

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

I. BACKGROUND

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process assists communities in developing an appropriate and desired wildfire protection plan that addresses elements of community protection. A community can use this outline to develop a plan. Through discussion among interested parties about wildfire protection, communities develop clarify and refine their priorities for protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in the wildland urban interface. Minimum requirements for a CWPP; include (1) collaboration, (2) prioritizing areas for treatment, and (3) recommended measures to reduce structure ignitability. The following process is an aid to help a community to complete a CWPP. It should not be overly complex. Three elements are addressed in this process the risk/hazard assessment, mitigation plan, and monitoring.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY [Note: *Provides a succinct summary of the assessment's findings, Address the minimum requirements of (1) collaboration, (2) prioritized areas for fuel reduction, and (3) recommended measures to reduce the ignitability of structures*]

III. COLLABORATION

[Describe the collaboration process and involvement]

Collaboration may be accomplished through three processes. Convene decision makers, involve local, state and federal agencies and engage interested parties. Decision makers will be those responsible for the development of the CWPP. The make up of this group will depend upon the community. Involvement of local, state and government agencies, and other interested parties will depend upon the needs of the community. In the same way approval or adoption of the plan will be governed by the appropriate process identified by the community.

This risk assessment system provides information about four primary elements contributing to or mitigating wildfire danger within or near a given Alaska community. These elements are

- 1) Risk/Hazard
- 2) Barriers
- 3) Fire Protection Response
- 4) Community Firewise Rating

IV. ASSESSMENT TO PRIORITIZE AREAS FOR FUEL REDUCTION

A. Introduction: [Note; *All potential partners and interested parties should be invited to participate in the planning process. Utilize topographic maps, GIS maps, satellite imagery, aerial photographs, or other maps wherever possible to minimize preparation workload and to improve the usefulness of the plan.*]

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

B. Identification and Description of Community and Area *[Note: More than one community may be included]*

1. Describe the WUI boundary and how it was delineated
2. Community Name
3. Location:
4. General Geographic Location
 - a. Lat. Long.
 - b. Township Range Section Meridian
5. Population:
6. Structures:
 - a. Homes (*list # of primary residences-used 6 months or more per year*)
 - b. Community buildings (*list # of hospitals, schools, offices, generators, etc.*)
 - c. Commercial (*list # of lodges, business, rentals etc.*)
 - d. Seasonally inhabited structures (*non-commercial-used less than 6 months per year*)
 - e. Outbuildings (*list# of unattached garages, sheds, caches, etc.*)
7. Infrastructure: (*utilities, type of roads, airstrip, etc*)
8. Industry: (*tourism, commercial activities, air services, etc.*)
9. Natural Resource Values: (*timber, berries, wildlife habitat, watershed*)
10. Cultural Sites: (*registered historic sites or landmarks, burial sites, etc.*)
11. Dumps: (*note presence of incinerator burn boxes*)
12. Hazards: (*fuel tanks, hazardous materials, vegetation type, vegetation density, recently burned areas, proposed treatment areas, slope, aspect of terrain, etc.*)
13. Fire Equipment: (*specify- engines, hand tools, etc.*)

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

14. Local Fire Prevention Efforts: *(e.g. have schools participate in the Fire in Alaska, Role of Fire, Project Learn Tree, camps, firewise, or other fire prevention, fire education opportunities)*
15. Other community values: *(historical, economic, watershed, etc.)*

C. Areas or Values to be Protected *[Identify and prioritize specific values or areas in the immediate vicinity to be protected such as structures, cultural sites, resources or qualities that are considered significant that would be impacted by wildfire and would have a negative economic impact on the community. Include an estimate of the monetary value if appropriate. Assess the vulnerability of any of the above identified elements to wildland fire. Areas of concern should be documented.]*

D. Assessment of Risk/Hazard, Barriers, Fire Protection Resources, and Firewise

1. Fire Regime and Condition Class

2. Rating Elements

a) Risk/Hazard Analysis

(1) Inside Community:

The rating area includes lands within one mile of the community in all directions. The rating is based on history/likelihood of fire in the community and the availability of hazard fuels. Provide a description of local fire history and fuel conditions and give High, Moderate or Low rating based on the Risk/Hazard Chart.

