

Blue Mountain

Warren County, Virginia



Community Wildfire Risk Assessment

Total Assessed Rating

149 - High

Suppression Rating

High Hazard

Surrounding Environment Rating

High Hazard

Structures Rating

High Hazard

Fire Protection District

Linden Volunteer Fire Department (Warren County Fire & Rescue)

Community Information

Latitude	38° 57' 28"
Longitude	-78° 2' 2"
Dwelling Units	350
Size	831.24 acres
Residential Type	Fixed

Assessed By: Chad Stover

Assessment Date: 08-16-2022



SUPPRESSION ASSESSMENT

Ingress and Egress

- **2 or more roads in and out**
One road in and out (entrance and exit are the same)

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Keep community ingress/egress open and maintained (cleared of vegetation)
- Develop community plan for evacuation routes, safe zones, staging areas
- If community is gated, develop evacuation plan and ensure emergency responder access
- Ensure residents know their closest exit in case of emergency

Road Width

- Road width is > 24 feet
- Road width is > 20 feet and < 24 feet

- **Road width is < 20 feet**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Keep shoulders of road clear for emergency vehicle use whenever possible
- Consider providing pull-offs every 100 yards for emergency vehicle use
- Coordinate with fire department to ensure they are aware of road width limitations
- Be aware that road width could limit emergency vehicles to brush trucks only

Road Accessibility

- Surfaced road
- **Non-surfaced road, grade less than or equal to 5%**
Non-surfaced road, grade greater than 5%
- Non-maintained dirt road

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Consider road improvements to reduce the risk driving in extreme grades, tight corners, and road intersections
- Coordinate with fire department to test access with emergency response vehicles

Secondary Road Terminus

Road ends in a cul-de-sac, diameter > 100 feet

Road ends in a cul-de-sac, diameter < 100 feet

→ **Dead end road <200 feet long**

Dead end road >200 feet long

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Ensure emergency responder are aware of dead-end roads

Street Signs

→ **Present, lettering 4 inches high, non-flammable and reflective**

Present but wooden, non-reflective, or lettering less than 4"

Not present

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Keep street signs visible and clear of vegetation and fine fuels

Driveways

→ **Average driveway allows access to homes**

Average driveway restricts access to homes

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Maintain driveway access and clearance

Water Supply

Has pressurized hydrants

Dry Hydrant(s) / Draft available within the community

Other accessible sources within community (pond, lake, etc.)

→ **Water sources located within 4 miles of community (incl heli dip sites)**

No water sources in or within 4 miles of the community

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Be aware of your limited access to a water source and coordinate with the closest Fire Department accordingly

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Hazardous Features

→ **No notable hazardous features present to hinder fire suppression**

Fire suppression hindered by hazardous features

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

N/A

Local Response Resources

5 miles or less from fire department

→ **More than 5 miles from fire department**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Establish and maintain contact with the closest Fire Department
- Be aware of the importance of early detection and reporting of any emergency

Homeowners Association

→ **HOA has organizational structure for sustained fire prevention and mitigation**

HOA lacks organizational structure for sustained fire prevention and mitigation

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Host a Community Education Event at least once a year
- Complete a Community Risk Mitigation Project

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT

Predominant Vegetation

- Light
- **Medium**
- Heavy
- Extreme / Slash

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Consider removal of ladder fuels that allow fire to climb from lower to higher vegetation
- Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 10' from structures and other trees
- Leave 30 feet between clusters of two to three trees, or 20 feet between individual trees
- Prune trees 6'10 feet from the ground

Defensible Space

- > 100 ft. of vegetation treatment from structure(s)
- 71 to 100 ft. of vegetation treatment from structure(s)
- 30 to 70 ft. of vegetation treatment from structure(s)
- **< 30 ft. of vegetation treatment from structure(s)**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Be aware of the risks from falling embers in relation to nearby fuels and defensible space
- Mow lawns regularly
- Water grass, plants, trees and mulch regularly
- Create a spacing of 30 feet between tree crowns
- Create a 'fire-free' area within 5 feet of your home, using non-flammable landscaping materials
- Remove dead vegetation from under the deck and within 10 feet of the house
- Consider xeriscaping (landscape (an area) in a style which requires little or no irrigation) if you are affected by water restrictions
- Plant a mixture of deciduous trees (e.g. oak and maple) and coniferous trees (e.g. pine)
- Create fuel breaks like driveways and gravel walkways
- Remove smaller conifers that are growing between taller trees
- Remove heavy accumulations of woody debris
- Reduce the density of tall trees so canopies do not touch

Structure-to-Structure Ignition

- **No Possible Structure to Structure Ignition**
- Possible Structure to Structure Ignition

