Plan completion and implementation

Presented to
The Brookhaven National Laboratory
Community Advisory Council
April 13, 2017

By Judy Jakobsen
Central Pine Barrens
Joint Planning & Policy Commission
What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?
- a mechanism for communities to address wildfire risk by developing a plan with recommendations and strategies on how to mitigate this risk.

Healthy Forests Restoration Act 2003
- incentive for communities to engage in comprehensive forest planning and prioritization of hazardous fuel reduction projects on public lands.
- to give consideration to the priorities of local communities as they develop and implement forest management and hazardous fuel reduction projects.
Healthy Forests Restoration Act CWPP Requirements

1) **Collaboration:** A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.

2) **Prioritized Fuel Reduction:** A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.

3) **Treatment of Structural Ignitability:** A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.
CWPP Team Members

- Brookhaven National Laboratory Environmental Protection Division
- Brookhaven National Laboratory- Laboratory Protection Division.
- Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission
- Manorville Fire Department
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Forest Protection
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 1 Division of Natural Resources
- New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation - Long Island Region
- Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact
- Ridge Fire Department
- Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
- Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
- SWCA Environmental Consultants
- Town of Brookhaven Division of Planning, Environment and Land Management
- Town of Brookhaven Fire Marshal's Office
- Town of Riverhead
Held 3 Core Team Member meetings at key document preparation points
Held 2 public information meetings to obtain input on local community concerns on wildfire risk
• BNL CAC - December 10, 2015
• Resident meeting at Ridge Fire Department – April 21, 2016
RMCCWPP Facebook page – over 350 likes
Community survey – 101 responses (online & direct mail)
Press releases – promote CWPP, announce public meetings, project status
Updates and presentations made at Central Pine Barrens Commission meetings by staff and SWCA Environmental Consultants
Wildfire Risk Assessment

GIS risk assessment based on fuels (vegetation), weather, topography, and historic fire occurrence

Community assessment tour of area with fire personal & other agency representative to identify potential hazards at the neighborhood level (i.e. insufficient defensible space, no public water, emergency vehicle access, etc.)

Community Values at Risk (natural, social and cultural resources)
Recommended projects to mitigate wildfire risk

Fuel Reduction Projects:

- Defensible Space Assessments and demonstration sites
- Create new or maintain existing fuel breaks
- Protect power lines and communication lines
- Continue fuel treatments in cooperation with public lands
- Restoration of fire adapted ecosystems
Reduce Structural Ignitability:

- Fire Protection Workshops
- Individual home-hazard assessments
- Continue to pursue strengthening of WUI building codes for new development
- Create a Firewise Landscaping Plant list
- Community clean up day
- Combat dumping of green waste on adjacent lands
Recommended projects to mitigate wildfire risk

Public Education and Outreach:

- Fire Department open houses
- Increased signage to document fire danger
- Homeowner Guide
- Family emergency planning
- Pet and livestock pre-planning
- Firewise community program
Available on the Central Pine Barrens Commission’s website [www.pb.state.ny.us](http://www.pb.state.ny.us)
For a hardcopy call the Commission office at 631-288-1079

RMCCWPP signed June 23, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The entities listed below participated in the development of and/or have reviewed and are in support of the Ridge-Manorville-Calverton Community Wildlife Protection Plan:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning &amp; Policy Commission</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Commission members include:</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYS Governor’s Representative - Carrie Meek Gallagher, Chairwoman &amp; NYSDEC Region 1 Regional Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suffolk County – Steven Bello, County Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town of Brookhaven – Edward P. Romaine, Town Supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town of Riverhead – Sean M. Walter, Town Supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town of Southampton – Jay H. Schneiderman, Town Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chairwoman</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrie M. Gallagher</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NYS Department of Environmental Conservation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Director, NYSDEC Region 1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David G. Osberg</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NYS Department of Environmental Conservation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Division of Fire Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Siracusa, NYSDEC Forest Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NYS Department of Parks, Recreation &amp; Historic Preservation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Director, Long Island Region</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Louis Panza</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Berkshires National Laboratory</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Director, Environmental Safety &amp; Health</td>
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<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Mixon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ridge Fire District</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth W. May</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Manorville Fire District</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael R. Proctor</td>
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Implementation projects

- Purchase Smokey Bear Fire Danger sign
- Public information brochure to link fire danger rating on roadside signs to actions the public should take
- Individual wildfire prevention home assessments.

