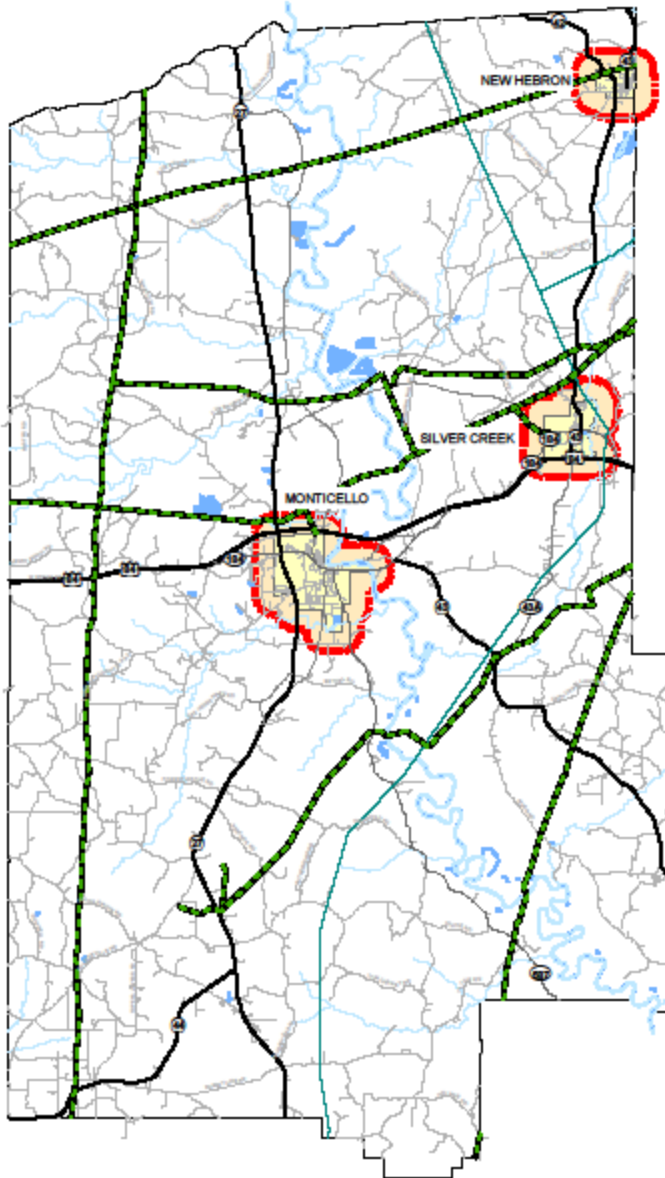


Lawrence County, Mississippi Wildfire Protection Plan



September, 2009

Prepared by the Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development
District with Funding Provided by the Mississippi Forestry Commission

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Introduction

The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) contracted with the Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts to prepare County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) for selected counties in Mississippi. MFC was mandated by the Mississippi Legislature in 1926 to protect the state's forestland. At that time wildfires were destroying more than 5 million acres of timberland each year. Since 1926, great progress has been made in wildfire prevention, detection, and suppression. However, wildfires are still a substantial threat to Mississippi forestlands. On average, there are about 5,000 wildfires a year in Mississippi burning over 60,000 acres (Source: Mississippi Forestry Commission). This plan is an effort to identify critical facilities and other man-made structures and assess the risk to these facilities and structures posed by wildfires. The capability of the county to respond to wildfire emergencies will also be assessed. And finally, mitigation measures will be proposed to reduce the vulnerability of the critical facilities and other man-made facilities to the wildfire risks.

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), where structures and other developments merge with undeveloped forestland, can create one of the most dangerous and complex situations for firefighters. The WUI zone can pose a significant risk to communities in the event of a large-scale wildfire. A CWPP can reduce the potential for loss in the event of a wildfire by identifying priorities for the protection of life, property and critical infrastructure within the WUI.

Historical wildfire occurrence information for the fiscal years 2002 – 2007 from the MFC, information from the county emergency manager, and data on the fire fighting capabilities of the county and the volunteer fire departments from the county fire coordinator was collected. These individuals formed the Steering Committee which helped compile the data presented in this plan.

The Plan includes several components: a County Risk Assessment, a fire cause analysis, a Mitigation Projects List, Structure Ignitability Recommendations, an Action Plan and Assessment Strategy and Geographic Information System produced maps. It is the intent of the Steering Committee that this plan will be utilized to guide development and educate landowners, as well as address and then treat at-risk wildfire areas within the county. This plan was developed with an effort toward consistency with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Area Description

Lawrence County is located along U.S. Highway 84 in southwestern Mississippi. The county seat of Monticello is located approximately 20 miles east of Brookhaven and 55 miles south of Jackson. The year 2000 population according to the U.S. Census Bureau was 13,258 and there were 5,688 housing units. Lawrence County has a total area of 436 square miles. This yields a population density of approximately 30 persons per square mile and a housing unit density of nearly 13 housing units per square mile.

Monticello, the county seat, is one of three incorporated municipalities in the county, Silver Creek and New Hebron are the other two. The total U.S. Census Bureau year 2000 population of persons living in town was 2,382, only 18 percent of the population. Other notable small, rural communities in the county are Wanilla, Sontag, Arm, and Topeka.

Geographically, Lawrence County is characterized by broad rolling uplands and somewhat wide, flat creek bottoms. The Pearl River splits the county from north to south. Fair River intersects the Pearl River in the county. Upland areas are comprised of low fertility sandy clay soils while the bottomlands have more fertile sandy loam soils. The uplands are particularly well-suited to growing timber while the bottomlands are often used for agricultural purposes if they are dry enough. Within Lawrence County, approximately 223,798 acres (over 80 percent) of the land area is forestland. Pine forest or mixed pine/hardwood forest make up around 42 percent of the forest (over 94,000 acres). This is a very important statistic since wildfires pose the highest risk in forestlands with a pine component.

The climate of Lawrence County is mild with mean annual temperatures in the upper 60's, ranging from an average low temperature of 34 degrees F. in January to an average high of 92 degrees F. in August. Rainfall averages 5.5 inches per month with the majority of the accumulation from December through March and the lowest monthly totals in October. County wind speeds are generally less than 10 miles per hour, but often increase during storms. Thunderstorms occur frequently and are sometimes accompanied by strong to severe winds, including tornadoes.

Because of relatively high annual precipitation amounts, Lawrence County is not usually prone to property-damaging wildfires. However, occasional drought-like conditions prompt fire service officials to issue bans against burning, and encroachment of urban development into rural forested areas becomes more of a concern.

Most of the wildfires that occur in Lawrence County are caused by incendiaries (intentionally set) or debris burning (a person typically tries to burn a pile of leaves or other debris in his yard and the fire escapes). Debris burning and incendiary causes

together account for 76 percent of the wildfires during the five year period covered by this plan.

Emergency Preparedness

Lawrence County is divided into nine rural fire response areas covering the unincorporated portions of the county. These districts/response areas are manned by volunteers who act as first responders to the fires within the county. All Fire Response Areas within the county are listed in the table below.

<u>Fire Response Area</u>	<u>Fire Department</u>	<u>Station Location(s)</u>
Oma	Oma VFD	1218 Monticello Rd. Monticello, MS 39654
North Pleasant Hill	N. Pleasant Hills VFD	372 N. Pleasant Hill Rd. New Hebron, MS 39140
New Hebron	New Hebron VFD	506 Main Ave. New Hebron, MS 39140
Silver Creek	Silver Creek VFD	55 Main Ave. Silver Creek, MS 39663
Sontag – Wanilla	Sontag VFD	40 Firehouse Rd Sontag, MS 39665
Sontag – Wanilla	Wanilla VFD	969 Smith Ferry Rd Monticello, MS 39654
Monticello	Monticello Fire Dept	809 Broad St Monticello, MS 39654
Topeka	Center VFD	278 E. Lawrence Rd Monticello, MS 39654
Topeka	Topeka VFD	20 Bismark Rd Jayess, MS 39641
Topeka	Tilton VFD	213 Givens Mullins Rd Jayess, MS 39641
Arm	Arm VFD	24 Arm Cemetery Rd Silver Creek, MS 39663

Oakvale

Oakvale VFD

368 Third St
Oakvale, MS 39656

Emergency preparedness for each of the county volunteer fire departments was reviewed as a part of this planning process. Based on information provided by the Lawrence County Emergency Management Agency, this assessment involved factors such as equipment availability and age, public protection classification and manpower. Mutual aid agreements exist between all of the fire departments within the county, and many grants have been utilized over the years to obtain needed equipment.

Fire Districts and municipalities in the State of Mississippi receive a public protection classification through the Mississippi State Rating Bureau (MSRB). This classification is the basis for determining the fire insurance rating for each district. The Fire Districts within Lawrence County are listed below with the corresponding MSRB classification: Mississippi State Rating Bureau Public Protection Classification List

<u>District</u>	<u>Class</u>
Oma VFD	10
N. Pleasant Hills VFD	10
New Hebron VFD	8
Silver Creek VFD	8
Sontag - Wanilla VFD	C. 10
Monticello Fire Dept	7
Topeka VFD	C. 10
Arm VFD	10
Oakvale VFD	10

The departments are well-equipped and able to respond to the needs of the areas they serve, considering the resources that are available. However, Steering Committee members did identify improvements that could be made to provide better service within the districts.

Many persons still must seek employment in nearby cities and counties. For this reason, many volunteer firefighters must commute to work outside of their fire districts. This increases response time and decreases the number of firefighters that are able to respond to a call, especially during the day. Although the number of volunteers may

vary somewhat in each district, countywide there are 110 volunteers and according to the county fire coordinator, adequate staffing of the VFD's is not a problem.

There are many cases when it is necessary for Lawrence County volunteer firefighters to work side-by-side with the Mississippi Forestry Commission. This has been a successful relationship resulting in improved protection of land area within Lawrence County. It has been suggested that to keep the line of communication open regarding firefighting roles and responsibilities that both agencies begin to meet on a biannual basis. These meetings would allow inter-agency concerns to be addressed as well as to provide training opportunities and project coordination.

In addition to the current MSRB Rating and manpower issues, equipment status has been assessed. The departments utilize a variety of large fire-fighting equipment and generally feel they are adequately equipped. The principle equipment need identified by the county fire coordinator was the need for better communications gear for the VFD's. Better equipment will not only result in better emergency preparedness but may also affect the insurance ratings of the homeowners. Departments are required to have a Class A Pumper in order to receive a Class 8 rating.

The following table lists the number of pumpers and tankers in each district. According to the county fire coordinator they are generally in good condition and reliable. Since the recommended life of these trucks is 20 years, the Steering Committee generally felt that replacing some of the trucks was important.

<u>District</u>	<u># of Pumpers</u>	<u># of Tankers</u>	<u># of Brush Trucks</u>
Oma VFD	2		
N. Pleasant Hills VFD	2		
New Hebron VFD	2	1	1
Silver Creek VFD	2	1	1
Sontag - Wanilla VFD	4		1
Monticello Fire Dept	3		
Topeka VFD	1	2	1
Arm VFD	1	1	
Oakvale VFD	1	1	

Woodland fires are controlled by rural firefighting departments and/or MFC personnel. During fiscal years 2002 - 2007 Lawrence County experienced 445 wildfires,

with the most wildfires, 135, occurring in Fiscal Year 2006. It is the threat of the spread of rural wildfires to the urban fringe that poses the greatest concern. Mitigation measures such as prescribed burns, training and equipping firefighters, and public education on fire protection and Firewise strategies all help to control the risk to life and property.

While climate conditions and debris can cause ignitability, certain industrial operations and facilities can also raise the threat of fire. These include the storage and/or transportation of flammable, toxic, and/or explosive materials. Lawrence County has several facilities which involve storage and transport of highly flammable petroleum products. If an incident were to occur, Volunteer Fire Departments would be first responders.

Mapping

The Lawrence County Wildfire Protection Plan contains fourteen maps and eight charts created by the Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District (SMPDD) Geographic Information System Department. These maps were created for planning purposes to aid in the assessment of county wildfire occurrence and emergency preparedness.

The county-wide base map provides a graphic baseline of infrastructure, roadways, inhabited areas, areas of community importance and a WUI designation. Although 70 percent of county residents live outside of the towns, they are very evenly spread over the landscape. It is difficult to identify urban concentrations in rural areas. For this reason the WUI was set at ½-mile from existing municipal boundaries in accordance with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

The MFC collects and compiles an extensive database pertaining to wildfires to which they respond. This plan used wildfire occurrences from the five fiscal years - 2002 through 2007. The database items used in the analysis and mapping include:

1. Latitude/Longitude (wildfire location in degree coordinates)
2. Cause of Fire (one of ten MFC defined causes)
3. Fiscal Year (fiscal year in which each wildfire occurred)
4. Month (the month in which each wildfire occurred)
5. Day of Month (the day date on which each wildfire occurred)
6. Day of Week (the day of week on which each wildfire occurred)
7. Time of Day (the actual time an MFC crew was dispatched to suppress the wildfire)

Using the latitude and longitude coordinates, spatial points were created for each wildfire so they could be mapped. Various symbologies could then be used to represent

the different data categories. For instance, a map depicting wildfire causes would illustrate each wildfire location with one of ten unique symbols for the ten defined causes. By including base geography such as county and town boundaries, roads, and water features, a person could quickly scan the map and see geographically where wildfires of certain causes were occurring. A complete listing of the maps produced for this report can be found in the 'List of Maps' and are presented at the end of this document.

The Risk Assessment Map graphically reflects the results of the Risk Assessment portion of the County Wildfire Protection Plan process. The risk assessment process is explained in detail below. The resulting map reflects the infrastructure, roadways, municipalities and areas of community importance found on the base map. The Steering Committee assigned a risk rating to each of these attributes by considering available fuel load, frequency of wildfire occurrence, vulnerability of development and infrastructure, and emergency preparedness. These ratings were then displayed in map form to better enable review and assessment of the entire county.

Several fire occurrence maps were created from data collected from the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC). Through the use of the SWMPDD Geographic Information System, all fires tracked for years 2002-2007, by the MFC are reflected on the Lawrence County Fire Occurrences Fy2002-FY2007 map. When these data are mapped, it becomes apparent that there are specific geographic areas where there is a high occurrence of wildfire. The fire occurrence maps were utilized in the Risk Assessment portion of the CWPP and as a valuable reference during the process of formulating mitigation projects and action items.