(2) Outside Community:

The rating area is from 1-10 miles outside the community and is based on the history/likelihood of fire in the area and the availability of hazard fuels. Provide a description of area fire history and fuel conditions and give a High, Moderate or Low rating based on the Risk/Hazard Chart.

b) Barriers

Alaska communities are situated in a variety of conditions through out Alaska. Some are along river corridors, others on uplands, and along coastal areas. Surrounding many of these communities are barriers. Barriers are zones that would help restrict large fire movement from coming into the community. Barriers may be water, natural or manmade. A natural barrier may be a topographic feature, vegetation change, or bare ground. An example of a manmade barrier would be a road.

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

Describe any barriers that would provide protection or slow the progress from wildfires burning in fuels less than 1 mile from the community. Give an Excellent, Fair or Poor rating based on the Barrier Rating Chart.

c) Fire Protection Resources

Communities typically rely on the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry, or the BLM, Alaska Fire Service for protection from large wildfires.

However, other protection resources may exist, and response times can vary widely in remote areas of Alaska. Describe the situation. Using the Fire Protection Response Chart, give an Excellent, Fair or Poor rating based on predicted response times to the community and nearby lands. List the types of resources that are available for initial attacking a wildland fire.

d) Firewise Ratings

Using the Firewise Home Rating Chart, perform cursory firewise ratings of all homesites and community buildings. Using the Firewise Community Rating Guidelines, give a rating of Excellent, Fair or Poor.

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

RISK/HAZARD ANALYSIS CHART 1

Outside Community Area (1-10 miles)

	Alaska Fire Return Interval		
	High (0-99 years)	Moderate (100-300 years)	Low (>300 years)
FUELS (predicted fire behavior based on historic summertime weather with hot, dry conditions)			
Black Spruce Boreal Forest (CFFDRS=C2) <i>rate of spread: high</i> <i>intensity: high</i> <i>spotting potential: high</i>	H	M	M
Black Spruce Lichen Woodland (CFFDRS=C1) <i>rate or spread: moderate</i> <i>intensity: moderate</i> <i>spotting potential: high</i>	H	M	M
Grass (cured tall standing or matted; CFFDRS = O1a/O1b) <i>rate of spread: high</i> <i>intensity: moderate:</i> <i>spotting potential: low</i>	H	M	L
<i>Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch; CFFDRS=M1)</i> <i>rate of spread: moderate</i> <i>intensity: moderate</i> <i>spotting potential: moderate</i>	M	M	L
Hardwood Forest (includes aspen & birch; CFFDRS use D1 or M1, M2) <i>rate of spread: low</i> <i>intensity: low</i> <i>spotting potential: low</i>	M	L	L
Deciduous Brush (includes willow & alder) <i>rate of spread: low</i> <i>intensity: low</i> <i>spotting potential: low</i>	L	L	L
<i>Insect and Disease in Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch; rate of spread: moderate intensity: High spotting potential: High)</i>	M	H	M

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

RISK/HAZARD ANALYSIS CHART 2

Inside Community Area (within 1 mile)

