

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM
WOODLAND COMMUNITY WILDFIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT

Subdivision Name(s): _____

Location: _____

Tax Map Id.: _____

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Fire Department Jurisdiction: _____

Date _____ Date Evaluated: _____

No. Acres: _____ No. Lots: _____ No Homes Built: _____ No. Homes Under Construction: _____

CALCULATING THE WILDFIRE HAZARD RATING

SUBDIVISION DESIGN HAZARD RATING	+	SITE HAZARD RATING	+	BUILDING CONSTRUCTION HAZARD RATING	+	ADDITIONAL FACTOR HAZARD RATING	=	OVERALL WILDFIRE HAZARD RATING
	+		+		+		=	

SUBDIVISION DESIGN RATING:	Rating
ACCESS	
2 or more roads in and out	0
One road in and out (entrance and exit is the same)	5
SUBDIVISION BRIDGES	
No bridges or bridges with no weight and/or width restrictions	0
Low weight bridges restricting emergency vehicle access	5
ROAD WIDTH	
At least 20 feet wide	2
Less than 20 feet wide	4
ROAD ACCESSABILITY	
All weather access	0
Limited access or unmaintained access	5
SECONDARY ROAD CHARACTERISTICS	
Road ends in a cul-de-sac	
Cul-de-sac diameter > 100 feet	1
Cul-de-sac diameter < 100 feet	2
Dead end road <200 feet long	3
Dead end road >200 feet long	5
STREET SIGNS	
Present with >4 inch letters and reflective	1
Missing, <4 inches or non-reflective	3
TOTAL SUBDIVISION HAZARD RATING	

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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	
More than 150 feet with minimum 45 foot outside radius turnaround	3	
More than 150 feet with an inadequate turnaround	5	
Average driveway width more than 12 feet wide	0	
Average driveway width less than 12 feet wide	5	
No obstructing overhead branches below 15 feet	0	
Obstructing overhead branches below 15 feet	5	
No bridges or bridges with no weight and/or width restrictions	0	
Inadequate surface or low weight bridges restricting emergency vehicle access	5	
Slopes level or less than 10%	0	
Slopes over 10%	5	
No gate/non-locking gate	0	
Locked gate restricting access	5	
Address clearly visible from the road	0	
Address not visible from the road	2	
DOMINANT TREES (within 100 feet of homes)		
Deciduous (Hardwoods)	1	
Mixed (Hardwoods and Conifers)	5	
Conifers (Pines and or Red Cedar)	10	
LADDER FUELS		
Conifer branches close to the ground	5	
Conifer branches pruned up at least 6 feet	0	
VEGETATION (predominant type throughout the community)		
Low fire hazard	5	
Grasses less than 6 inches tall		
Hardwood leaves		
Medium fire hazard	10	
Grasses greater than 6 inches		
Pine needles		
Mixed stands of hardwoods and pines		
High fire hazard	20	
Dense stands of pines or other conifers		
Moderate to heavy dead and downed vegetation		
SLOPE OF PROPERTY		
Flat (0-5%)	0	
Moderate (6-20)	2	
Steep (over 20%)	4	
DEFENSIBLE SPACE (around the majority of homes)		
No trees, shrubs or tall grass within the 30 foot zone	0	
Well spaced trees and shrubs within the 30 foot zone	10	
Touching crowns or tall grass within the 30 foot zone	20	
DEFENSIBLE SPACE (around the majority of homes)		
No un-thinned or unmanaged timber within the 100 foot zone	0	
Un-thinned or unmanaged timber within the 100 foot zone	5	
TOTAL SITE HAZARD RATING		

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BUILDING CONSTRUCTION HAZARD RATING:	Rating	
ROOFING MATERIALS		
Greater than 75% of homes have metal, tile or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles	0	
50 to 75% of homes have metal, tile or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles	10	
Less than 50% of homes have metal, tile or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles	15	
SIDING / SOFFETS		
Greater than 75% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffets	0	
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 (if applicable)		
Greater than 75% of the homes have the equivalent of fine mesh screening underneath	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		

ADDITIONAL HAZARD FACTORS:	Rating	
FIRE CONTROL WATER SUPPLY		
Pressurized hydrants with minimum 500 GPM spaced less than 1000 feet apart	0	
Pressurized hydrants with less than 500 GPM or spaced more than 1000 feet 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 in or within 4 miles of the community	15	
ELECTRIC UTILITIES		
Underground clearly marked	0	
Underground not clearly marked	2	
Overhead with adequate (at least 20 foot) right of way	2	
Overhead with right of way un-maintained	5	
GAS UTILITIES		
Underground clearly marked	0	
Underground not clearly marked	1	
Above ground with 15 feet of brush clearance, greater than 30 feet from the homes	2	
Above ground no brush clearance or within 30 feet of homes	5	
SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
Community is not surrounded by any large forested areas.	0	
Large forested area adjoins one side of the community.	5	
Large forested area adjoins 2 sides of the community.	10	
Large forested area adjoins 3 sides of the community.	15	
Community is completely surrounded by large forested areas.	20	
UNDEVELOPED LOTS		
Less than 10% of lots have not been developed and pose an additional wildfire hazard due to lack of maintenance or restricted access.	0	
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	

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RISK LOCATION		
Community is located within the following designated Wildfire Risk Areas according to the VA Dept of Forestry's Risk Analysis.		
Low	0	
Medium	10	
High	20	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL HAZARD FACTORS		

What does the Wildfire Hazard Rating number mean?

Using the Wildfire Hazard Assessment, the highest possible rating is 206 points. Woodland communities can be divided into the following four/three risk categories:

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. Keep up the good work!

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. Check the areas on the form in which you scored poorly.

High Risk: Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 130 points

The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are NOT GOOD. Improvements are necessary. Some improvements in structure and site are necessary.

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. If you don't, you may be facing disaster. You'll find that even small changes could make the difference between losing or saving your home.

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 and 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 a more complete evaluation of your property, contact your local Department of Forestry office.