

10.4. Community at Risk: Clackamas Fire District #1

Clackamas Fire District #1 (CFD#1) has been identified as a Community at Risk (CAR) by Oregon Department of Forestry. The District has participated in the Clackamas County CWPP planning process to evaluate capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to potential wildfire events.

Clackamas Fire District #1 Description

Clackamas Fire District #1 (CFD#1) is one of the largest fire protection districts in Oregon, proudly serving over 179,000 citizens in an area covering nearly 200 square miles. The District provides fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to the cities of Milwaukie, Oregon City, Happy Valley, and Johnson City, and the unincorporated areas of Oak Lodge, Clackamas, Sunnyside, Redland, Carver, Beaver Creek, Highland and Clarkes.

CFD#1 has 17 fire stations strategically located throughout Clackamas County with a workforce of more than 200 employees & 70 volunteers and is the second largest fire protection district in Oregon, serving over 179,000 citizens in an area covering nearly 200 square miles. CFD#1 firefighters/paramedics respond to over 16,500 incidents annually throughout the fire district. Clackamas Fire District #1 is an internationally accredited agency meeting the highest standards in emergency service delivery.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Many areas covered by CCFD#1 excellent examples of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). They are characterized by suburban communities and rural residential homes surrounded by heavy fuels and steep slopes. In addition, many of the neighborhoods here have only one way in and one way out with narrow, steep driveways and poor water supply.

The more rural wildland urban interface areas exist in the Fire District's southeast protection service areas. These rural interface areas are best defined as a mixed interface in which small to medium sized neighborhoods have been built on lands formerly used for a variety of farm use applications.

In the more urban areas, heavy and continuous fuels dominate many of the parks and natural areas surrounding the communities, so fires that begin on public land or on smaller private residential lots can quickly threaten the communities and natural resources that thrive in the cities of Clackamas, Milwaukie, Oak Lodge, Happy Valley and Oregon City. In addition, response times from rural fire stations could be delayed, which underscores the need for community preparedness in the wildland urban interface.

Clackamas Fire District Wildfire Hazards

The Clackamas County CWPP wildfire hazard assessment assisted Clackamas Fire in identifying areas that may be at higher risk to potential wildfires. Map #10 illustrates the overall wildfire hazard risk in the Clackamas Fire District and will be used to help target areas for wildfire prevention activities.

Structural Ignitability

CFD#1 promotes the creation of defensible space, use of fire-resistant roofing and building materials, and community preparedness in the WUI. CFD#1 works well with the Cities of Milwaukie, Oregon City, Happy Valley, and Johnson City and Clackamas County to integrate these concepts at the regulatory level by participating in land use reviews for new development to provide input on access and water supply.

The area served by CCFD#1 has a great deal of development in urban areas, making it difficult to make specific recommendations and make site visits to confirm compliance with the guidelines set forth in the ZDO. This need to build capacity for rural development is included in the CFD#1 Action Plan.

Emergency Response

A major wildland urban interface fire in CFD#1 may exceed the immediate resources and capabilities of the District. For this reason, CFD#1 has mutual aid agreements in place to allow for the sharing of resources across the county in the event of a large scale disaster including wildfires.

In the event of a large wildland fire, evacuations may be necessary. The rural residential areas present some challenges for evacuations due to access constraints including long, narrow and steep driveways with poor addressing. CCFD#1 has been working with ODF to improve address signage in vulnerable areas, and will continue to work with the Clackamas County Fire Co-op to implement address signage in the Communities at Risk. Many of the identified communities at risk have only one point of egress, making it difficult to manage incoming and outgoing traffic during an emergency.

CFD#1 follows DEQ burning policies for backyard burning. The majority of the cities covered by CFD#1 are within the DEQ burn ban area, which does not allow backyard burning at any time of the year. In the more rural areas that allow burning, CFD#1 tries to be consistent with debris burning policies set forth by the Fire Defense Board during fire season.

Clackamas Fire employs over 200 career and 70 volunteer firefighters who receive regular wildland fire training to remain current on qualifications. Although the District is able to support classroom training, lack of live-fire experience makes it difficult to maintain wildland qualifications. New staff members have little to no live-fire experience have difficulty completing task books without being deployed. For this reason, CCFD#1 has been working with NAFT to identify opportunities for prescribed burns in Clackamas County that would benefit native ecosystems while providing live-fire experience to CFD#1 staff.

