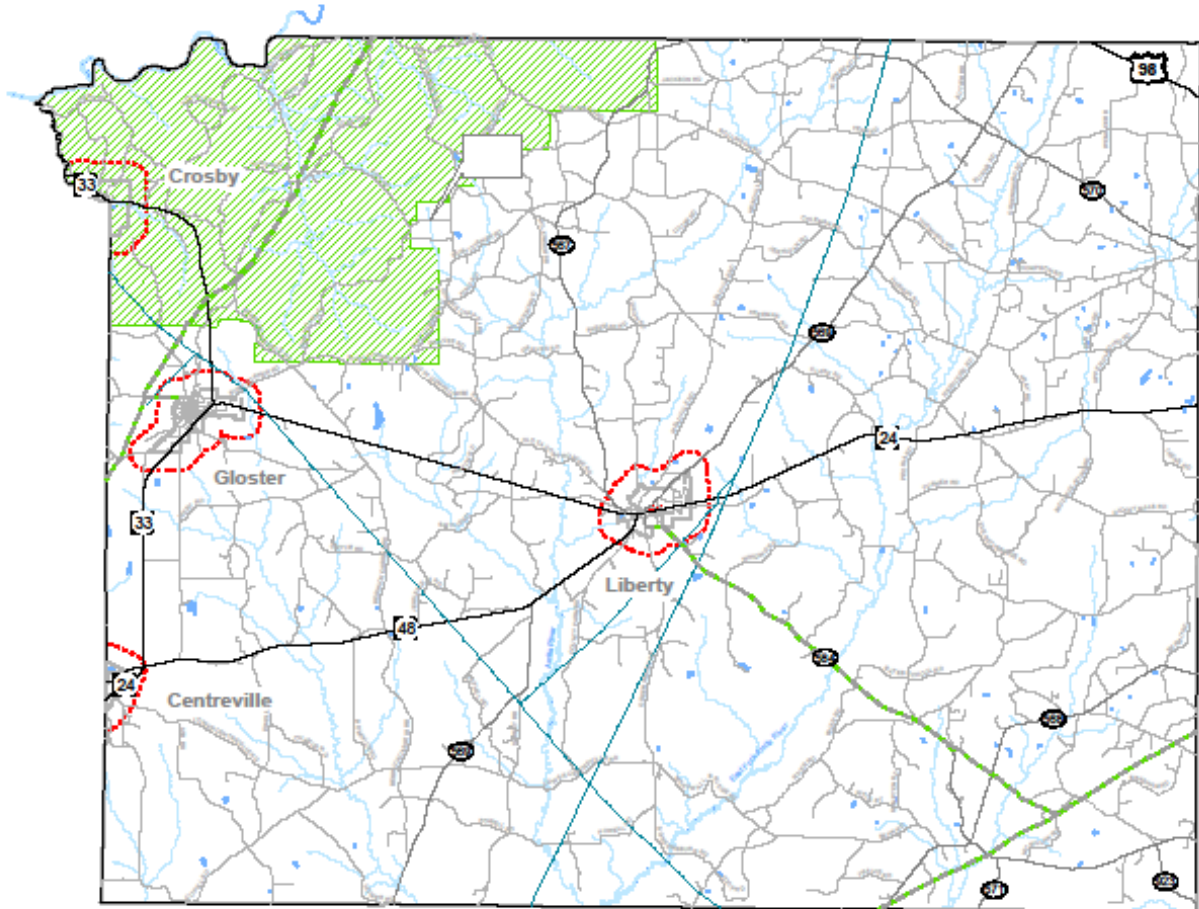


Amite County, Mississippi Wildfire Protection Plan



September, 2008

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 twelve 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 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

Amite County is a border county in southwestern Mississippi. The county seat of Liberty is located approximately 20 miles west of McComb, 60 miles southeast of Natchez, and 60 miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The year 2000 population according to the U.S. Census Bureau was 13,599 and there were 6,446 housing units. Amite County has a total area of 732 square miles.. This yields a population density of between 18 and 19 persons per square mile and a housing unit density of nearly 9 housing units per square mile.

