

Pine Mtn Estates

Connelly Springs, Burke County, North Carolina



Community Wildfire Risk Assessment

Total Assessed Rating

99 - Moderate

Suppression Rating

Moderate Hazard

Surrounding Environment Rating

High Hazard

Structures Rating

Moderate Hazard

Fire Protection District

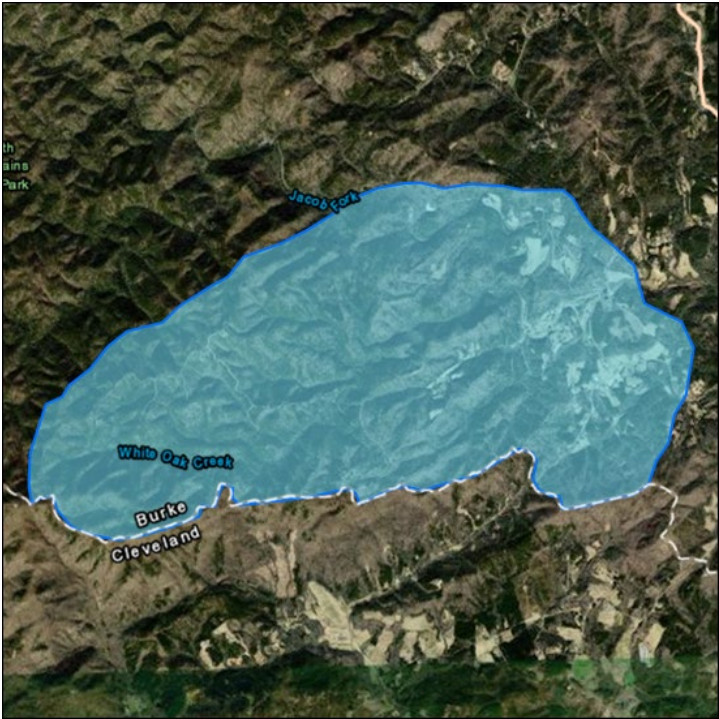
South Mountains Fire Rescue Inc.

Community Information

Latitude	35° 34' 46"
Longitude	-81° 36' 53"
Dwelling Units	101
Size	5,022.46 acres
Residential Type	Fixed

Assessed By: Wesley Sketo

Assessment Date: 12-15-2023



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

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

- ☐ Ensure that road maintenance plan is in place

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
- ☐ Consider upgrading to reflective, noncombustible street signs to improve emergency response efforts

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

☐ N/A

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 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

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

- ☐ Develop awareness about local fire occurrence history and include education of community residents in a wildfire prevention plan

Topographical Features

No topographical features that adversely affect wildland fire behavior

→ **Topographical features that adversely affect wildland fire behavior**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ Maintain situational awareness of fire danger in your area, as local topographical features can adversely affect wildland behavior

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

- ☐ N/A

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

- ☐ Maintain situational awareness of fire danger in your area, as local severe wind exposure can adversely affect wildland behavior



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