The High Occurrence Wildfire Areas are based on a computer calculation used to determine density and distribution by comparing each fire occurrence to its surrounding neighbors. The resulting calculation was then separated into five classes to isolate areas with higher density. According to MFC wildfire data, of the 445 wildfires which occurred in Lawrence County during the study period, 152 or 34 percent, were caused by debris burning and 185 or over 41 percent were caused by incendiaries (arson). Debris burning and incendiary causes together account for 337 or 76 percent of the wildfires during this period. The map of Incendiary fires reflects the geographic distribution of these fires throughout the county.

The Lawrence County Fires By Fire Response Area map reflects the county volunteer fire department response areas, volunteer fire station locations and all wildfires 2002-2007. This map will aid in the assessment of numbers of fires and their general location within each district.

Database Analysis

The analysis portion of the plan uses the same database described in the preceding section. Analysis was done using MicroSoft Access and Excel. Analytical results are presented in various types of charts produced with MicroSoft Excel. A complete listing of the charts produced for this report can be found in the 'List of Charts'. All charts are presented as a group immediately after this section.

Analysis of the database revealed that Lawrence County experienced 445 wildfires during the five year period, with the most wildfires, 135, occurring in Fiscal Year 2006. Chronologically, most wildfires occurred during the third fiscal quarter (January through March). During the five year period, 201 or 45 percent of the wildfires occurred in these months. The second fiscal quarter (October through December) experienced the second largest instance of wildfire occurrence at 131 wildfires or 29 percent. Analyzing day of month of wildfire occurrence, no discernable pattern was recognizable with wildfires occurring equivalently throughout the month. Wildfire occurrence by day of week revealed that the most wildfires during this five year span ignited on Saturdays, 78, and the least occurred on Mondays, 53. Further analysis of the cause of these wildfires cross referenced by the day of week revealed that most debris burning wildfires take place on Fridays and Saturdays, while incendiary fires happened least frequently on Wednesdays and Fridays and more frequently on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Since debris burning and incendiary causes account for over 75 percent of the wildfire occurrences during the five year period, further analysis was conducted. Cross referencing these two causes with month revealed that the comparative numbers of debris burning and incendiary wildfires generally varied depending on the time of year. The number of wildfires caused by debris burning exceeded the number caused by incendiary during the months of May, June, September, October, and December.





County Risk Assessment

Through the County Risk Assessment, fuel hazards, frequency of wildfire occurrence and vulnerability of facilities and infrastructure were all considered to compile the following list of areas outside the WUI that are at risk from wildfire.

The Steering Committee attempted to identify large facilities that may be at risk from wildfires due to their location, function, or potential impact to the community if damaged or lost to wildfire. Once identified, these at-risk areas were prioritized to enable available financial and human resources to be concentrated on specific mitigation projects in the future.

For the purposes of this exercise, these areas were rated from low to high. Areas receiving the highest rating pose an increased risk due to their function, amount of nearby fuel load or likelihood to cause significant community impact in the event of damage or loss due to a wildfire. Mitigation projects for the at-risk areas include a wide array of activities. Removal or reduction in fuel load may be suggested for some areas with a public awareness campaign suggested for others.

Rating Key

	High
	Medium High
	Medium
	Low

Critical Infrastructure and Facilities

Water towers 

The various water towers located throughout the county were rated as low. These structures have a low ignitability potential and are well maintained by the individual water associations.

Electric Substation 

The electric substation just east of Silver Creek is critical to maintaining the flow of electricity in the eastern part of the county. This site is very well maintained and has ample surrounding green space.

Cell Towers 

The various cell towers located throughout the county were rated as low. These structures have a low ignitability potential and are well maintained by the individual cell phone companies.

Lawrence County Schools

One county school is located in rural Lawrence County south of Monticello. The facility was given a medium –high rating because it is in a medium fire occurrence area and while they have sufficient surrounding green space, the concentration of children is at risk from smoke.

Lawrence County District Barns

The county barns are located at strategic points around the county. These facilities were given a medium high rating because they generally house flammable materials and have insufficient surrounding green space. Also, these facilities serve as staging points for county response efforts during normal days as well as emergencies.

US Highway 84 and MS Hwy 27

These highways are major thoroughfares running north/south and east/west through Lawrence County. Access to medical facilities as well as major retail centers depends on these routes. These highways both pass through medium and high fire occurrence areas and are rated Medium due to smoke risk. During a wildfire event, smoke may render a road impassable due to greatly reduced visibility.

Georgia-Pacific Corp.

This is the largest employer in the county and is therefore critical to the functioning of the county. The mill is surrounded by sufficient greenspace but is vulnerable to smoke.

Vulnerable Facilities

Denberry Resources

This company is using carbon dioxide injection to recover more oil from this older oil field west of New Hebron. Although well maintained by the company, the inherent dangers in this type of endeavor led to a medium-high rating.

Strategic Goals of the County Wildfire Protection Plan

At the beginning of the planning process, the CWPP Steering Committee identified several goals. These goals were set to provide a common vision during the process and to identify specific results to be obtained upon completion of the final document.

1. Define the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) for Lawrence County
2. Identify and prioritize high-risk areas within the WUI
3. Identify treatment methods for prioritized high-risk areas
4. Provide recommendations to reduce structure ignitability
5. Improve resources for volunteer fire departments
 - Better equipment for better insurance ratings
 - More personnel to improve fire delivery system, insurance ratings, and to assist in coordinating efforts of the volunteer fire departments
6. Educate the public on fire prevention
7. Identify strategies to strengthen existing and encourage increased collaboration between the Lawrence County Emergency Management Agency and the Mississippi Forestry Commission
8. Identify strategies to lower insurance ratings in the fire districts
9. Increase the number of fire hydrants near at risk structures

Mitigation Projects and Structure Ignitability Recommendations

Through the Community Risk Assessment several areas for improvement were identified. Mitigation projects for the at-risk areas may involve removal or reduction in fuel load for some, a public awareness campaign for others, or a combination approach.

No specific treatment projects for most of Critical Infrastructure sites were identified or found to be necessary at this time. These sites are generally well maintained and have moderate to low ignitability potential. However, installation of fire hydrants, more fire extinguishers, and increasing the surrounding green space at the five District Barns would lower their risk rating. The two sites identified as Vulnerable

Facilities were found to need no specific treatments at this time. Education of citizens residing near these facilities is recommended.

Mitigation projects for High Occurrence Wildfire Areas include a community outreach and education program involving the identification and prosecution of arsonists. County law enforcement personnel should strictly enforce burn bans and issue tickets for careless burning. The Steering Committee also identified the need for these areas to be revisited in the future for creation and implementation of other mitigation projects.

Mitigation Projects

1. Establish an outreach program involving education of residents living near vulnerable facilities
2. Establish a community outreach and education program involving identification and prosecution of arsonists and safe methods of debris burning for residents of high fire occurrence areas
3. Increase county law enforcement presence in high fire occurrence areas and investigate all fires and issue tickets for violations of burn bans and careless burning
4. Install fire hydrants near the five District Barns, purchase more fire extinguishers for these facilities, and work to increase the surrounding green space.

In addition to mitigation projects, structure ignitability recommendations can be formulated and then distributed to homeowners. These recommendations, as condensed from information found at www.firewise.org, are steps that property owners can take to improve the protection and survivability of a structure in the event of a wildfire.

1. Maintain minimum distance between structures as recommended by the National Fire Protection Association
2. Maintain a minimum radii of outside edge at dead end turnaround circle of 45 feet to provide for emergency vehicles on both surface ditch and curb/gutter roadways
3. Maintain minimum width standards for subdivision roads and access roads to individual homes per pending subdivision regulations

- Min. width of surface ditch roadway with *local* designation: 28 ft.
- Min. width of surface ditch roadway with *collector* designation: 34 ft.
- Min. width of curb and gutter streets with *local* designation: 27 ft.
- Min. width of curb and gutter streets with *collector* designation: 33 ft.

Structure Ignitability Recommendations – County

- ✓ Develop a homeowner education program
- ✓ Discourage homeowners from piling debris near homes or other structures that are easily flammable
- ✓ Encourage pumping station and electrical substation owners to create a 30-50 foot wide buffer strip around the facilities
- ✓ Establish a green space around each of the five District Barns

Structure Ignitability Recommendations – Landowners

- ✓ Provide a clearing of at least 30 feet around structure for firefighting equipment access
- ✓ Space trees at recommended distances
- ✓ Remove “ladder fuels” that can link grasses to tree tops
- ✓ Maintain the irrigation system
- ✓ Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6’ - 10’ from the ground
- ✓ Remove leaf clutter from roof and yard
- ✓ Mow regularly
- ✓ Remove dead and overhanging branches
- ✓ Store firewood away from the house
- ✓ Don’t keep combustible materials under decks or elevated porches
- ✓ Make trellises of non-flammable metal

- ✓ Prevent sparks from entering your house by covering vents with wire mesh no larger than 1/8"
- ✓ Use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible when possible

Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

The Action Plan and Assessment Strategy portion of the Lawrence County Wildfire Protection Plan serves to identify roles and responsibilities, funding needs, to set timetables for carrying out identified activities and to measure the plan's effectiveness.

1. Establish biannual meetings between the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the Lawrence County Volunteer Fire Departments.

Responsibility: Lawrence County Emergency Management Agency and the Mississippi Forestry Commission

Funding: \$0

Timetable for Completion: Implement Immediately

Expected Outcome: Improved communication and coordination in the areas of firefighting, training, safety and project management

Assessment Timetable: 2–5 years

2. Establish community outreach and education program that would include a mail-out and information on the county website. List specific fire concerns in the area and steps that homeowners can take to reduce ignitability potential. Instruction should be given on how to properly post addresses on homes.

Responsibility: Lawrence County Emergency Management Agency in coordination with Mississippi Forestry Commission and local Volunteer Fire Departments

Funding: Homeland Security Fire Safety Grant, possible coordination with local utility or county agency for inclusion in regular mail-out

Timetable for Completion: October 2010, Coordinate with Fire Prevention Awareness Month

Expected Outcome: Implementation of Firewise safety measures by homeowners, including an increase in properly assigned and visible residential addressing as well as a decrease in non-compliant residential burns

Assessment Timetable: Winter 2010

3. Maintain and update the grants/funding resource list included in CWPP document.

Responsibility: Lawrence County Emergency Management Agency and Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District

Funding: \$0

Timetable for Completion: Yearly

Expected Outcome: Additional grant applications resulting in an increase of grant funds

Assessment Timetable: Review applications v. funding annually

4. Increase law enforcement presence in high fire occurrence areas and issue tickets for violation of burn bans and for careless use of fire.

Responsibility: Lawrence County Law Enforcement

Funding: \$0

Timetable for Completion: Immediately

Expected Outcome: Increased community awareness of the county's sincerity in stopping wildfires

Assessment Timetable: Annual review of the number of debris burning and incendiary fires in these high occurrence areas

5. Install fire hydrants, increase the number of fire extinguishers, and increase the amount of green space surrounding the five District Barns.

Responsibility: Lawrence County Board of Supervisors

Funding: Unknown

Timetable for Completion: Immediately

Expected Outcome: Lower the risk of these facilities being impacted by wildfires.

Assessment Timetable: Annual review

6. Maintain, update and redistribute the CWPP maps to all county departments, volunteer fire departments and other organizations utilizing the document.

Responsibility: Lawrence County Emergency Management Agency, Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District

Funding: \$0

Timetable for Completion: Yearly

Expected Outcome: Increased awareness of fire activity leading to implementation of action plan in an effort toward reduction of fire incidents

Assessment Timetable: Make any additions or changes to maps on an annual basis and interview other organizations to see if the maps make their role in wildfire prevention more effective

Potential Funding Sources

1. Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
Website: www.firegrantsupport.com
Application Deadline: Spring, 2009
Program Description: Funding for training, equipment, vehicles, firefighter health and safety program and operations

2. Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant Program
Website: www.firegrantsupport.com
Application Deadline: Fall, 2009
Program Description: Outreach to high risk target groups including children, seniors and firefighters. Monitor website for further information on eligible activities

3. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program
Website: www.firegrantsupport.com
Application Deadline: Summer, 2009
Program Description: Funding for the hiring of fire personnel and incentives for volunteer recruitment and retention

4. USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Program
Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov
Application Deadline: Contact local USDA Representative
Program Description: Funding for assistance in developing an essential community facility. Funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety and community and public services.

5. U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company Polaris Ranger Donation Program
Website: www.ustinc.com
Application Deadline: Unknown
Program Description: Donation of Polaris Ranger 6X6 utility vehicles for firefighting, rescue, police, emergency medical service, and wildlife law enforcement organizations.

6. First Responder Institute Website
Website: www.firstresponder.org
Program Description: Provide support to local U.S. fire departments and emergency service personnel.