The county has four incorporated municipalities; Liberty, Gloster, part of Centreville, and part of Crosby. The total U.S. Census Bureau year 2000 population of these four towns (only the Amite County portions of Centreville and Crosby) was 2,055 which demonstrates the rural nature of the area. 11,544 Amite County residents, 85 percent, live outside of the towns. Other notable small unincorporated communities in the county are Coles, Gillsburg, and Smithdale.

Geographically, Amite County is characterized by broad rolling uplands and rounded U-shaped creek bottoms. The Amite River bisects the county from north to south and has a generally broad, flat floodplain. 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 Amite County, approximately 394,000 acres (nearly 85 percent) of the land area is forestland. Of this 394,000 acres, over 322,000 acres (82 percent) is classified as recently cut and replanted areas, pine forest or mixed pine/hardwood forest. This is a very important statistic since wildfires pose the highest risk in forestlands with a pine component.

The climate of Amite County is mild with mean annual temperatures in the upper 60's, ranging from an average daily temperature in the upper 40's in the winter to around 80 in the summer. Rainfall averages approximately 63 inches annually 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, Amite 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 Amite County are caused by debris burning (a person typically tries to burn a pile of leaves or other debris in his yard and the fire escapes) or by incendiaries (intentionally set). Combined, debris burning and incendiary

account for 72 percent of the wildfires during the five year period covered by this plan. Amite County is divided into twelve rural fire response areas covering the unincorporated portions of the county. Two additional districts cover the incorporated towns of Liberty and Gloster. 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>
Town of Liberty	Liberty VFD	144 Main Street Liberty, MS 39645
Liberty	Liberty Rural VFD	144 Main Street Liberty, MS 39645
Town of Gloster	Gloster VFD	251 S First Street Gloster, MS 39638
Gloster	Gloster Rural VFD	251 S First Street Gloster, MS 39638
South Gloster	Southwest VFD	4260 Kahnville Road Gloster, MS 39638
Centreville	Centreville VFD	Main Street Centreville, MS
Street	Street VFD	2181-B MS Hwy 569 S Liberty, MS 39645
Crosby	Wilk-Amite VFD	116 N. Airport Ln. Crosby, MS 39633
Busy Corner	O'Neal VFD	5697 Oxford-Meadville Gloster, MS 39638
Zion Hill	North Central VFD	5158 Pecan Road Liberty, MS 39645
Smithdale	Smithdale VFD	5466 Fenn Road Smithdale, MS 39664
Mars Hill	Mars Hill VFD	6070 N Greensburg Road Summit, MS 39666

East Fork	East Central VFD	4768 Firehouse Rd Smithdale, MS 39664
Gillsburg	Gillsburg VFD	6077 MS Hwy 568 Osyka, MS 39657

Woodland fires are controlled by rural firefighting departments and/or MFC personnel. During fiscal years 2002 - 2007 Amite County experienced 717 wildfires, with the most wildfires, 184, 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. Amite 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.

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 Amite 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 Amite 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 for near at risk structures

Mapping

The Amite County Wildfire Protection Plan contains eight maps 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 maps include the Amite County Base Map, Facility Classification Map, Risk Assessment Ratings, Fire Data 2002-2007, High Occurrence Wildfire Areas, Incendiary Fires 2002-2007, Fire Response Areas, and Wildfires by Fire Response Area.

The county-wide base map provides a graphic baseline of infrastructure, roadways, inhabited areas, areas of community importance and a WUI designation. Although 85 percent of county residents live outside of the towns, they are very evenly spread over the landscape. It is therefore not possible 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 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 and all causes, tracked for years 2002-2007, by the MFC are reflected on the Amite County Wildfires 2002-2007 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 717 wildfires which occurred in Amite County during the study period, 276 or 38 percent, were caused by debris burning and 240 or 33 percent were caused by incendiaries (arson). Combined, debris burning and incendiary account for 516 or 72 percent of the wildfires during this period. The map of Incendiary Fires by Year reflects the geographic distribution of these fires throughout the county.

The Amite County Fire Response Area map reflects the county volunteer fire department response areas and volunteer fire station locations. A map reflecting all wildfires 2002-2007, as well as fire district boundaries and department locations has been included. Additionally, the Wildfires 2002-2007 by Fire Response Area will aid in the assessment of numbers of fires and their general location within each district.





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.

Cell Tower / Amite County Communications 

Amite County has its communications antenna on a cell tower north of Liberty. It is well maintained as are adjacent lands. It was determined that this site should be rated as low.