FUELS (predicted fire behavior based on historic summertime weather with hot, dry conditions)	Alaska Fire Return Interval		
	High (0-99 years)	Moderate (100-300 years)	Low (>300 years)
Black Spruce Boreal Forest (CFFDRS=C2) <i>rate of spread: high</i> <i>intensity: high</i> <i>spotting potential: high</i>	H	M	M
Black Spruce Lichen Woodland (CFFDRS=C1) <i>rate or spread: moderate</i> <i>intensity: moderate</i> <i>spotting potential: high</i>	H	M	M
Grass (cured tall standing or matted; CFFDRS = O1a/O1b) <i>rate of spread: high</i> <i>intensity: moderate:</i> <i>spotting potential: low</i>	H	M	L
<i>Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch; CFFDRS=M1)</i> <i>rate of spread: moderate</i> <i>intensity: moderate</i> <i>spotting potential: moderate</i>	M	M	L
Hardwood Forest (includes aspen & birch; CFFDRS use D1 or M1,M2) <i>rate of spread: low</i> <i>intensity: low</i> <i>spotting potential: low</i>	M	L	L
Deciduous Brush (includes willow & alder) <i>rate of spread: low</i> <i>intensity: low</i> <i>spotting potential: low</i>	L	L	L
<i>Insect and Disease in Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch; rate of spread: moderate intensity: High spotting potential: High)</i>	M	H	M

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

BARRIER RATING CHART

Barrier Type (list specific type under excellent, fair or poor)	Excellent	Fair	Poor
Water (may include lakes, rivers, streams and sloughs)			
Natural features (may include barren landscape, rock, topographic features)			
Human-made features (may include airstrips or other clearings)			
Overall Rating			

Barrier Rating Chart Key:

Excellent: Community has a barrier(s) that provides thorough protection from fuels less than 1 mile away in at least 3 cardinal directions. An example of this would be a small community sandwiched between a major river and a runway (e.g. Sleetmute), or a community on an island (Stony River).

Fair: The community has a barrier(s) that provides thorough protection from fuels less than 1 mile away in at least two cardinal directions. Communities may have multiple barriers affecting a rating. Examples are airstrips separating a community from significant outside fuels, communities set amidst certain vegetation types or some communities situated on major rivers (e.g. Red Devil).

Poor: Any barriers that exist provide protection from fuels less than 1 mile away in fewer than two cardinal directions. Examples of insignificant barriers are small streams or sloughs with narrow riparian zones situated in the midst of highly flammable fuel types.

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

FIRE PROTECTION RESOURCES RESPONSE CHART

Response Time	Risk	Kind of Resource (List kinds of resources available for initial attack)
Adequate initial attack resources are more than 75 minutes away and adequate extended attack resources are more than 12 hours away.	High	
Adequate initial attack resources are 30-75 minutes away and adequate extended attack can be in place in 8-12 hours.	Moderate	
Adequate initial attack resources are less than 30 minutes away and adequate extended attack can be in place in less than 8 hours.	Low	

*Adequate initial and extended attack forces are defined as the minimum force necessary to stop the spread of a wildfire under 90th percentile weather and fuels conditions. Calculating percentile weather can be done by downloading RAWS data into FireFamilyPlus from WIMS/KCFAST. Response times are based on resource location and historical response times.

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

COMMUNITY FIREWISE RATING FOR DEFENSIBLE SPACE OVERALL COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT NOT INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURES

Alaska Firewise Standards	Excellent Over 65% of homesites and community buildings meet standard Value =5	Fair Between 35- 65% of homesites and community buildings meet standard Value =3	Poor Less than 35% of homesites and community buildings meet standard Value=1
Landscaping			
Construction			
Water Supply			
Access			
Clear of Flammables/ Refuse/Debris (flammables stored properly & area cleared)			
Ratings Sums			

<p>Total of Rating Sum / 25 x 100 = Community Firewise Rating Excellent greater than 65%, Fair 35-65%, Poor less than 35%</p>

STANDARDS FOR FIREWISE RATING

Landscaping: There is a clearing of flammable vegetation at least 30 feet around the home for firefighting equipment: coniferous brush and dead/overhanging branches are removed; trees are pruned 6-10 feet above the ground; lawn is mowed and watered regularly and ladder fuels are removed from the yard; remaining trees are spaced at least 30' apart at crowns; garden equipment(hoses and hand tools) are kept on the property.