7. Responder Knowledge Base Website

Website: www.rkb.mipt.org

Program Description: Website contains information on currently available products, standards, training and grants

8. Grants Office

Website: www.firegrants.info and www.grantsoffice.com

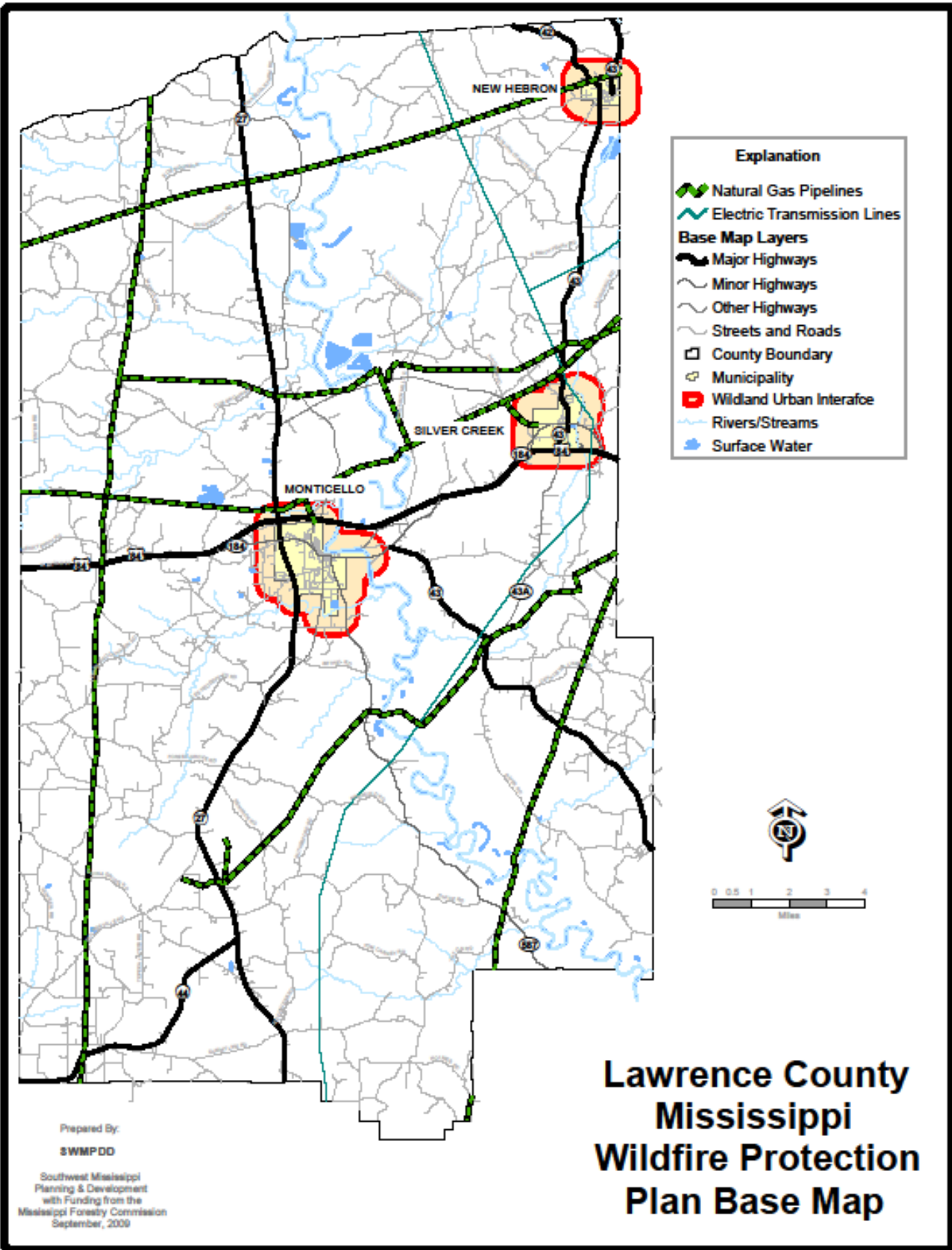
Program Description: Provides info, tools, and tips to help fire departments be more successful at obtaining funds from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

References

1. Southwest Mississippi Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan - May 2006
2. Lawrence County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan – June 2006
4. Firewise Around Your Home brochure - www.firewise.org
5. USDA Forest Service - Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan - March 2004

Project Contact Information

1. Lawrence County Emergency Management
809 Broad St
Monticello, MS 39602
Phone: (601) 587-2721
2. Mississippi Forestry Commission
515 County Farm Lane NE
Brookhaven, MS 39602
Phone: (601) 833-6621
Fax: (601) 833-2598
www.mfc.state.ms.us
3. Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District
100 South Wall Street
Natchez, MS 39120
Phone: (601) 446-6044
Fax: (601) 446-6071
www.swmpdd.com



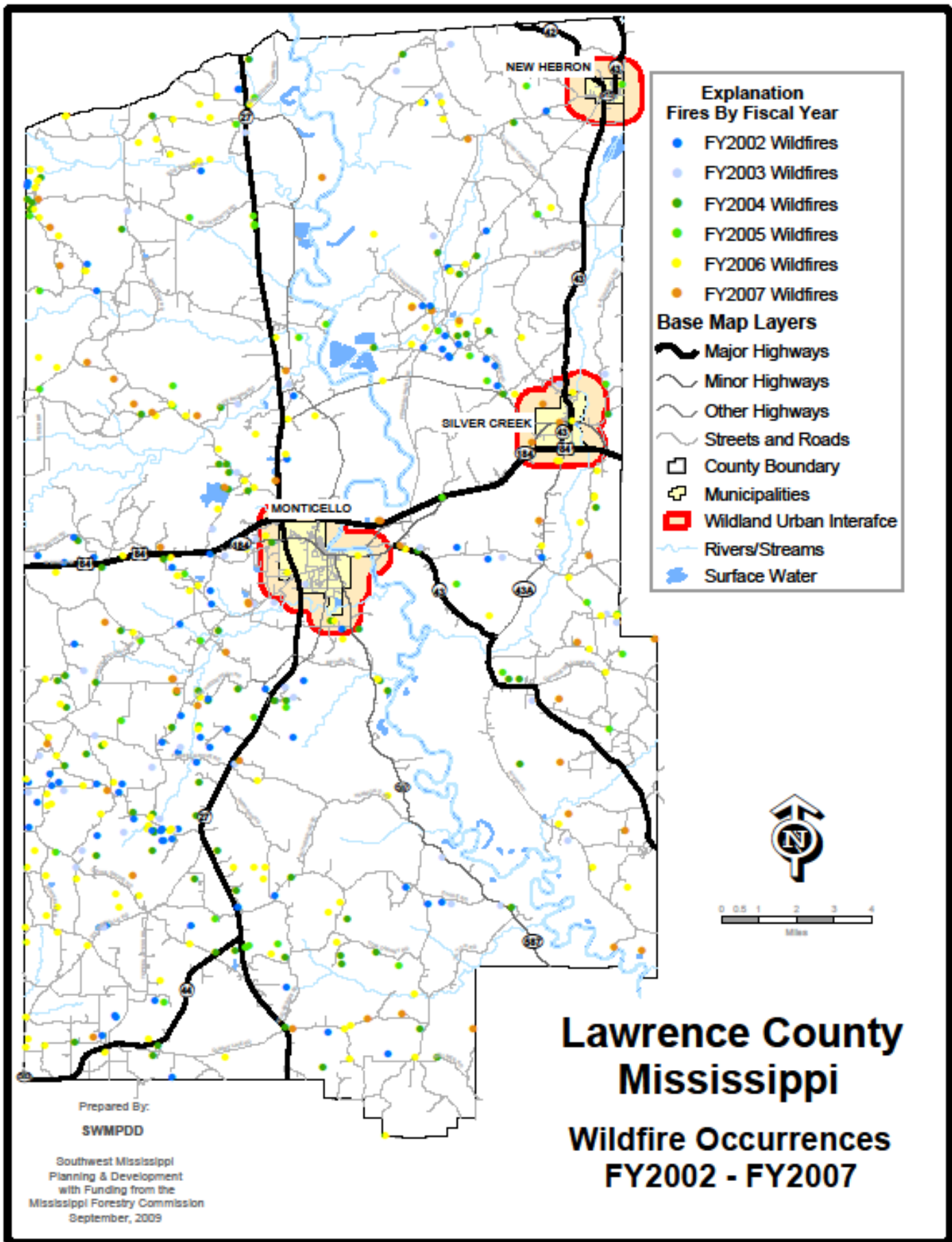
- Explanation**
- Natural Gas Pipelines
 - Electric Transmission Lines
 - Base Map Layers**
 - Major Highways
 - Minor Highways
 - Other Highways
 - Streets and Roads
 - County Boundary
 - Municipality
 - Wildland Urban Interface
 - Rivers/Streams
 - Surface Water

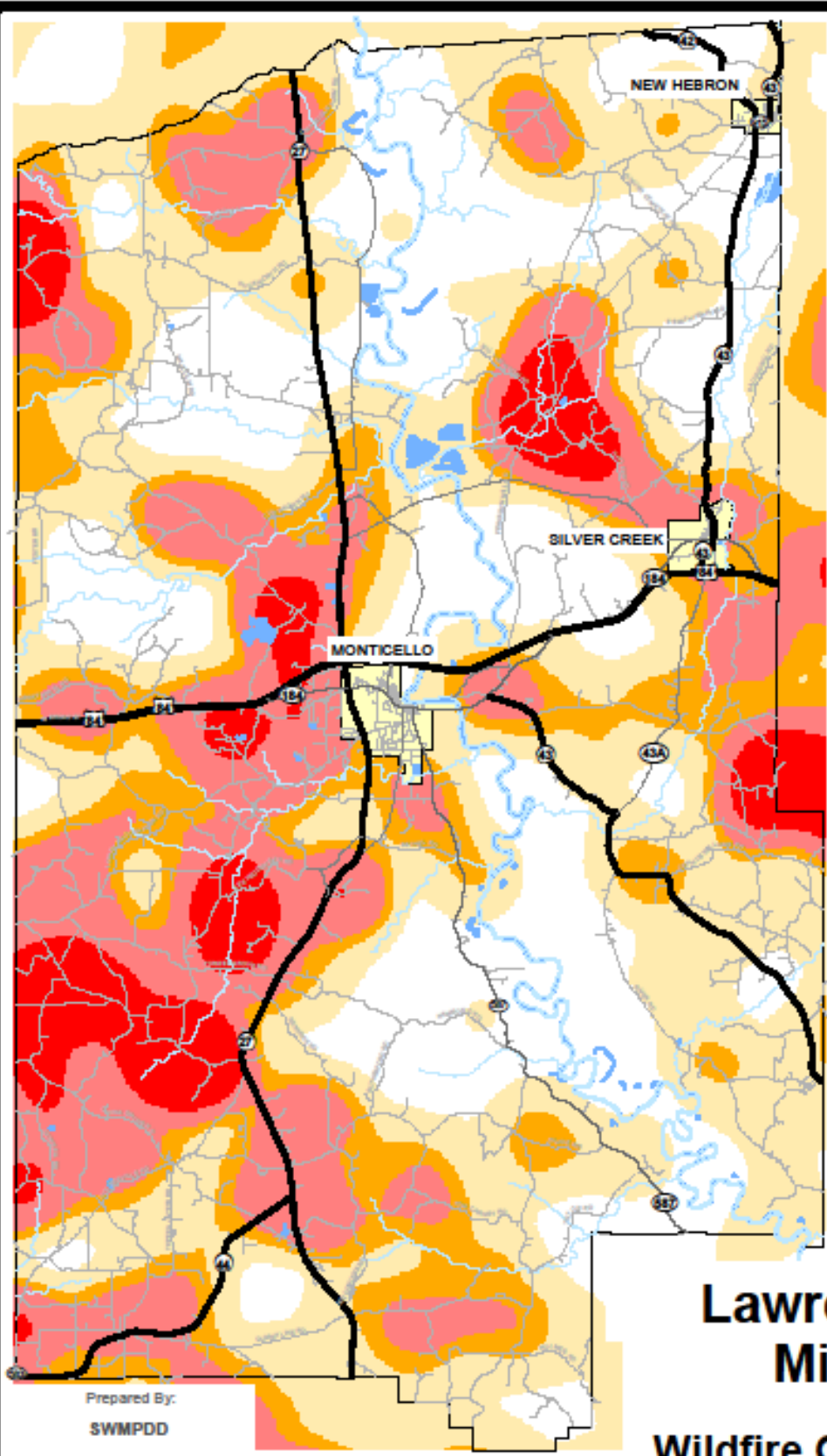


Lawrence County Mississippi Wildfire Protection Plan Base Map

Prepared By:
SWMPDD

Southwest Mississippi
Planning & Development
with Funding from the
Mississippi Forestry Commission
September, 2009





Explanation

Fire Occurrence Areas

- High Concentration
- Medium Concentration
- Moderate Concentration
- Low Concentration
- Other

Base Map Layers

- Major Highways
- Minor Highways
- Other Highways
- Streets and Roads
- County Boundary
- Municipalities
- Rivers/Streams
- Surface Water