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.

MDOT Work Centers

These facilities were given a low rating. They are well maintained and have ample surrounding open space.

Amite County District Barns

The county barns are located in each of the five supervisor districts. 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.

MS Highways 24, 33, and 48

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

Vulnerable Facilities

Air Cruisers

Air Cruisers is a large employer in Amite County, north of Liberty. Although there is sufficient green space surrounding the facility, the adjoining land is almost entirely plantation pine. The smoke danger led to a rating of medium.

Pumping Station

The Pumping Station east of Liberty is used to store and transport large quantities of petroleum and petroleum products. Additionally, tanker trucks bring oil to the facility to

insert into the pipeline. The surrounding area is almost entirely dense plantation pine with little or no green space. For these reasons the facility was given a high rating.

Entergy/Magnolia EPA Electrical Substation 

Much if not all of Amite County's electricity comes through this facility east of Liberty and across the highway from the pumping station. The facility is surrounded by recently planted pines with little or no green space. Also, being so close to the pumping station means that a fire at the pumping station could cause problems for it. For these reasons this facility was rated high.

Denberry Resources – Smithdale Field 

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

Wallace Lumber Company 

Wallace Lumber Company is a large employer in northeast Amite County. There is more than sufficient green space surrounding the facility which led to a rating of low.

Community Assets

Ethel Vance Stratton Park 

This multi-use facility just west of Liberty features an arena for livestock shows, ball fields, and an RV campground. The arena and ball fields face only the danger of smoke, but the campground is constructed in an old growth pine forest. This facility was given a medium rating.

Crosby Airport 

The Crosby Airport was rated medium because of the danger of smoke obscuring the runway and making it unusable.

Private Airstrip



A private airstrip just west of Liberty has been used by the County on occasion. Its location along a creek led to its low rating

Emergency Preparedness

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 Amite 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 Amite County are listed below with the corresponding MSRB classification: Mississippi State Rating Bureau Public Protection Classification List

<u>District</u>	<u>Class</u>
Liberty VFD	8
Liberty Rural VFD	10
Gloster VFD	8
Gloster Rural VFD	10
Southwest VFD	10
Centreville VFD	10
Street VFD	10
Wilk-Amite VFD	10
Oneal VFD	10
North Central VFD	10
Smithdale VFD	8
Mars Hill VFD	10
East Central VFD	10
Gillsburg 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 is an average of 10 volunteers per district 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 Amite 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 Amite 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.

The Steering Committee also identified manpower concerns including recruitment and retention. A community outreach program should be implemented to encourage young adults to consider volunteer firefighting. This program could be implemented through the local high school where students could be made aware of the opportunity to serve and might consider doing so at the legal age.

Adding recruitment information to the county website, local cable service announcements and any community mail-out or newsletter, as well as coordinating recruitment efforts with other county recruitment efforts (e.g. Public Works) will save on cost and reach potential recruits who would otherwise be missed.

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 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.

Each of the VFD's have two pumpers with the exception of Smithdale which has two pumpers and a tanker. According to the county fire coordinator, half are 1996 year models and half are 2003 year models. Since the recommended life of these trucks is 20 years, the Steering Committee generally felt that the trucks were adequate.

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 sites identified as Vulnerable Facilities include an electrical substation and a pumping station for petroleum or petroleum products. There is an increased potential for structure ignitability at or near the pumping station due to the natural characteristics of the operations. This pumping station on Highway 24 east of Liberty has a critically high danger of sustaining damage from wildfires due to the nature of the facility and the fact that the site is closely surrounded by dense pine forest. Owners of the site should be encouraged to find a way to influence surrounding landowners to create a buffer strip at least 30-50 feet wide. The electrical substation directly across the highway from the pumping station is surrounded by planted pine plantation. It might also sustain damage if the pumping station were to catch fire. Entergy/Magnolia EPA, owners of the substation, should be encouraged to work out some deal with surrounding landowners to establish a 30-50 foot buffer strip around the facility. Other Vulnerable Facilities were found to need no specific treatments at this time. Education of citizens residing near these facilities is also 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. Encourage the owners of the pumping station to work with surrounding landowners to create a 30-50 foot buffer strip surrounding the facility

3. Encourage Entergy/Magnolia EPA, owners of the electrical substation to work with surrounding landowners to create a 30-50 foot buffer strip surrounding the facility
4. 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
5. 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
6. 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 Amite 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 Amite County Volunteer Fire Departments.