Community Outreach & Education

Clackamas County Fire District #1's Fire Prevention Division's mission is to protect and preserve life and property through education, engineering, and enforcement which requires proactive community interaction. Education opportunities include; school programs, public presentations, media events, and safety fairs. Engineering activities include; pre-construction plans review, fire protection system review, consumer product data collection, and fire code development. Enforcement activities include; commercial fire code inspections, open burning regulation enforcement, fire cause determination and arson investigation, and juvenile fire setter counseling and follow-up.

CCFD#1 is also a member of the Clackamas County Fire Prevention Cooperative which is a consortium of structural and wildland fire protection professionals that work together to deliver programs such as team teaching in the grade school fire safety programs, safety fairs with car seat inspections, community and school programs, and fire safety house displays.

In addition, Clackamas Fire worked with Clackamas County (North Clackamas Parks and recreation District) to hold a community meeting in conjunction with the Clackamas County Parks Wildfire Management and Implementation Plan on February 7th, 2012. More information can be found in the *Clackamas County Parks Wildfire Management Plan*.

Local Communities at Risk (Strategic Planning Areas)

Clackamas Fire also recognizes that there are smaller-scale Communities at Risk that have unique wildfire hazards to be addressed at the more local scale. These areas were referred to as Strategic Planning Areas in the 2005 iteration of the CWPP, but will now be referenced as local Communities at Risk to be consistent with state and federal language. Communities that have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to wildfires are illustrated in Map #18 and listed in Table 10.4-1. Clackamas Fire professionals considered the following factors to determine the local CARs including:

- Need for defensible space
- Access limitations (narrow driveways, lack of address signage, one way in/one way out)
- Steep slopes that can hinder access and accelerate the spread of wildfire
- Lack of water available for wildland fire fighting
- Heavy fuels on adjacent public lands
- Potential ignition sources from recreationists and transients
- Agricultural and backyard burning
- Lack of community outreach programs to promote wildfire awareness
- Communications difficulties

Fuels Reduction

The Bureau of Land Management, private industrial landowners and small woodland owners have many heavily forested landholdings that are adjacent to homes in the WUI. As CFD#1 targets the residential communities for creating defensible space, there is an opportunity to engage private, state and federal partners in reducing fuels on this adjacent public land.

To ensure that landscape-level treatments are paired with projects to create defensible space around vulnerable communities, priority fuels reduction projects have been overlaid with the Communities at Risk Identified by Clackamas Fire (Map #18). Fuels Reduction Priorities include:

Billy Goat Island	Ella V. Osterman
Happy Valley nature Trail	Highland Summit
Mt Talbert	Three Creeks
Willamette Narrows	Mtn. View Cemetery
Singer Creek Park	Atkinson Park
Waterboard Park	Canemah Bluff
Clear Creek	Newell Invasives
Scouter Mountain	Mciver Park
Lower Highland & Ridge	East Highland
Spring Park	Forest Creek

Clackamas Fire District Action Plan

Clackamas Fire has developed a list of actions to build capacity at the Department scale and has identified actions that can help to make the local CARs more resilient to potential wildfires. The action plan for Clackamas Fire and the local CARs therein is provided in Table 10-4.2.