Thanks to USFS grant funding provided by the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact and the NYS DEC Division of Forest Protection
Implementation projects

UNDERSTANDING FIRE DANGER AND WILDFIRE POTENTIAL

CENTRAL PINE BARRENS JOINT PLANNING & POLICY COMMISSION
# Understanding Fire Danger Ratings and Wildfire Potential

The fire danger rating helps fire managers determine the potential for fire behavior in an area (called a "fire danger zone"). These areas are typically 50,000 to 100,000 acres, like the Central Pine Barrens area on Long Island. Fire danger predictions are only relative indicators of fire behavior – an actual fire will be affected by local conditions the model cannot predict. In Suffolk County, fires are almost always caused by careless or intentional actions of people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Danger Rating</th>
<th>What should you do?</th>
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</table>
| **Low**            | *Prepare a family communications plan, your family may not be all together when disaster strikes. Include an out-of-town contact family members can check in with and tell they are safe.*  
|                     | *Post emergency phone numbers by your landline phone and put into your cell phone. Have an emergency contact identified in your cell phone by putting ICE (in case of emergency) next to their name in your contacts.*  
|                     | *Prepare evacuation checklist and evacuation plan, including any pets and livestock. Practice this plan with your family.*  
|                     | *Put together an emergency bag with personal items, food and other key items for your family members and pets.*  
|                     | *Take photos or video of the contents of your home and structures to document for insurance purposes.*  
|                     | **Be Firewise—Think like an ember! Keep your property lean, clean & green! Here are a few tips!**  
|                     | *Keep your lawn and garden well watered and green.*  
|                     | *Remove tree branches overhanging roofs & decks.*  
|                     | *Clear out and remove all trash, debris and combustible materials from under decks, porches or foundation.*  
|                     | *Store propane tanks and firewood 30 feet from the house.*  
|                     | *Rake up and remove leaves and debris from property, roof and gutters.*  
|                     | *Use stone products as mulch immediately next to your house instead of wood mulch products.*  
|                     | *Limbs trees and use fire-resistant landscaping.*  
|                     | *Screen any vents on your home with 1/8 inch metal mesh to prevent ember entry.*  
| **Moderate**        | *Dispose of cigarettes in containers and not on the ground.*  
|                     | *Avoid parking over dried grass; hot vehicle catalytic converters can ignite dried-out grass.*  
|                     | *Use spark arresters on gas-powered equipment.*  
| **High**            | *Listen to local television news or tune into the local radio station for instructions.*  
|                     | *Have your emergency “Go bag” & evacuation checklist ready.*  
|                     | *Know where you will evacuate to: a hotel, a home outside of the area, or a shelter. Know, if necessary, they can take pets?*  
|                     | *Back your car into the garage facing the direction of escape; leave the key in the ignition and doors and windows unlocked; disconnect automatic garage openers in case of a power failure.*  
|                     | *Confine your pets to one room in your house; have cages and leashes ready in case of evacuation.*  
|                     | *Have a ladder available and garden hose connected to the outside faucet.*  
|                     | *Evacuate when told by emergency responder. Go! Don’t wait and put you and your family at risk and potentially be in the way of incoming fire response.*  
|                     | *Close windows and doors.*  
|                     | *Turn off gas or propane supply at the meter or tank. Turn off pilot lights inside the house.*  

| **Very High**       | *Prepare a family communications plan, your family may not be all together when disaster strikes. Include an out-of-town contact family members can check in with and tell they are safe.*  
|                     | *Post emergency phone numbers by your landline phone and put into your cell phone. Have an emergency contact identified in your cell phone by putting ICE (in case of emergency) next to their name in your contacts.*  
|                     | *Prepare evacuation checklist and evacuation plan, including any pets and livestock. Practice this plan with your family.*  
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|                     | *Use stone products as mulch immediately next to your house instead of wood mulch products.*  
|                     | *Limbs trees and use fire-resistant landscaping.*  
|                     | *Screen any vents on your home with 1/8 inch metal mesh to prevent ember entry.*  
| **Extreme**         | *Dispose of cigarettes in containers and not on the ground.*  
|                     | *Avoid parking over dried grass; hot vehicle catalytic converters can ignite dried-out grass.*  
|                     | *Use spark arresters on gas-powered equipment.*  