Responsibility: Amite 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: Amite 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 2009, 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 2009

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

Responsibility: Amite 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: Amite 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: Amite 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 and update the grants/funding resource list included in CWPP document.

Responsibility: Amite 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

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

Responsibility: Amite 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

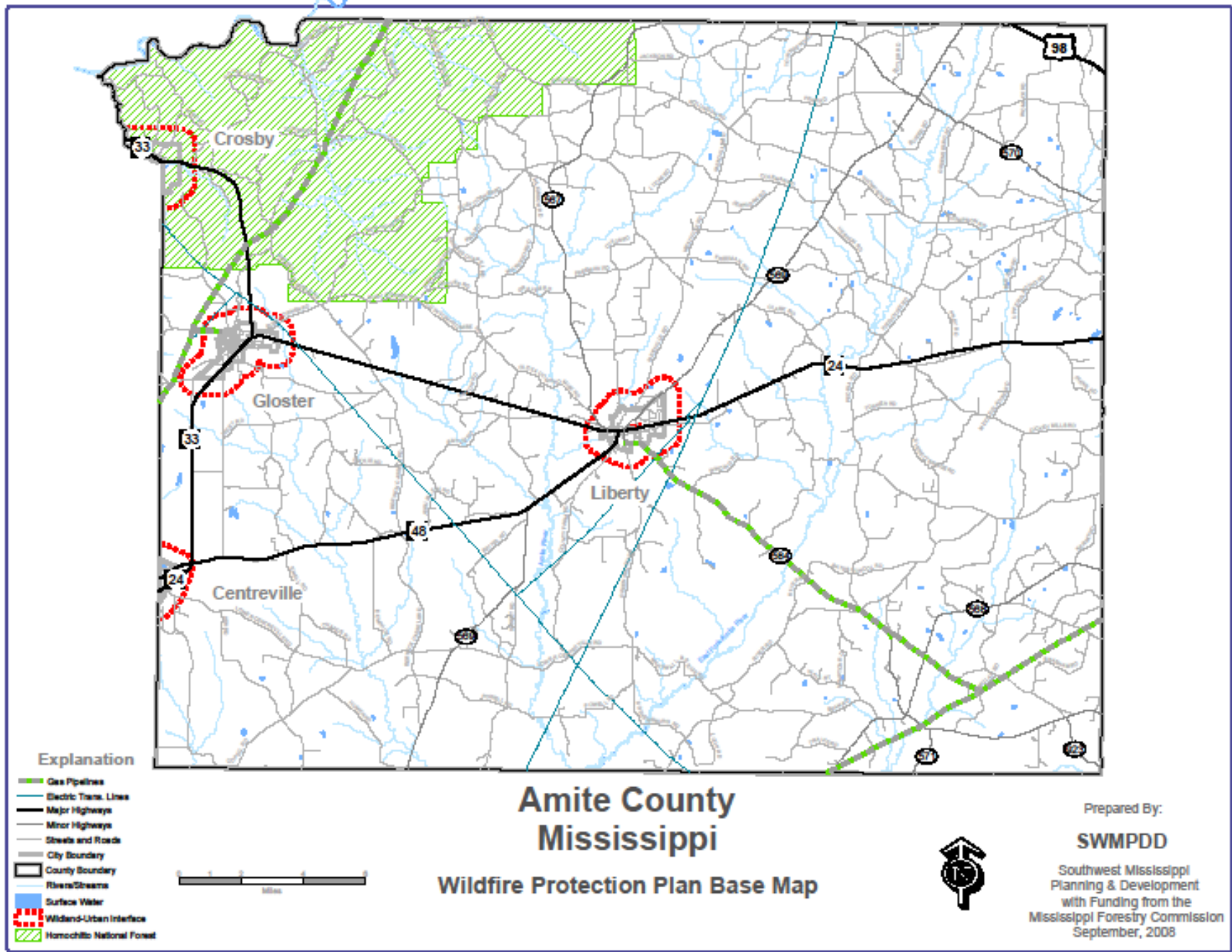
1. Southwest Mississippi Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan - May 2006
2. Amite County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan – June 2006
4. Firewise Around Your Home brochure - www.firewise.org
5. USDA Forest Service - Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan - March 2004