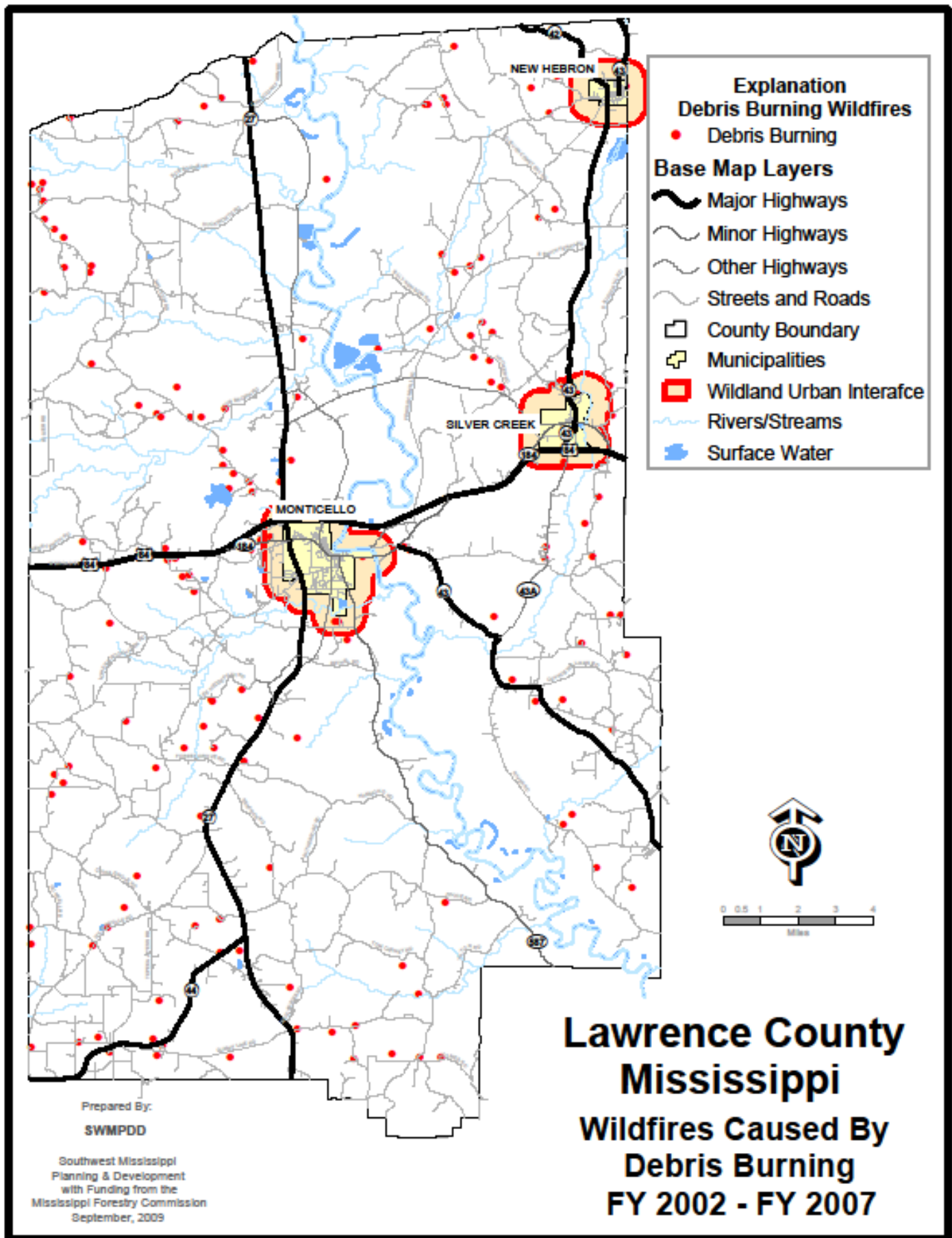


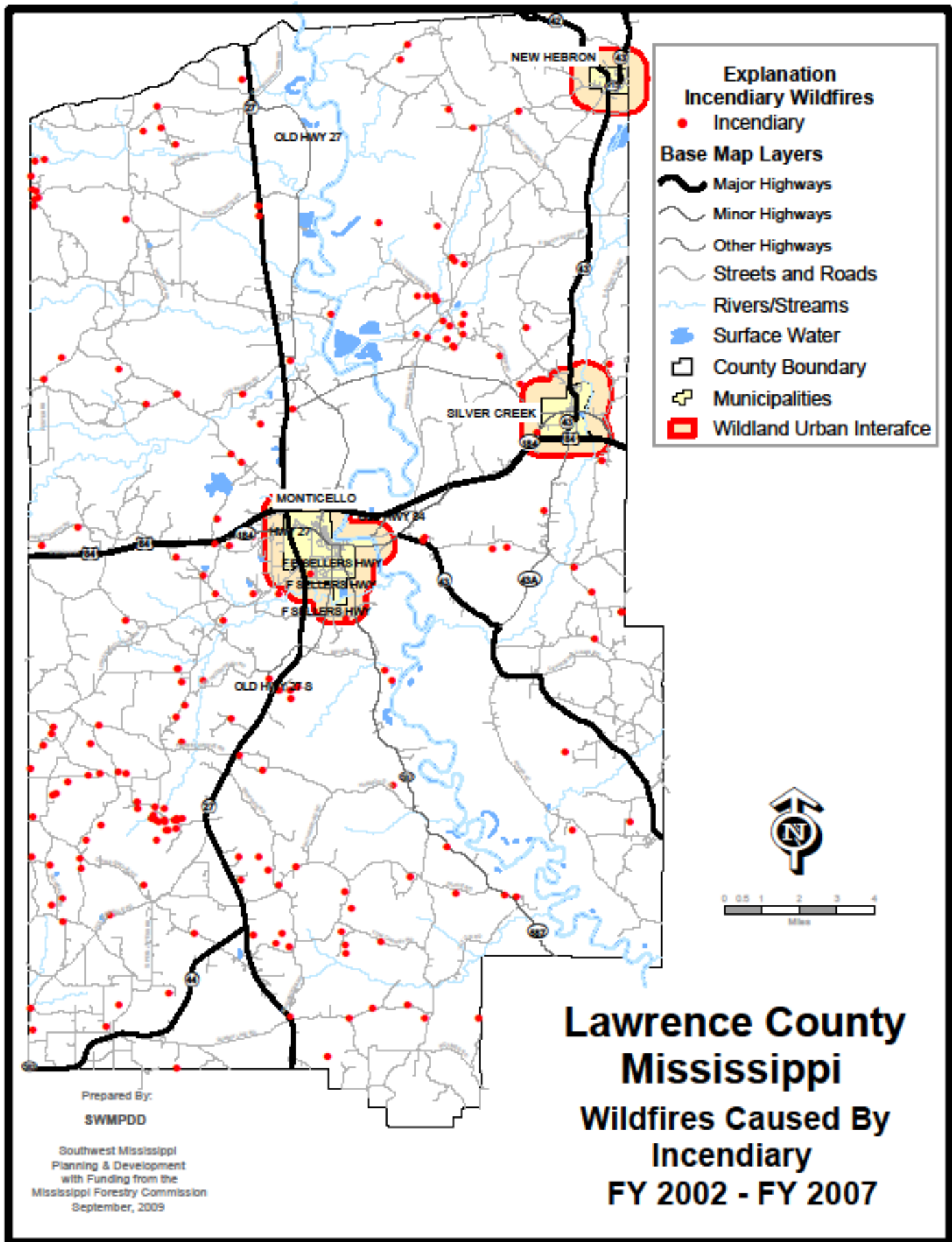
Lawrence County Mississippi

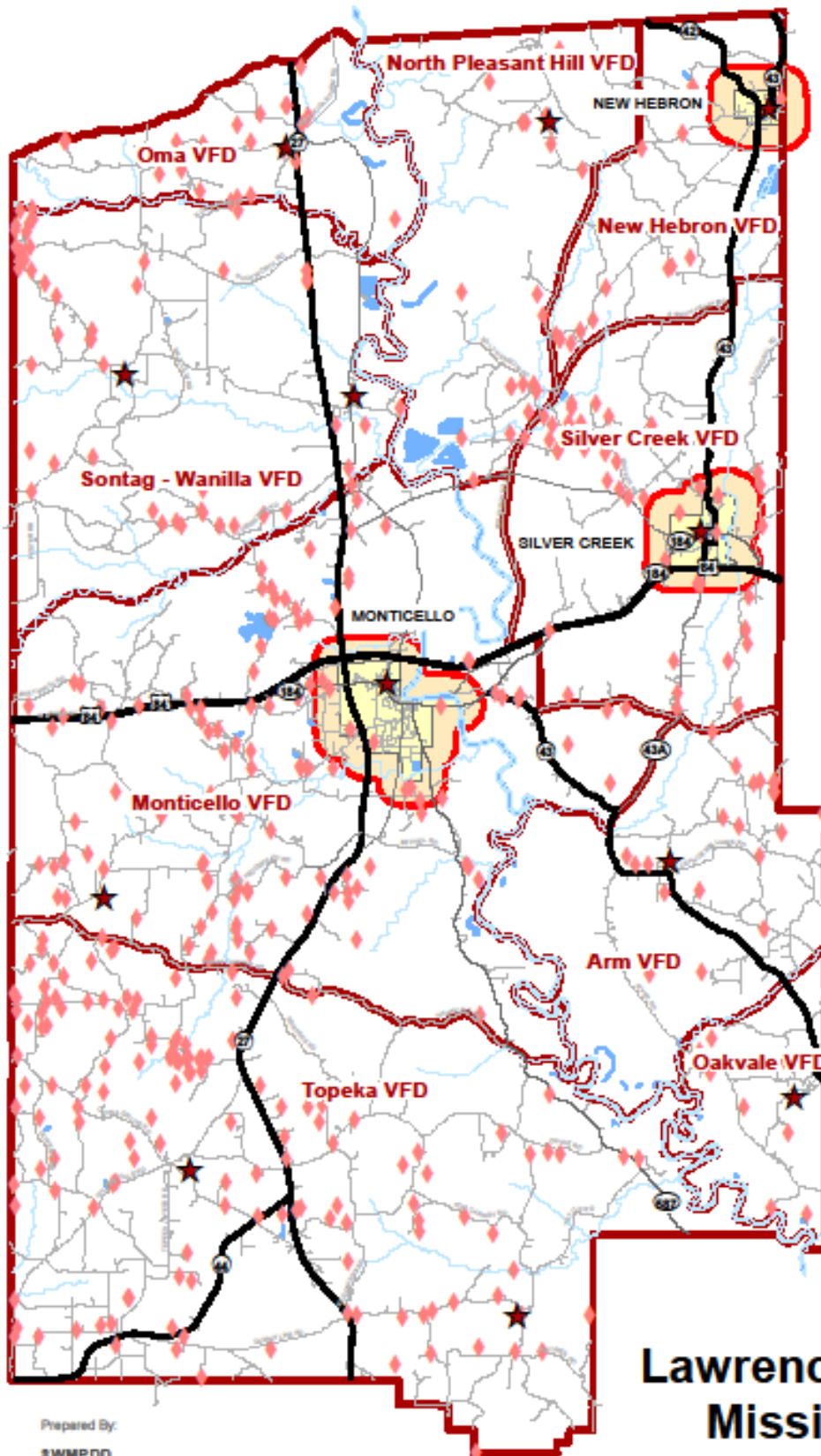
Wildfire Occurrence Areas FY2002 - FY2007

Prepared By:
SWMPDD

Southwest Mississippi
Planning & Development
with Funding from the
Mississippi Forestry Commission
September, 2009







Explanation

- ★ VFD Stations
- Volunteer Fire Departments
- ◆ Fire Occurrences

Base Map Layers

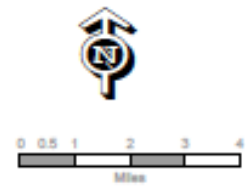
- Major Highways
- Minor Highways
- Other Highways
- Streets and Roads

Hydrologic Features

- Rivers/Streams
- Surface Water

Administrative

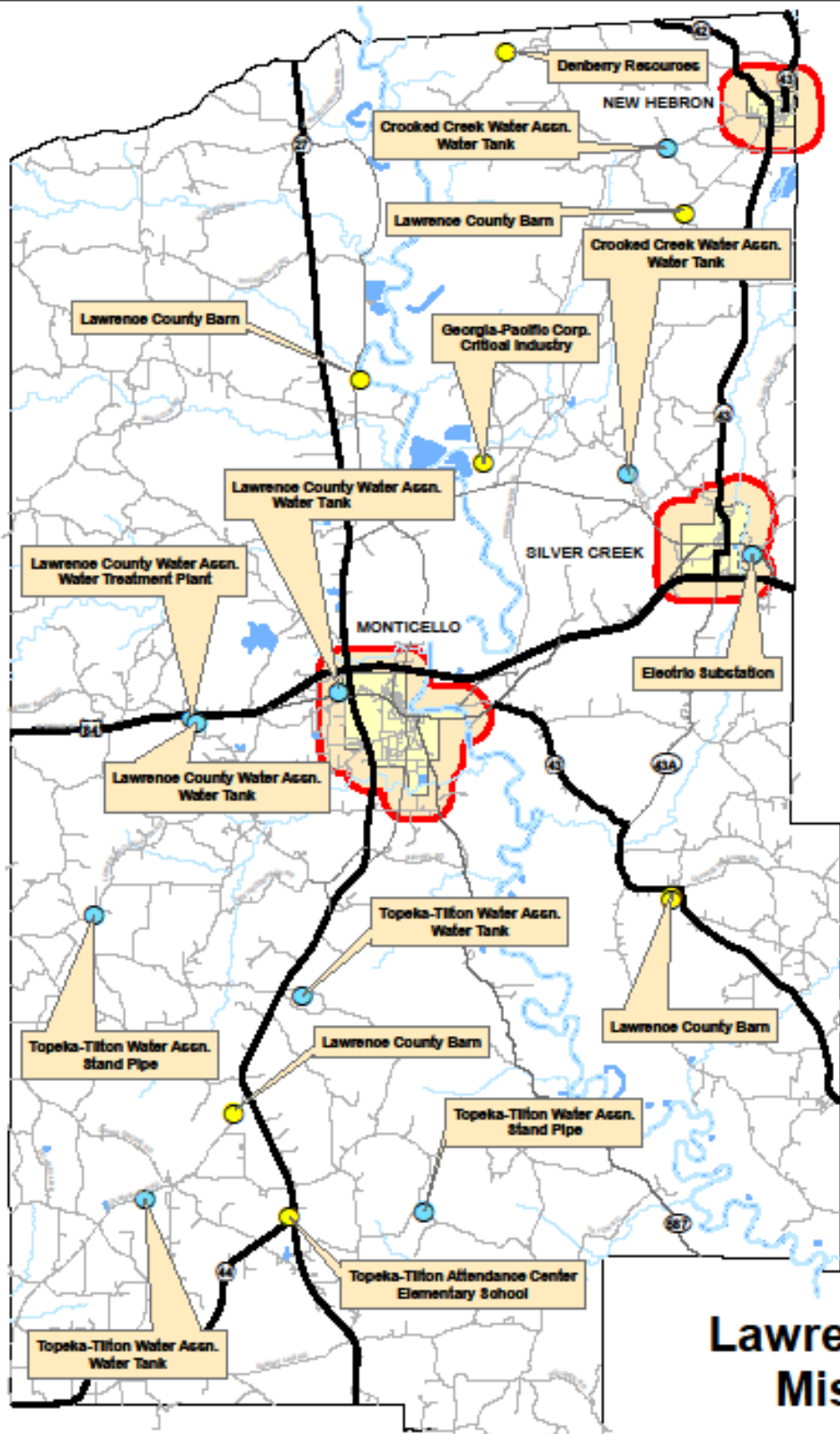
- County Boundary
- Municipality
- Wildland Urban Interface



Lawrence County Mississippi

Fires By Fire Response Area FY2002 - FY2007

Prepared By:
SWMPDD
Southwest Mississippi
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with Funding from the
Mississippi Forestry Commission
September, 2009



