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment website SouthWRAP
www.southernwildfirerisk.com
- Fire Adapted Communities www.fireadapted.org
- Ready, Set, Go www.wildlandfirersg.org

Appended Documents

Rockdale County Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment (SouthWRAP)



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This plan should become a working document that is shared by local, state, and federal agencies that will use it to accomplish common goals. An agreed-upon schedule for meeting to review accomplishments, solve problems, and plan for the future should extend beyond the scope of this plan. Without this follow up this plan will have limited value.