### General Tips

- Identify probable escape routes in case of fire.
- Have an emergency kit ready, including a list of important contacts.
- Keep a safe distance when driving through a fire area.
- Use water or fire extinguisher to put out small fires.

### If a wildfire occurs

- Follow local authorities’ instructions.
- Keep pets in mind when evacuating.
- Have emergency supplies ready.
- Stay informed by listening to local news or using a radio.

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To learn more visit:

- Ready Set Go at [www.ready.gov/wildfires](http://www.ready.gov/wildfires)
- American Red Cross at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- SC Fire Rescue & Emergency Services at [www.suffolkcountyny.gov](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission at [www.pb.state.ny.us](http://www.pb.state.ny.us)
- or call 631-288-1079
Implementation projects
Wildfire Prevention Home Assessments

FREE - PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY

16 homeowners signed up

Direct mail
Facebook

Funding available for implementation

FREE WILDFIRE PREVENTION HOME ASSESSMENTS
for homeowners in the Ridge-Manorville-Colverton Community Wildfire Protection Plan Area

LEARN HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME AND FAMILY FROM WILDFIRES

Limited Time Only!

Sign up now for a free wildfire prevention home assessment and learn what you can do to protect your family and home from wildfire. A specialist will visit your home to identify areas vulnerable to wildfire damage and will give you a customized report that identifies what you can do to reduce your wildfire vulnerability. For a limited time only funding is available to help homeowners implement wildfire mitigation measures, so please don't delay!

(This is a voluntary program to benefit homeowners living in areas prone to wildfire. Participants are under no obligation to implement suggestions offered by the specialist who assesses your home.)

Act now to schedule a visit by contacting Judy Jakobsen at 631-563-0306 or by email at jjakobsen@pb.state.ny.us

Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission
624 Old Riverhead Road
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978
Phone: 631-288-1079
Fax: 631-288-1367
Firewise Concepts:

What the homeowner can do to protect their own home.

Think like an ember

Implementation projects
Wildfire Prevention Home Assessments

1. Home Ignition Zone
2. Lean, Clean & Green Landscaping
3. Fire-resistant roof construction
4. Fire-resistant attachments
5. Fire-resistant construction
6. A disaster plan
7. Emergency access
## Overview of Surroundings and Site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How is the structure positioned in relationship to severe fire behavior? (e.g. slope, proximity to vegetated public lands)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of construction. When was home built?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Describe the surrounding fuel type and density.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is home on private well or public water?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance to nearest fire hydrant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance to nearest fire station.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is there a house number present?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location (e.g. house, mailbox, curb) Size of letters?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Access for emergency vehicles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Does driveway serve more than one home?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Are there nearby structures?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• What is the proximity to neighboring structures?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Location of utilities (overhead or underground)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Evaluate Chimney to Eaves: *(Possible entry points for embers)*

- Condition of chimney, is there a chimney cap?
- Condition of roofing, age, any shingles missing?
- Any vents present? Are they screened with 1/8” wire mesh?

- Identify whether gutters are present and if they are combustible or not (material composition i.e., vinyl, metal)

- Is there litter/debris on the roof and in gutters and crevices?
- Note whether there are any trees overhanging or touching the roof.