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- N/A

Slope

Slope 0% - 5%

→ **Slope 6% - 10%**

Slope 11% - 30%

Slope > 30%

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Increase defensible space in areas with steeper slopes

Area with History of High Fire Occurrence

→ **No recent History of High Fire Occurrence**

Area with History of High Fire Occurrence

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- N/A

Topographical Features

→ **No topographical features that adversely affect wildland fire behavior**

Topographical features that adversely affect wildland fire behavior

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- N/A

Adjacency to Wildlands

Not adjacent to wildlands with accumulated fuels and no program for fuel management

→ **Adjacent to wildlands with accumulated fuels and no program for fuel management**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- When possible, install firebreaks and reduce fuel loads around community boundary to reduce risk from adjacent wildlands

Severe Wind Exposure

→ **Not in an area with regular exposure to severe winds**

Regularly exposed to severe winds that adversely affect fire behavior

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- N/A

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Undeveloped Lots with Restricted Access and/or Not Maintained

Fewer than 10% of lots are undeveloped

→ **10% to 50% of lots are undeveloped**

51% to 75% of lots are undeveloped

Greater than 75% of lots are undeveloped

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Provide FIREWISE construction guidelines to developers / owners
- Consider developing covenant restrictions, if applicable

STRUCTURES ASSESSMENT

Roofing Materials

- **> 75% of homes have metal, tile or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles**
50 to 75% of homes have metal, tile or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles
< 50% of homes have metal, tile or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Use fire-resistant roofing material such as metal, tile or Class A shingles
- Inspect for and address gaps in roofing that can expose roof decking or supports
- Place angle flashing over openings between the roof decking and fascia board

Debris on Roof

- **No**
Yes

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Clear branch, leaf-litter and other debris from roof regularly
- Prune tree limbs away from roof

Ventilation and Soffits

- > 75% of homes have non-combustible ventilation soffits with mesh or screening
50-74% of homes have non-combustible ventilation soffits with mesh or screening
→ **< 50% of homes have non-combustible ventilation soffits with mesh or screening**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Clean vents to keep them free of debris, allowing them to keep embers out while allowing air flow for ventilation
- Enclose or box-in eaves with non-combustible materials such as metal, cement board or stucco
- Install a 1/8 inch metal screen behind roof vents

Siding

- > 75% of homes have non-combustible siding
50-74% of homes have non-combustible siding
→ **< 50% of homes have non-combustible siding**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Keep landscaping materials and vegetation away from combustible siding
- Increase defensible space from combustible siding
- Replace with noncombustible siding when possible

Underskirting

> 75% of homes have skirting underneath raised floors/decks

50-74% of homes have skirting underneath

→ **< 50% of homes have skirting underneath**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Remove combustible vegetation and leaf litter
- Spread gravel or other non-combustible material under the deck
- Screen in the bottom of the deck with metal 1/8-inch screening
- Separate wooden fences from the house with a stone or metal barrier

Wooden Attachments

> 75% of homes have NO Wooden Attachments

→ **50-74% of homes have NO Wooden Attachments**

< 50% of homes have NO Wooden Attachments

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Maintain debris-free decks (e.g. remove ignitable furniture, planters and covering propane grills, especially during high fire danger periods)
- Consider disconnecting fences from structures, or replacing materials directly attached to structures with fire resistant materials
- Be aware that wooden attachments can act as a fuse to the structure

Gutters

→ **Noncombustible**

Combustible with leaf litter present

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Keep gutters clear of fine fuels and debris

Building Setback

Not applicable

→ **Greater than or equal to 30 feet from slope**

Less than 30 feet from slope

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Review suggested defensible space and vegetation management as pertains to building setback

Windows

Not known

→ **Multi-paned**

Single-paned

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Use metal framing or aluminum coverings for wood or vinyl
- Use a fiberglass or metal screen
- Use drapes and shutters that are fire resistant to help reduce the likelihood of fire spread

Gas Utilities

→ **Underground/clearly marked or Not applicable**

Above ground/clearly marked with a 30 foot cleared perimeter

Underground/not marked

Above ground/not marked

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Keep vegetation pruned to a minimal level near gas utilities
- When possible, place propane tanks 20' away from home and structures

Electric Utilities

Underground/clearly marked

→ **Overhead with a 20 foot wide maintained right of way**

Underground/not marked

Overhead with right of way not maintained

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- Keep vegetation pruned and mowed around electric cabinets
- Place non-flammable mulch (rock, stone) around base of electrical cabinets
- Plant less flammable bushes and shrubs around electrical cabinets

COMMENTS