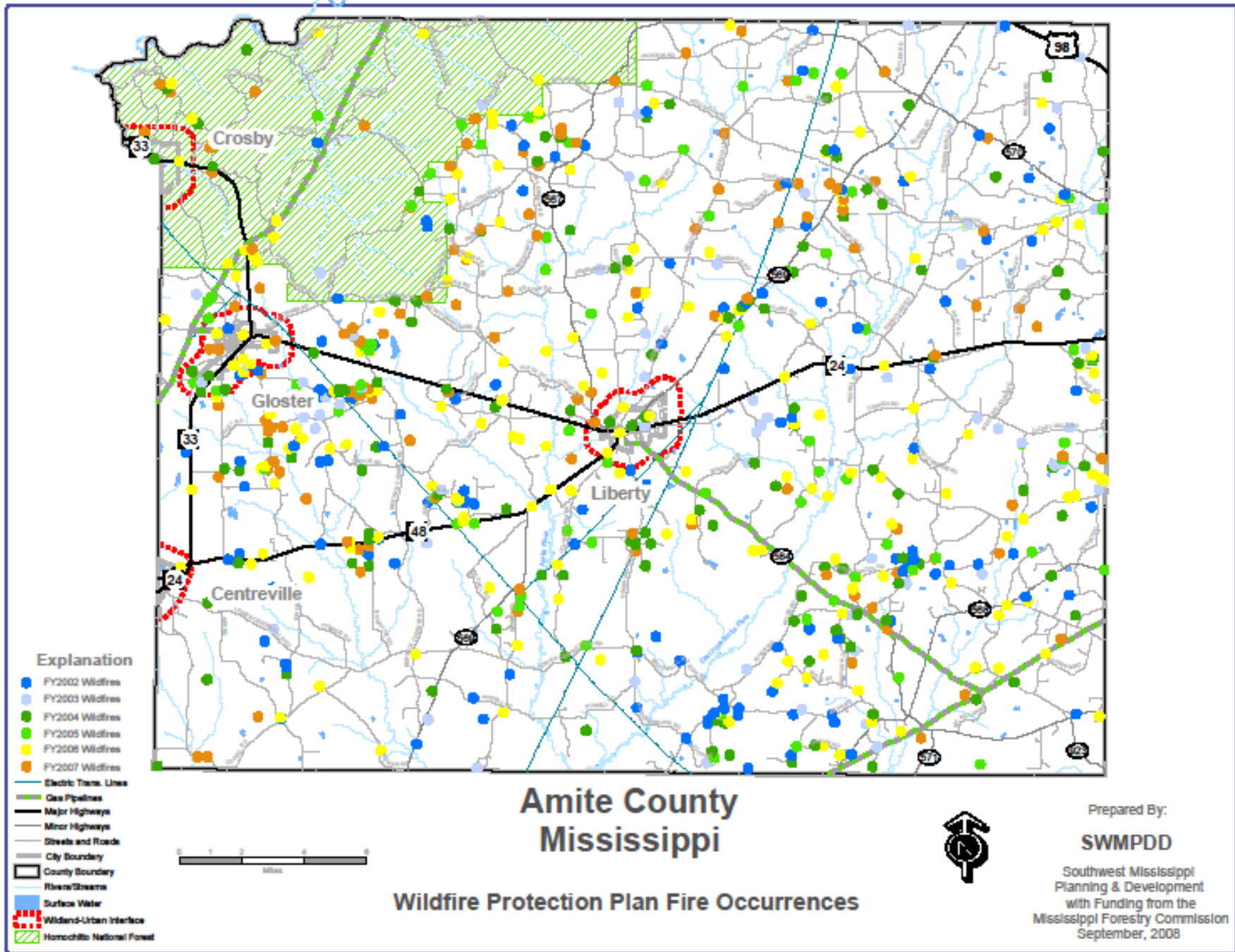
Project Contact Information

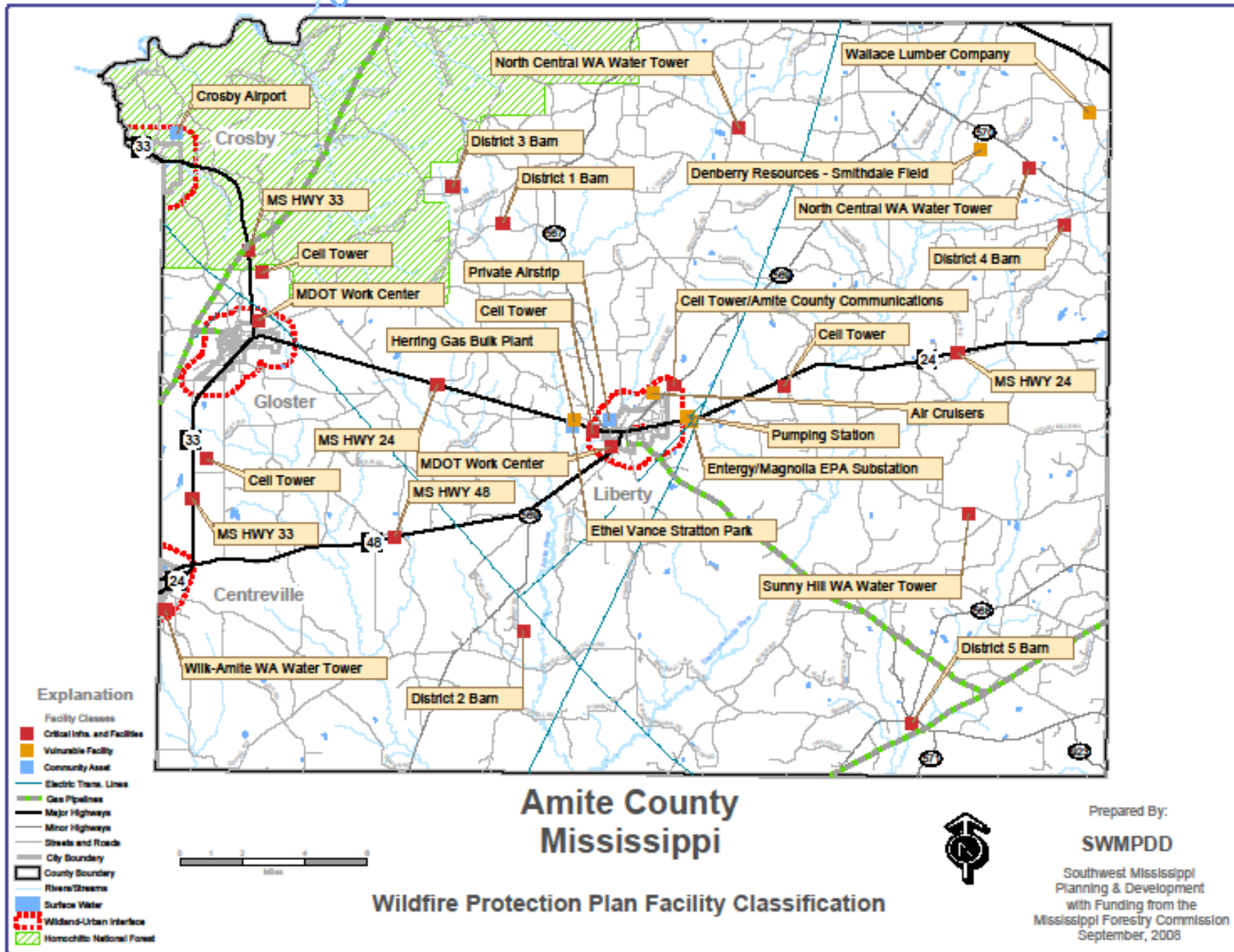
1. Amite County Emergency Management Agency
243 W. Main St.
Liberty, MS 39645
Phone: (601) 657-4527