Explanation

Risk Assessment

- Low Risk
- Medium Risk
- Medium-High Risk
- High Risk

Base Map Layers

- Major Highways
- Minor Highways
- Other Highways
- Streets and Roads

Administrative

- County Boundary
- ⊞ Municipality
- ⊞ Wildland Urban Interface

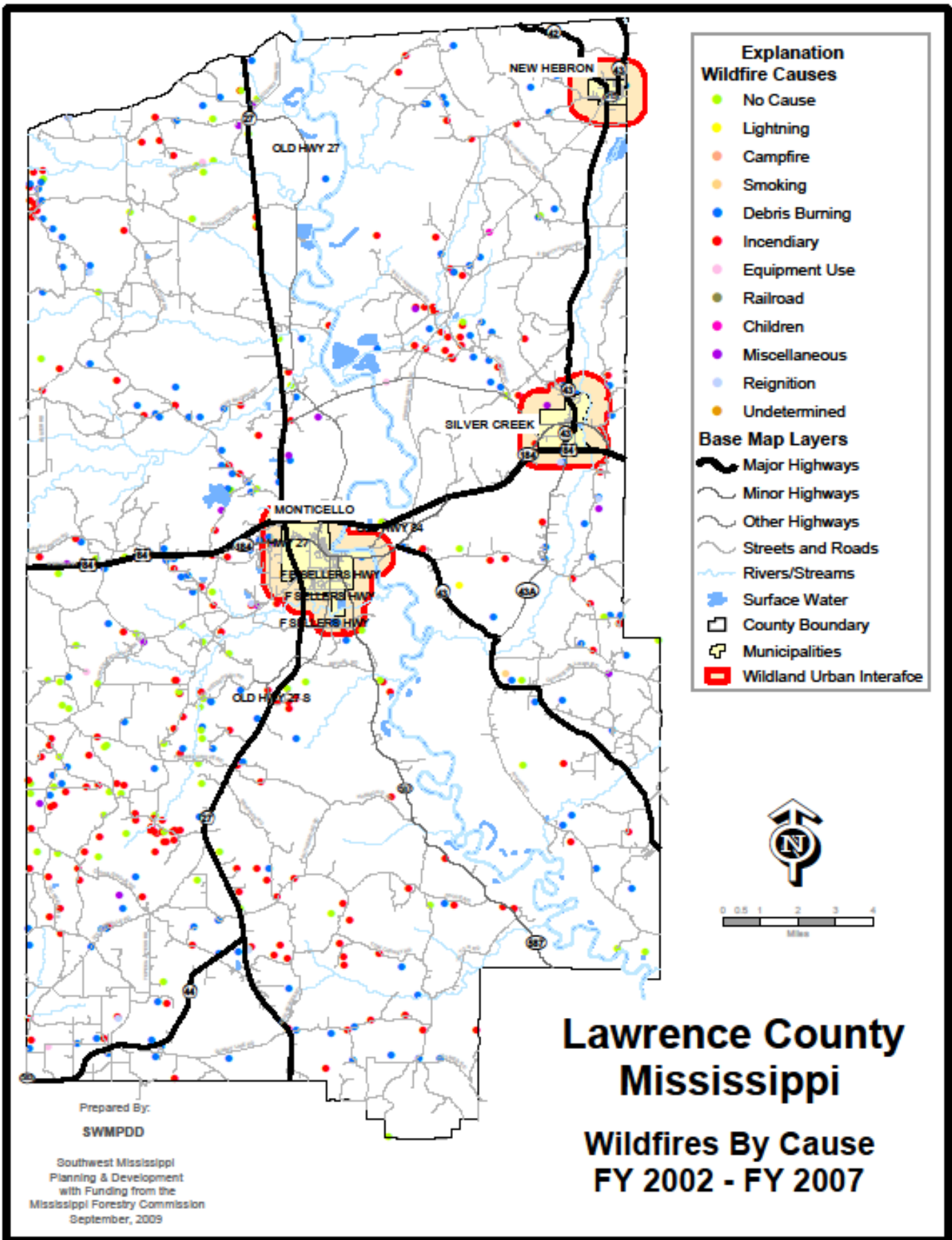
Hydrologic Features

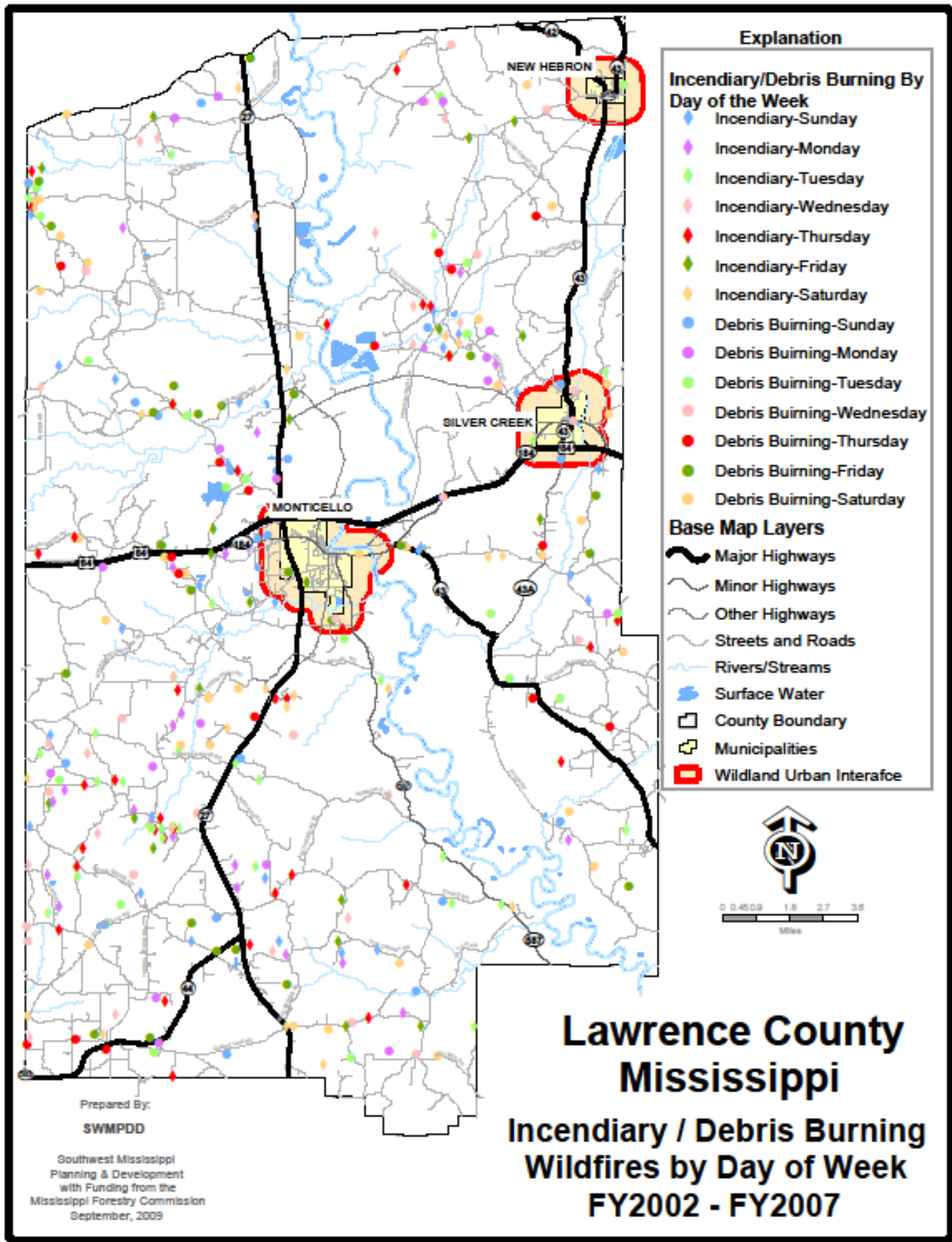
- Rivers/Streams
- Surface Water

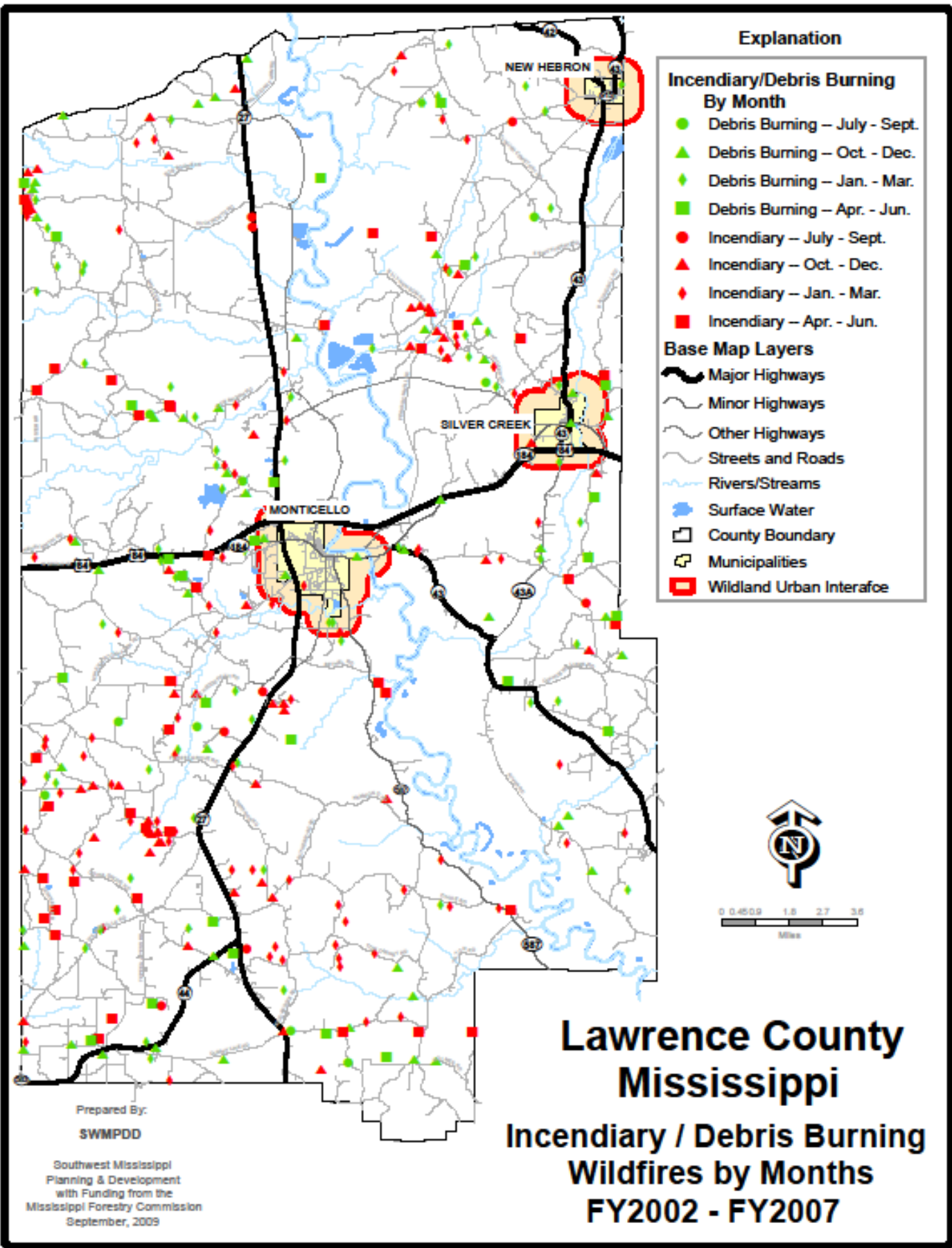


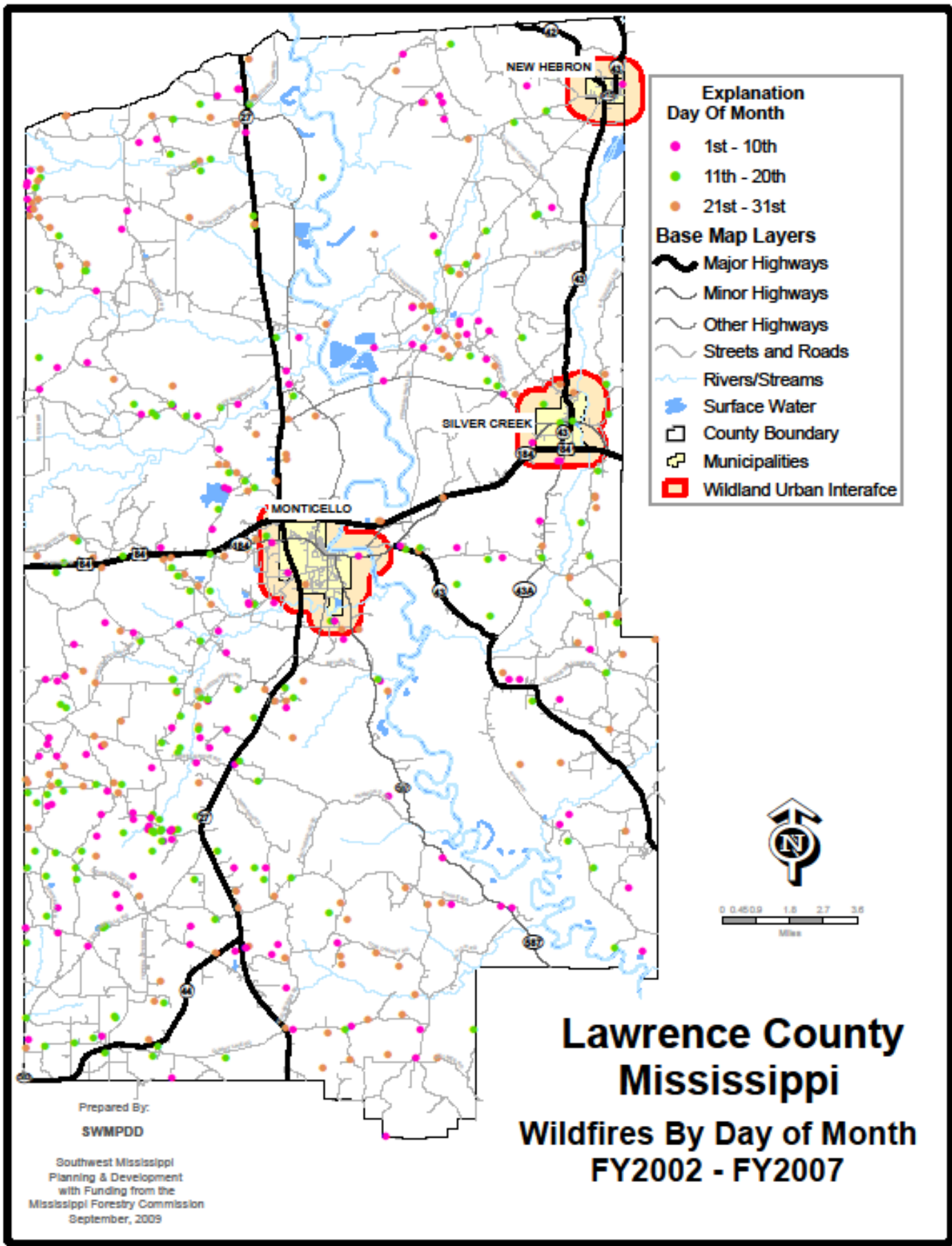
Lawrence County Mississippi Wildfire Protection Plan Risk Assessment Ratings