- Identify whether skylights are present and composition, whether they are dome shaped acrylic or flat tempered glass.
- Is there litter/debris present?
## 2. Eaves to Foundation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Note condition of eaves, attic vents, fascias, soffits, and whether any vents are enclosed or covered with 1/8” wire mesh?</th>
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<tr>
<th>Note siding materials and whether they are combustible or not (i.e., wood shingle, vinyl, cedar shake, stucco, etc.), condition and whether there are any gaps.</th>
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</table>

| Are windows single or double-paned tempered glass, multi-paned window? |
| Condition of windows? Any broken windows? |
| Identify frame material composition (i.e., wood, metal or vinyl) |
| Is there a picture window, note if it facing vegetation. |
| (Discuss vegetation present under next section) |
| Are there screens present? Identify screen composition (i.e., nylon, fiberglass, metal, aluminum, other) |

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<tr>
<th>Note if there are any indoor pets present (i.e., cat, dog) and whether there are any pet doors?</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Are there outdoor water spigots present?</th>
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</table>

| Review attached structures such as porches, decks, fences, their composition and condition |
| Are they made of combustible or non-combustible materials? |

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<tr>
<th>Are there any combustible materials next to or under structures (i.e., debris, propane tanks, lawn furniture, wood piles, etc.)?</th>
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</thead>
</table>

| Review condition of garage including doors and windows if any. Note if it is detached or attached and if there are any gaps in the door. |
Firewise Landscaping: (Be Lean, Clean and Green!)

Home Ignition Zone 1: 0-5 feet around the perimeter of the home. The objective of this zone is to reduce the chance of wind-blown embers from nearby fire landing near the home, igniting combustible debris or materials and exposing the home to flames. This zone is closest to the house, so it requires the most careful selection and management of vegetation and other materials.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is there an outside water spigot present?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property management – Is there an accumulation of leaves/debris on or near home?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaped vegetation – review. Are there trees overhanging the house?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any vines on the house?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there firewood/fuel storage or a propane tank present?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Home Ignition Zone 2: 5 ft. – 30 ft. around the perimeter (or to the property line)
The objective of this zone is to create and maintain a landscape that if ignited, will not readily transmit fire to the home. Tree and shrubs in this zone should be well spaced groupings and well maintained. Ladder fuels (i.e., shorter vegetation or shrubs under taller trees) should be avoided to prevent the fire from climbing into the crown or upper portions of trees. If these groupings were to be ignited by wind-blown embers, the resulting fire should not be able to threaten the home by a radiant heat exposure of by flames being able to touch the exterior surfaces of your home. It also examines whether there are any structures or fencing present within 30 ft. of the home that could potentially help transmit fire toward the home.

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<th>Outside water spigot present?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Any structures present?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify if fencing present and type of material (wood, metal or vinyl).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicate whether or not there is a pool or pond present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there firewood/fuel storage or a propane tank present?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there any horses or other livestock present onsite?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property management – Is there an accumulation of leaves/debris on or near home?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaped vegetation - review separation distances, maintenance, and plant selection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural vegetation - density, Are ladder fuels present?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Home Ignition Zone 3: 30 to 100 ft from the home (or to property line) The objective of vegetation management in this zone is to reduce the energy and speed of the wildfire. Tree and brush spacing should force the fire in the tops of the tree, brush or shrub crowns to drop to the ground. Flame length should decrease. It also examines whether there are any structures, fencing or livestock in this area that may be a concern.
Report prepared for homeowner

Report contains information collected from site visit, photos, and aerials and provides recommendations to consider for implementation.

Example recommendations
- Keep yard raked up and free of leaves and debris
- Keep gutters leaf and debris free, consider installing gutter guards to reduce maintenance
- Place 1/8 wire mesh behind vents to prevent ember entry
- Move firewood at least 30 feet away from home during fire season
- Trim back trees that overhang the roof
- Limb up trees
Implementation is voluntary. The more a homeowner implements the greater the ability for their home to survive a wildfire.

Limited funding is available to assist homeowners to implement mitigation projects thanks to a USFS Grant received by the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact and the NYSDEC Forest Protection Division.
Seeking USFS Grant funding

**USDA Forest Service - Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Cohesive Fire Strategy**
- Perform additional wildfire prevention home assessments
- Homeowner wildfire prevention guide
- Wildfire Prevention Assessment Workshop to train civic and homeowners association representatives and fire department members

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Livestock evacuation plan
Public lands mitigation
Any questions?

Thank you.

Judy Jakobsen
jjakobsen@pb.state.ny.us
631-563-0306