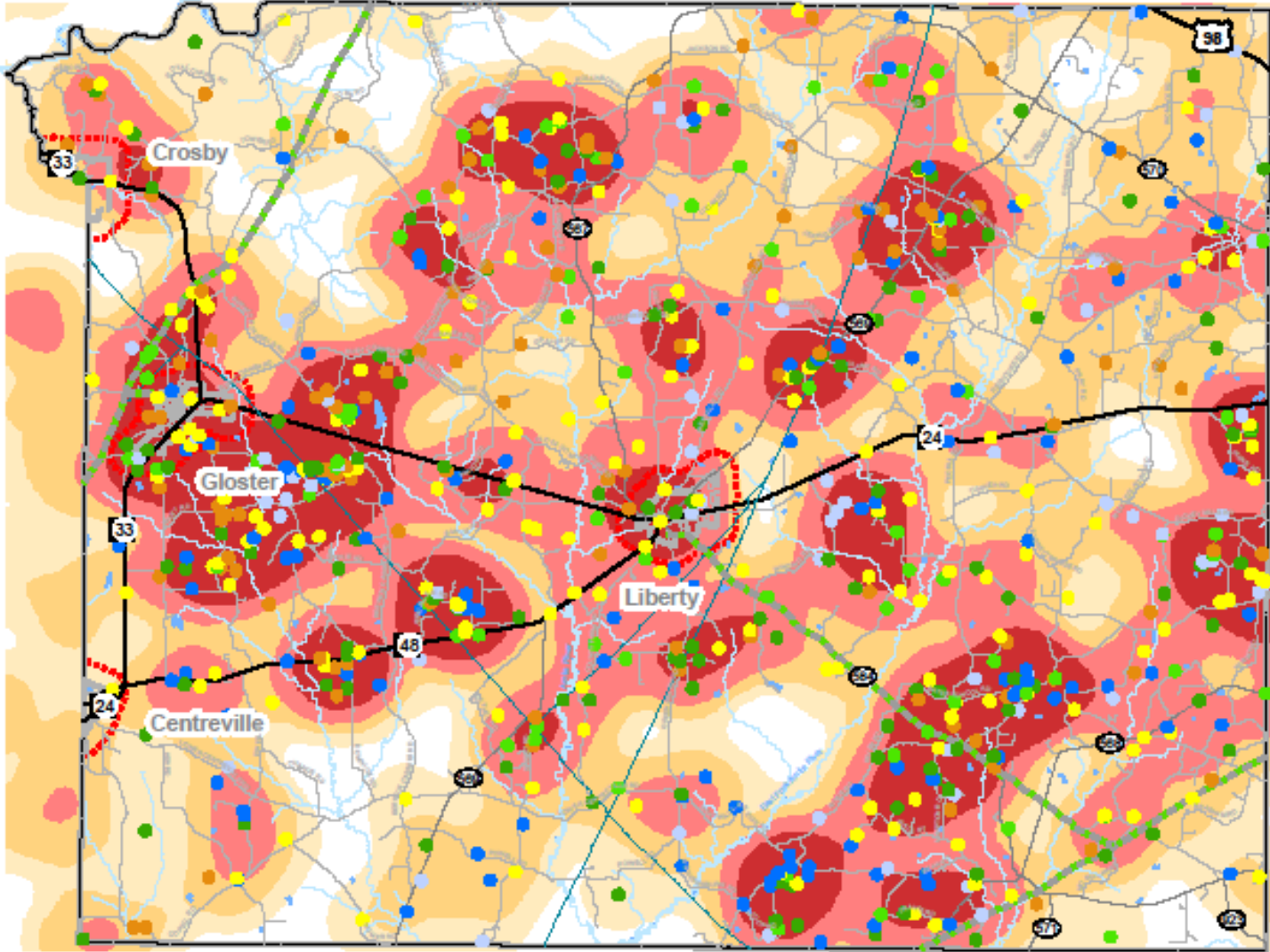
2. Mississippi Forestry Commission
515 County Farm Lane NE
Brookhaven, MS 39602
Phone: (601) 833-6621
Fax: (601) 833-2598
www.mfc.state.ms.us

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Electric Trans. Lines | High Concentration |
| Gas Pipelines | Medium Concentration |
| Major Highways | Moderate Concentration |
| Minor Highways | Low Concentration |
| Streets and Roads | Other |
| City Boundary | |
| County Boundary | |
| Rivers/Streams | |
| Surface Water | |
| Wildland-Urban Interface | |



Amite County Mississippi

Wildfire Protection Plan Fire Occurrence Rating



Prepared By:

SWMPDD

Southwest Mississippi
Planning & Development
with Funding from the
Mississippi Forestry Commission
September, 2008