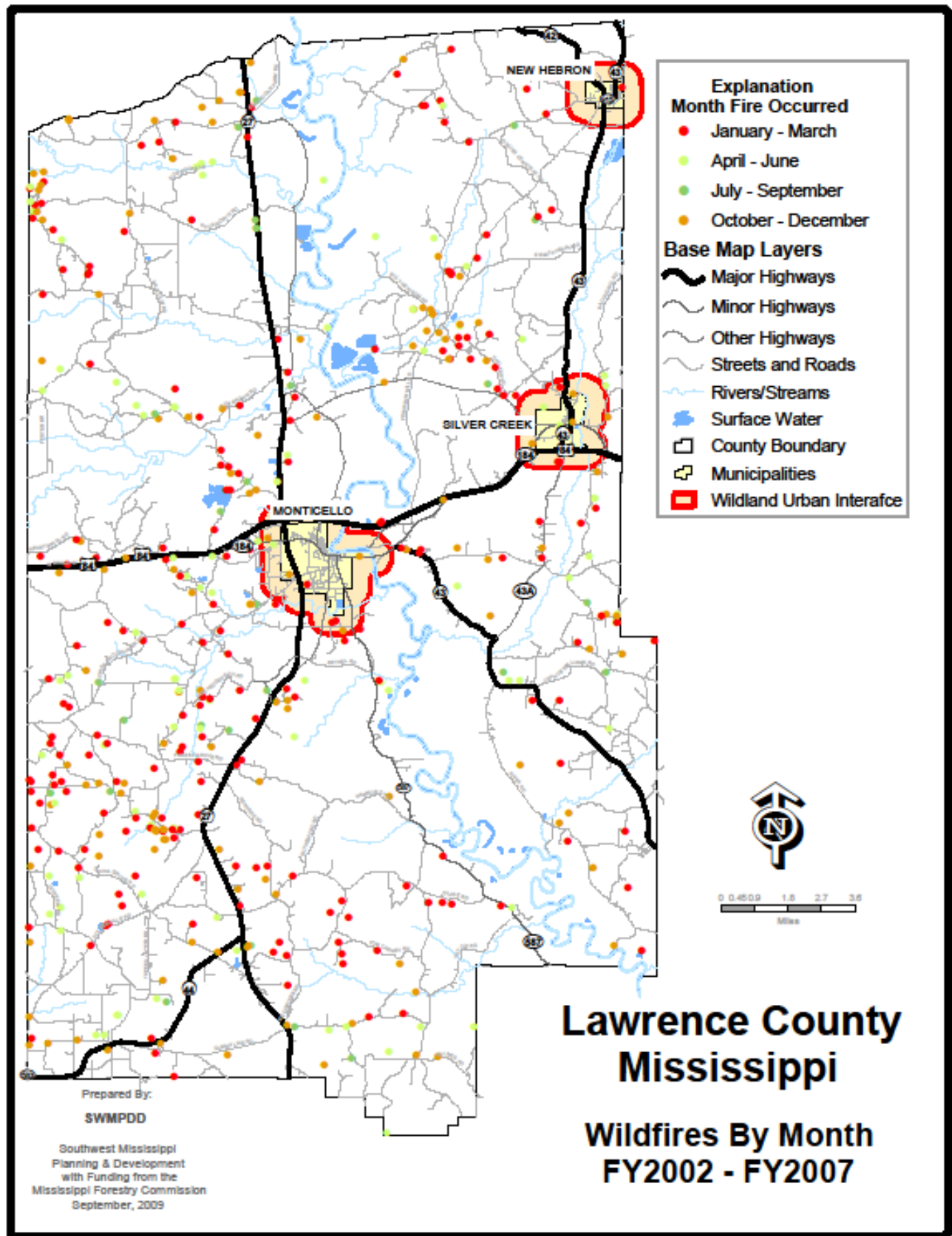
Prepared By:
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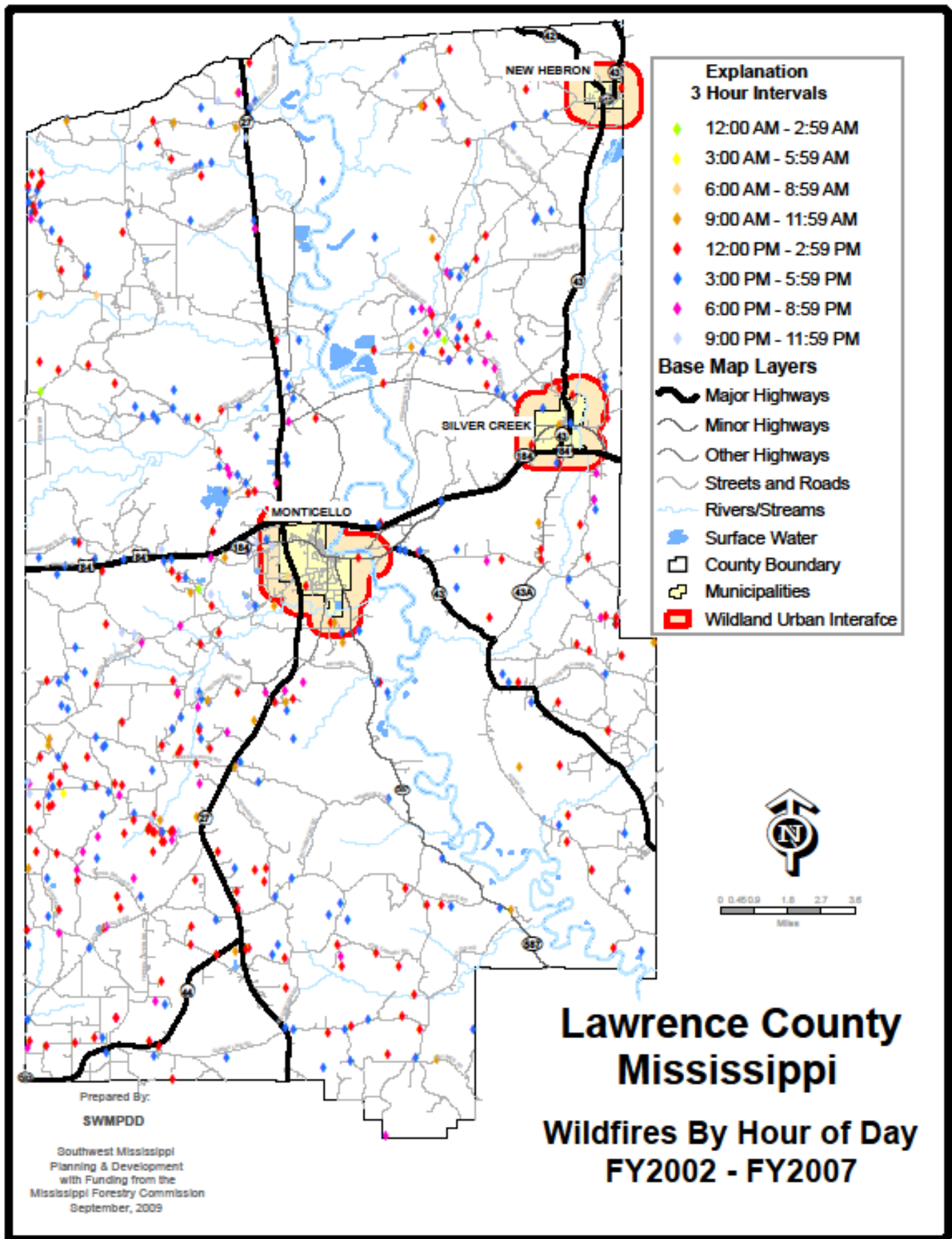


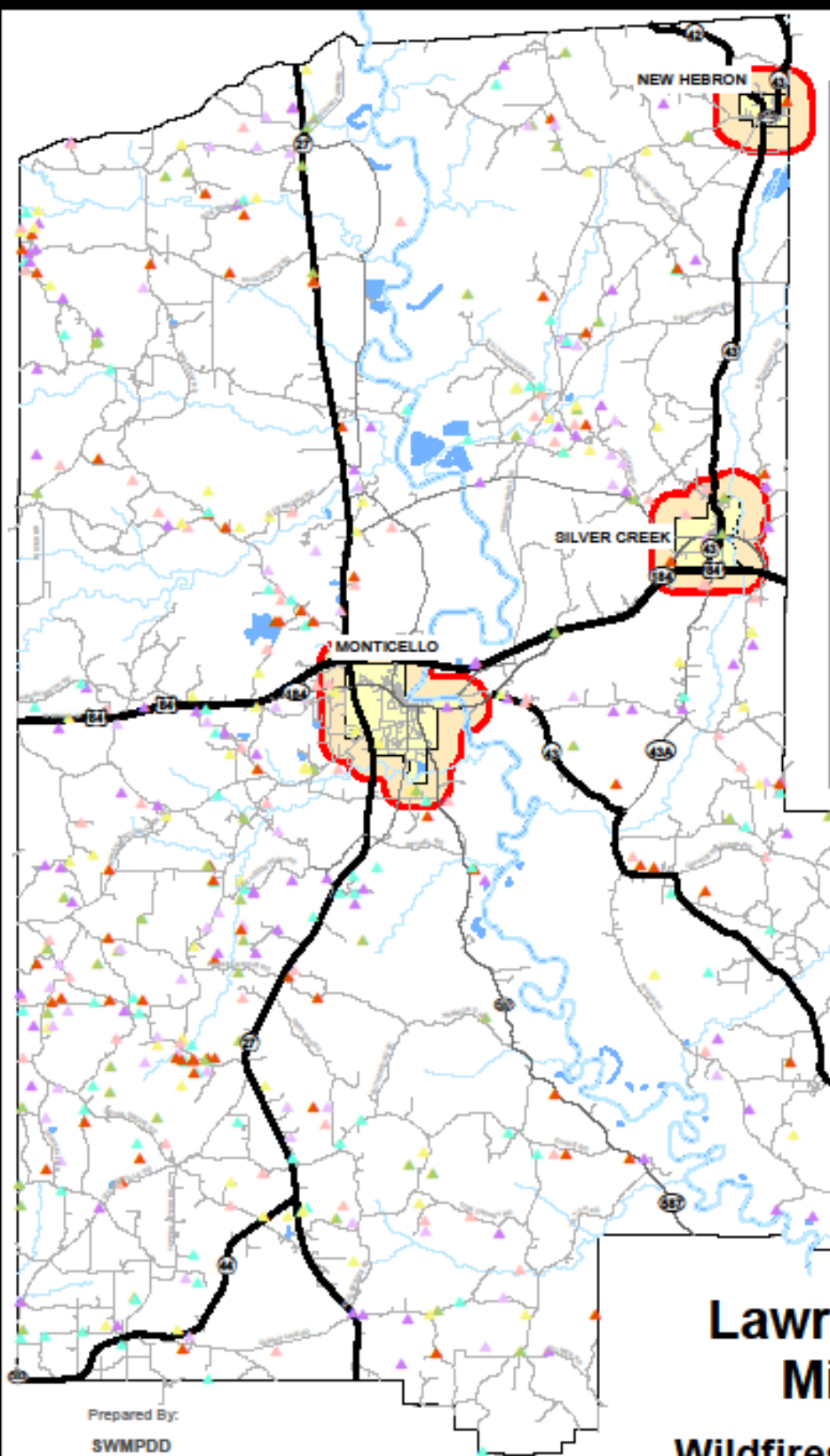












Explanation

Day Of Week

- ▲ SUNDAY
- ▲ MONDAY
- ▲ TUESDAY
- ▲ WEDNESDAY
- ▲ THURSDAY
- ▲ FRIDAY
- ▲ SATURDAY

Base Map Layers

- Major Highways
- Minor Highways
- Other Highways
- Streets and Roads
- Rivers/Streams
- Surface Water
- County Boundary
- ⊕ Municipalities
- ▭ Wildland Urban Interface