Table 10.4-1. Clackamas Fire District #1 Local Communities at Risk

Community At Risk	CAR Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Forest Lands	Private Forest Lands	Recreators/ Transients	Protection Capabilities	Burning	Preparedness	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description
Clackamas Fire District #1 Communities at Risk													
Forest Park/ Leisure Woods	High	X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	This community is a high priority for CCFD#1 because it has only one way in one way out, it is surrounded by managed timberlands (Port Blakely and BLM), there is poor access into the forested areas and it is heavily used by bicycles in the summer. Access for response is extremely limited. Burning on residential and forested lands is an issue. There is a strong need for community awareness and preparedness as many homes have cedar shake roofs. There is very poor cell coverage, limited water, and delayed response times.
Diane Drive Shelly Road	High	X		X		X		X	X		X	X	There are large homes adjacent to commercial timber operation in this community. Active timber management can provide ignition sources. Some of the homes have defensible space, and most of construction is good with fire resistive roofing. However, it is steep, and there are many slash piles surrounding the community, so embers encroaching would be an issue. There is no water here and the closest station is volunteer, so response times would be delayed.
Redland Road/Fishers Mill area/Logan	High	X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	Logan Road is characterized by many logging operations that include burning of material. CCFD#1 has had many responses to fire ignitions here. Access is very poor access off of Eden. Water is limited to draft sites.
Clarkes/Beavercreek	High	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	There is a long history of larger and many wildfire ignitions in the Clarkes/Beavercreek area. The area now is densely populated with homes, but only about half have hydrants (towards Oregon City). Response times would be longer to this area and communications may be an issue. The community is also adjacent to Port Blakely forests that have heavy fuels loading.
Beaver lake	High	X	X			X		X				X	Beaver Lake is a gated community adjacent to Port Blakely forest land. The rear access is not accessible, so it is one way in and out. The community has heavy timber surrounding it and is on the top of a steep slope. CCFD#1 is in contact with the Port Blakely forester in case need to use their roads or need a key to unlock forest road gates.
Canemah Bluffs	High	X	X		X		X			X		X	Canemah Bluffs is very steep and has homes at the bottom and at the top of the slope. The homes at the bottom are surrounded by fine, flashy fuels. Access is limited here to one way in and out. A fuels reduction/oak restoration was implemented here.
Scouters Mountain	High	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	Scouters Mountain has a series of natural areas adjacent to homes and infrastructure. This has been identified in the Clackamas Parks Wildfire Management Plan as a priority for fuels reduction.
Mount Talbert	High	X	X	X	X		X			X		X	Mount Talbert Nature Park is a 242-acre property, co-owned by North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District and Portland Metro. The site is located east of I-205 and south of Sunnyside Road. The park has urban development at its edges on three sides. Surrounding properties are mostly medium density residential, with higher density residential and commercial uses to the north. It has steep slopes and has transient camps.
Holcomb	Medium	X				X			X				The primary issue with the Holcomb area is that there is a history of juvenile fire setters here. This ignition source coupled with steep slopes, heavy vegetation and lighter fuels in the open spaces could result in a rapidly spreading wildland fire.
3 Creeks	Medium	X	X	X	X		X			X			Three Creeks is a Clackamas County Park area that has heavy fuels adjacent to homes and infrastructure. This is a priority for fuels reduction and has been identified in the Clackamas County Parks Wildfire Management Plan.

Table 10.4-2. Clackamas Fire District # 1 Action Plan

Action Item	Timeframe	Partners	CAR
Clackamas Fire District #1 Action Plan			
Identify and pursue opportunities to participate in prescribed burns and live fire training to update and maintain wildfire certifications.	Ongoing	Metro, City of Wilsonville, City of West Linn, Clean Water Services, ODF	CCFD#1
Continue to foster partnerships with natural resources managers to assess and implement potential fuels reduction projects in natural areas adjacent to Communities at Risk.	Ongoing	Metro, City of Wilsonville, City of West Linn, Clean Water Services, ODF	CCFD#1
Partner with the Clackamas County Fire Defense Board to participate in a WUI conflagration exercise.	2 Years	Clackamas Fire Defense Board	CCFD#1
Build capacity to increase participation in land use reviews of residential structures in the Timber/Agriculture Zone.	Long-Term	Clackamas DTD	CCFD#1
Use this CWPP to update the 2001 Clackamas County Fire District #1 Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Plan	2 Years	ODF	CCFD#1
Clackamas Fire District #1 Local Communities at Risk Action Plan			
Conduct a Community Meeting to educate community on defensible space, and measures that can be taken to reduce structural ignitability. Consider creating Firewise/USA Communities here.	2 years	ODF	Forest Park/ Leisure Woods, Diane Drive Shelly Road
Partner with the Fire Co-op to create and distribute outreach materials that promote responsible burning, defensible space and reduction of structural ignitability within the Home Ignition Zone.	2 Years	Fire Co-op	All CAR's
Promote legal, safe and responsible debris burning through public outreach and education.	Short-Term	ODF, DEQ, Fire Co-op	All CAR's
Reduce hazardous fuels in the ROW of potential evacuation routes. Engage residents adjacent to primary evacuations routes to extend treatments onto private land.	Ongoing	ODOT, Clackamas County Roads	All CAR's
Obtain structural ignitability data by conducting structural triage assessment data collection (including GPS points) for homes in Communities at Risk.	Ongoing	ODF	All CAR's
Develop a community-driven pre-disaster plan including evacuation routes, telephone call down trees, and other strategies for strengthening community response.	Ongoing	Clackamas County Emergency Management	All CAR's
Implement road addressing (including length of driveways) and other signage for emergency response.	Ongoing	ODF, Clackamas County Fire Co-op	All CAR's
Seek grant funding to support fuels reduction and creation of defensible space around homes.	Ongoing	ODF, Clackamas County Fire Co-op	All CAR's
Work with Clackamas County to reduce hazardous fuels in parks and forested areas adjacent to CAR's.	Ongoing	Clackamas County North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District	Scouters Mountain, Mount Talbert
Conduct Community Clean Up Days to reduce hazardous fuels. Identify opportunities to recycle or compost vegetative material instead of burning.	Ongoing	ODF, Metro	All CAR's

Clackamas Fire District

Map #18