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

Construction Guidelines: Home is made of fire-resistant or non-combustible construction materials (especially important for roofing); vents are covered with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch; at least two ground-level doors exist; at least two means of escape exist in each room.

Water Supply Guidelines: Home has a reliable water source, 3 to 4 sprinklers and enough hose to circle the home.

Access Guidelines: Access roads are at least 2 lanes wide and clearly marked; ample turnaround space exists for vehicles/fire equipment.

Clear of Flammables/Refuse/Debris Guidelines: Combustible materials are not located in the yard or under decks or porches; firewood is stored away (at least 30 feet) from the house; all debris or refuse is picked up regularly.

3. Overall Assessment Rating of Risk/Hazard, Barriers, Fire Protection Resources, and Firewise

OVERALL RATING CHART

Category	Rating
Risk/Hazard	
a) inside community	
a) outside community	
Barriers:	
Fire Protection:	
Community Firewise Rating:	

4. Other Contributing Factors to risk and mitigation of wildland fire *[List other factors not previously addressed or of a unique nature that may contribute to the risk of wildland fire or mitigate the risk from wildland fire.]*

V. WILDLAND FIRE HISTORY

VI. SUMMARY

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

VII. MAPS:

VIII. APPENDICES:

THE NEXT STEP *[The first element risk/hazard assessment should provide the community with a greater understanding of the risk and hazard associated with wildland fire. It should identify those resources that are most at risk from wildland fire, what types of firefighting resources that may or may not be available, and if structures and the community are Firewise. To complete the CWPP elements two and three the mitigation plan and monitoring plan should be completed. The Mitigation plan will take the information from the assessment and with input from the community members develop goals and objectives and treatments to assist the community to become less at risk from loss due to wildland fire. Attached is a template that will help in your guide development of the mitigation plan. The third element (monitoring) reminds the community to follow-up on treatments to determine if goals and objectives were met and address periodic checks of the area to determine maintenance needs of the treated area(s).]*

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

MITIGATION PLAN

Describe what measures the homeowners and community council might take to lower the risk to the community. Obviously, Defensible Space is the easiest element to mitigate.

Executive Summary

The Executive summary provides a succinct description of the community and the findings of the WUI Community Assessment.

Background

The background provides specific information on the individual community the plan addresses, the threat of wildland fire based on fire history, fire behavior characteristics, and values to be protected. Summarize and reference the Risk Assessment whenever possible to avoid duplication.

Goals and Objectives

This section identifies goals (broad statements of intent) and objectives (specific actions that will move towards the desired conditions of the goals) that were developed collaboratively. i.e. return lands to condition class 1

Strategic Plan/Desired Condition

Succinctly describes the priority values to be protected as determined in the assessment process and identifies strategies to achieve desired conditions. Other topics to discuss here are: fuel reduction priorities, priorities for reducing structural ignitability and identifying protection capabilities, priorities for promoting community involvement through education, information, and outreach, priorities for enhancing local wood products-related industries (i.e. Biomass utilization) The strategic plan may also include a phase in approach, of options and implementation activities.

Actions and Methodology (Tactical Plan)

Describe the specific recommendations, projects and types of actions to be employed to meet goals and objectives. Include such things as fuels treatments, rural fire assistance, prevention, and public education, and the methods by which they are carried out.

Roles and Responsibilities

Describes tasks and responsibilities and how they have been delegated, as well as time frames for those accomplishments.

Funding Guidelines

*Specifies how projects and activities may be funded
Include estimated cost for treatment*

Signatures

Include whatever signatures are appropriate for the planning or community unit (e.g. approvals, concurrence, adoption, etc.)

Alaska Interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

Monitoring Plan

After the treatments have been implemented monitoring should take place to determine if they were effective in meeting the plan objectives. Describe methods, standards and activities that are needed to monitor the CWPP. These standards will be based on your planning unit or community needs.