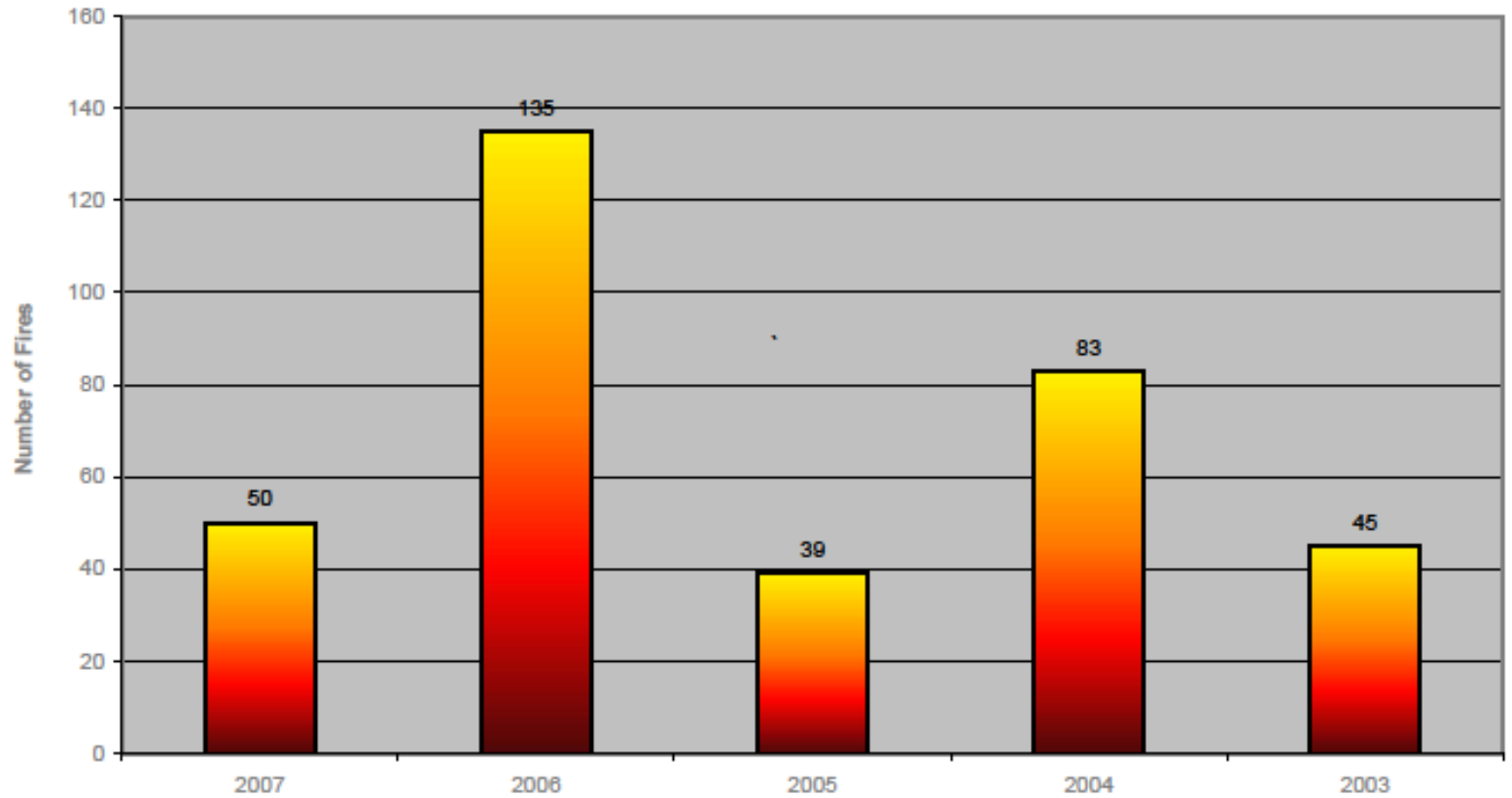
Lawrence County Mississippi

Wildfires By Day of Week FY2002 - FY2007

Prepared By:
SWMPDD

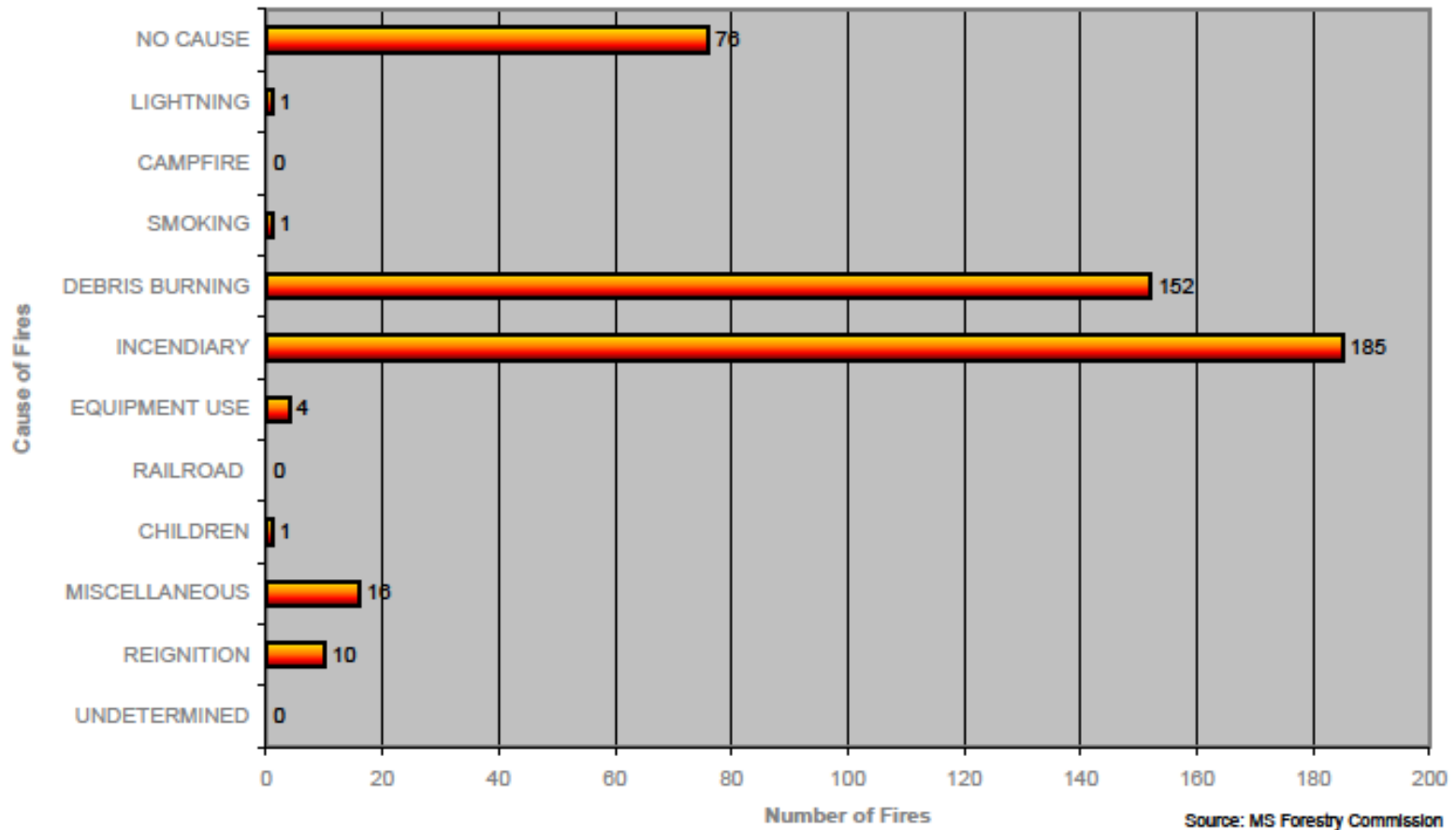
Southwest Mississippi
Planning & Development
with Funding from the
Mississippi Forestry Commission
September, 2009

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Fiscal Year
FY 2002 - FY 2007

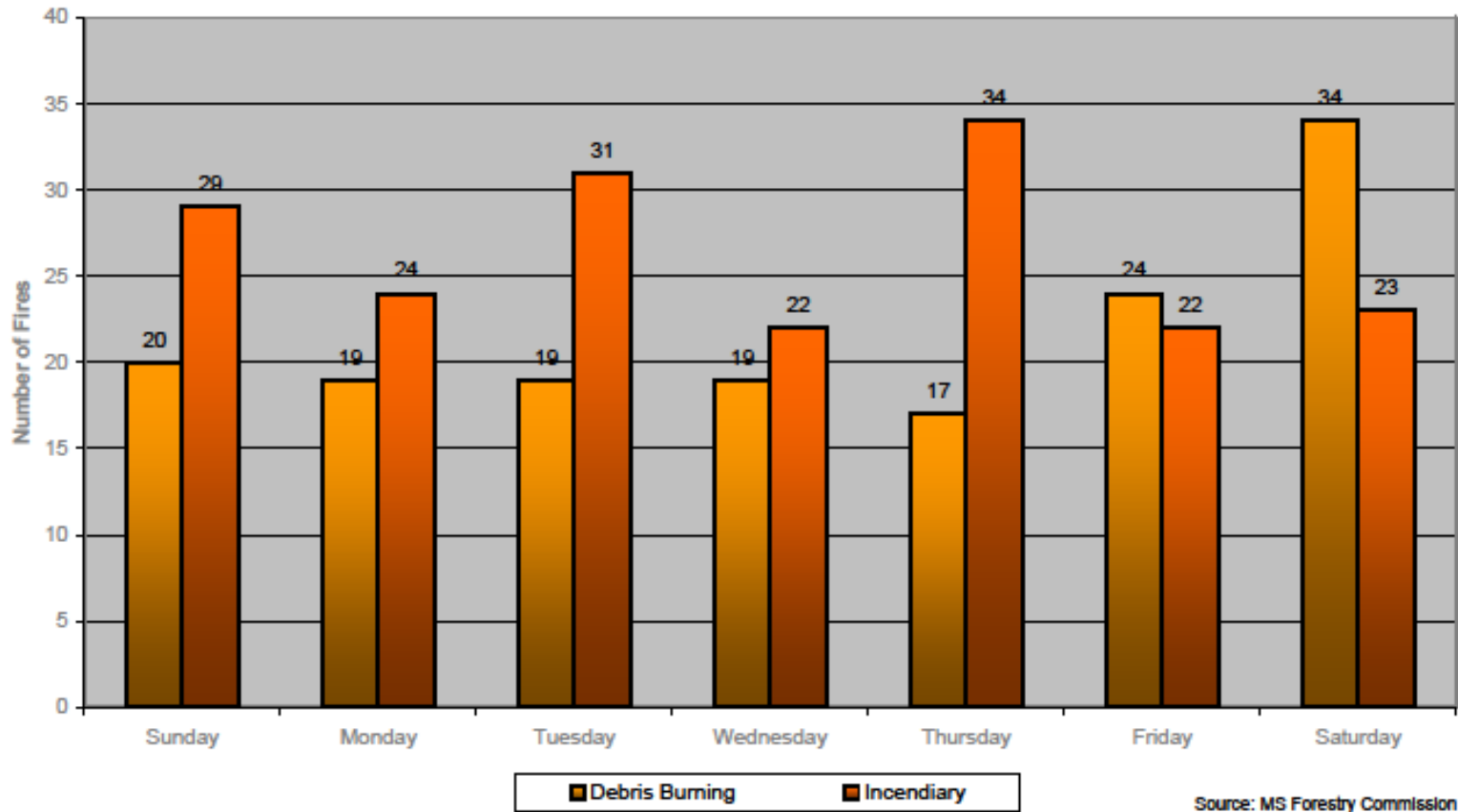


Source: MS Forestry Commission

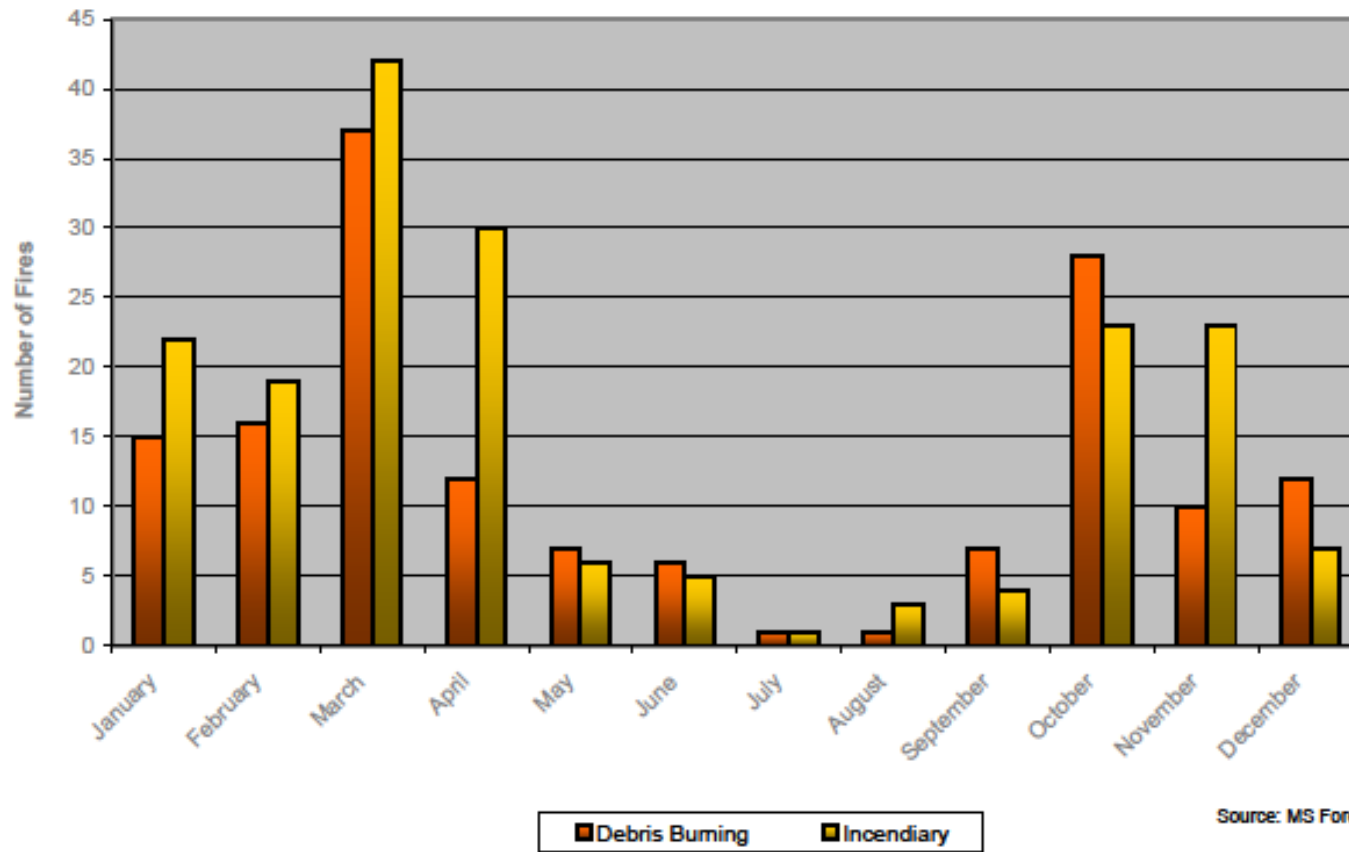
LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Cause FY 2002 - FY 2007



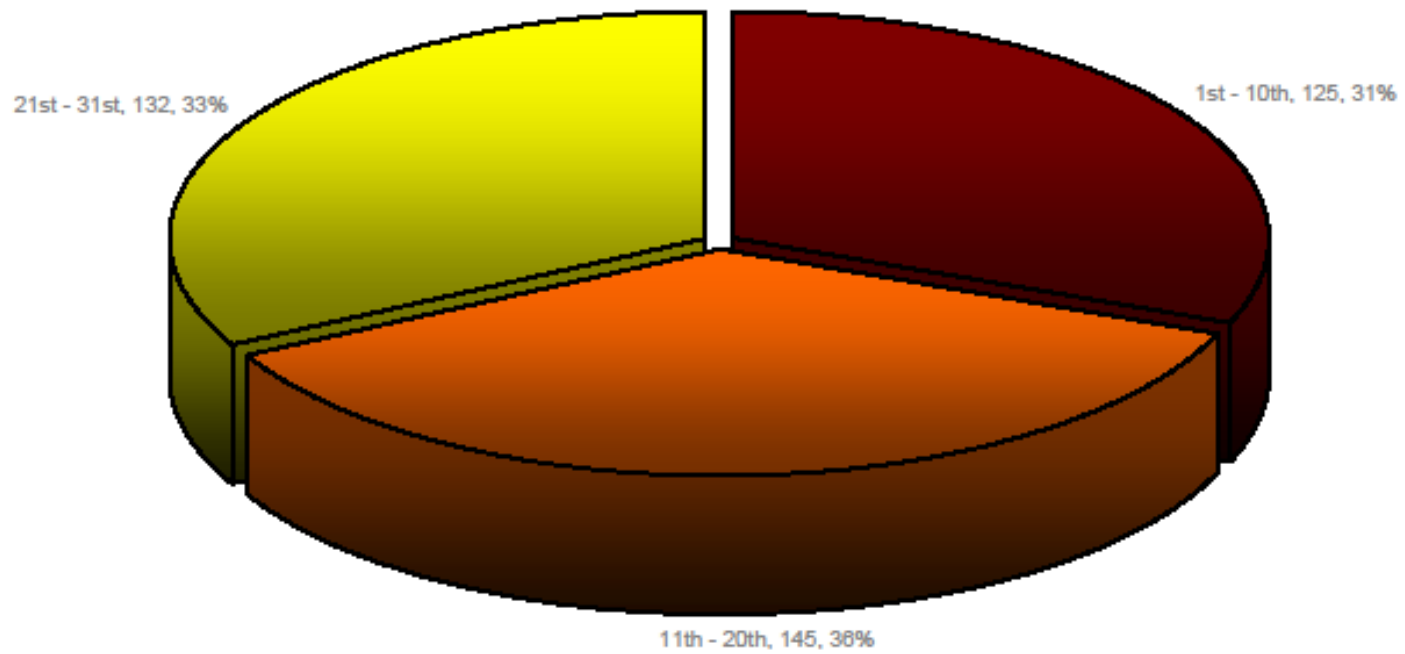
LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Debris Burning & Incendiary
By Day of Week
FY 2002 - FY 2007



LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Debris Burning & Incendiary
By Month FY 2002 - FY 2007

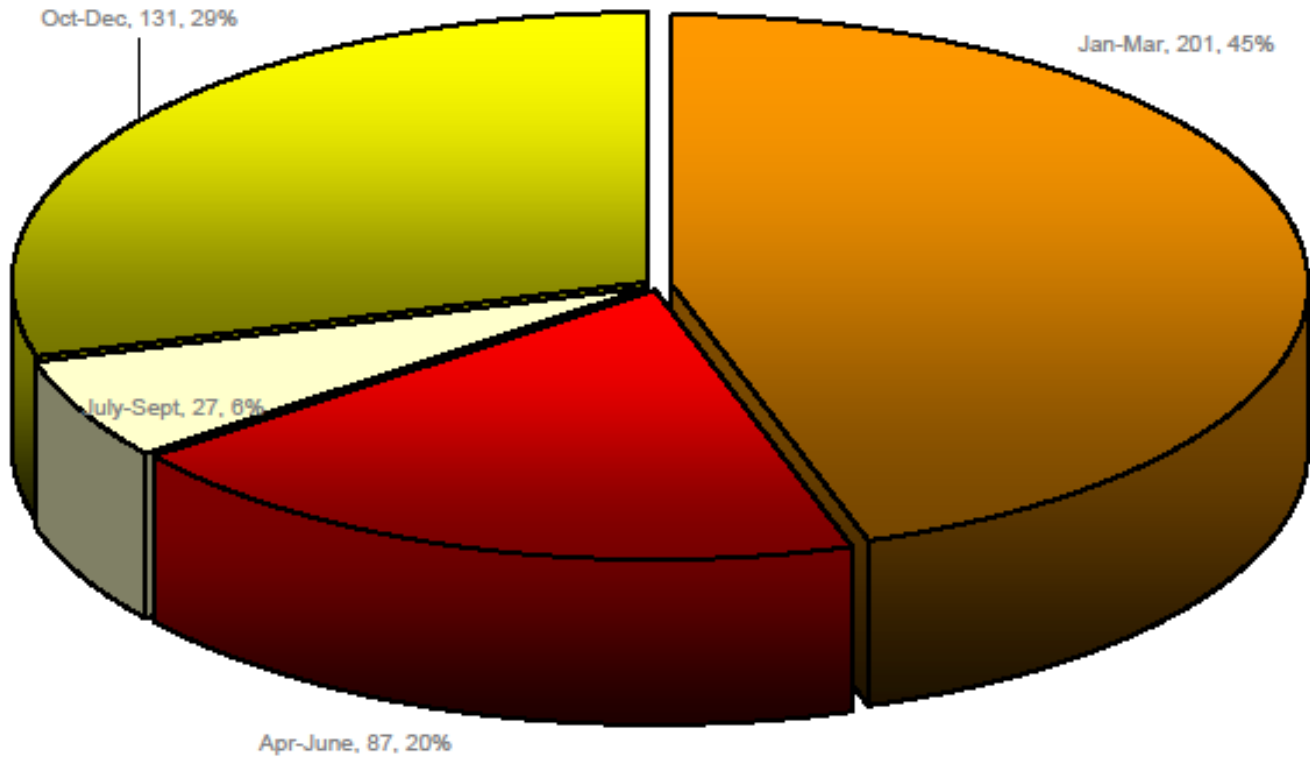


LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Day of Month
FY 2002 - FY 2007



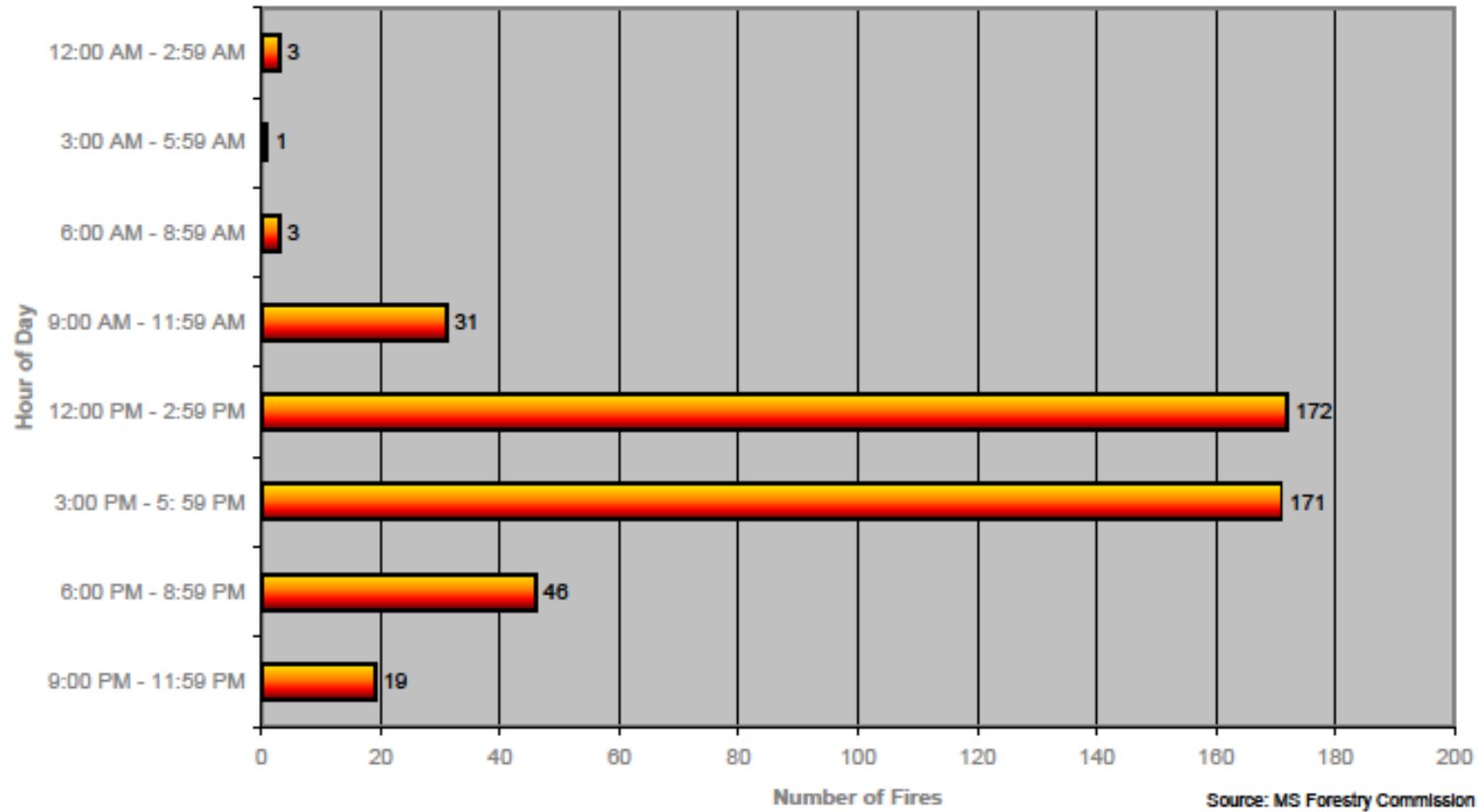
Source: MS Forestry Commission

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Months
FY 2002 - FY 2007

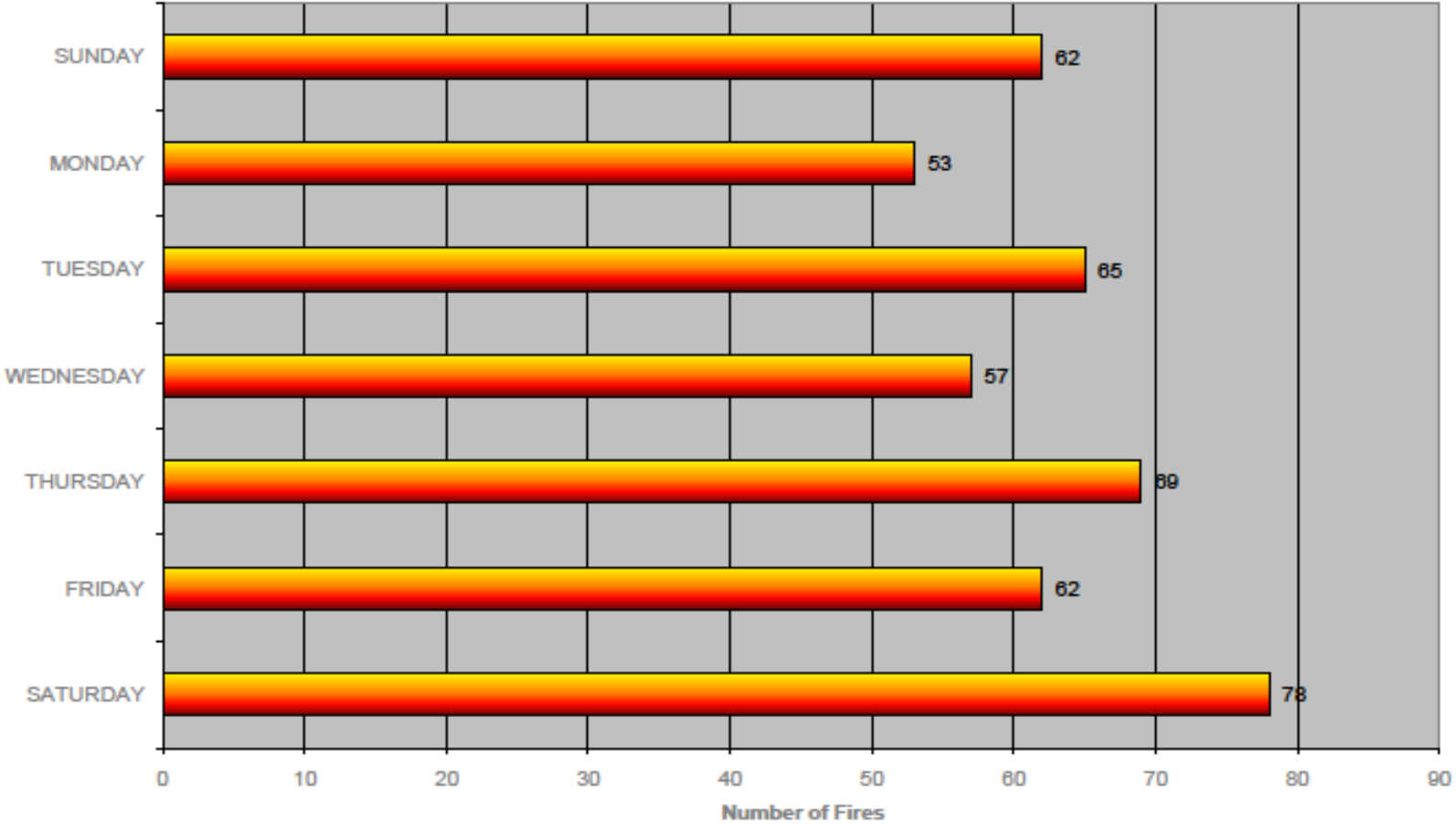


Source: MS Forestry Commission

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Hour of Day
FY 2002 - FY 2007



LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Day of Week
FY 2002 - FY 2007



Source: MS Forestry Commission