Town of Rome
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
This plan was prepared at the request and under the supervision of the Town of Rome Wildfire Plan Steering Committee and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC). For more information, contact:

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I. BACKGROUND & PLANNING PROCESS

A. INTRODUCTION

In 2005, Adams County experienced one of the largest wildfires in the state. The Cottonville Fire burned over 3,400 acres in less than a twelve-hour period before it was contained, although some fire crews were on-site extinguishing several small fires for over a week. In total, the fire burned an area about one and a half miles wide and seven miles long through the Towns of Big Flats, Colburn and Preston, southeast of the Town of Rome.

Wildfire events in the state and across the country have heightened awareness of the destructive potential of wildfire. Community leaders have become increasingly aware of the wildfire threat facing their residents. Therefore, more and more communities are taking actions to reduce the risk of wildfires.

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan is a community-based collaborative effort between local governmental units, fire departments, state and federal agencies, as well as residents. Such a plan will provide the local community with an opportunity to influence where and how local, county and state agencies implement fuel reduction projects on surrounding lands. As well, the collaborative approach to preparing the plan ensures successful implementation of the plan's mitigation action plan. Furthermore, adoption of the plan will allow the community to apply for federal funding for hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention.

B. PLAN ORGANIZATION & PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to give the Town of Rome, local fire departments, Adams County, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) the information and tools necessary to reduce the potential risks to the community from the devastating effects of wildfire. The plan seeks to establish priorities for protection of life, property and natural resources within the wildland-urban interface (WUI), or the areas where human development intermixes with wildland vegetation and fuels.

This plan is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) as defined by the federal Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFA).

A CWPP plan incorporates the following three basic components:

1) It is developed within the context of the collaborative agreements and the guidance established by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and agreed
to by the applicable local government, local fire department, and state agency responsible for forest management, in consultation with interested parties and the federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of the at-risk community;

(2) It identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on federal and non-federal land that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure; and

(3) It recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability throughout the at-risk community.

The HFRA establishes three minimum requirements for a CWPP. The first requirement is for collaboration in plan development. A CWPP must be developed as a collaborative effort between local and state government, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties. A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuels reduction treatments and recommend types and methods of treatment that will protect one or at-risk communities and critical infrastructure. Finally, a CWPP measures which private landowners and communities can utilize to reduce the ignitability of structures within the planning area.

Furthermore, HFRA provides communities with opportunities to influence where and how federal agencies implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on federal lands and how other federal funds may be allocated for other projects on non-federal lands.

C. PLANNING GOALS

This plan has two primary goals. The first goal is to identify and prioritize the surrounding area for hazardous fuel reduction treatments, as well as recommending measures for achieving hazardous fuels reductions. The plan addresses this objective through a comprehensive risk assessment and analysis and the development of standards and guidelines for hazardous fuels reductions. The second goal is to recommend measures for reducing structural ignitability throughout the at-risk area, which the plan addresses in a comprehensive mitigation action plan.

Additionally, it is an objective of this process to improve interagency coordination and cooperation in wildfire planning and protection. The mix of ownership and jurisdictions within project area pose great challenges for coordination, but also offers opportunities for utilizing the strengths of each agency to improve overall preparedness.

While the risks of wildfire will never be totally eliminated, it is recognized that the actions taken by resource management agencies, county, federal, state and local units of government and private landowners can greatly reduce the risk of wildfire and its impact on the community.
D. PLANNING PROCESS

This planning project is the result of a series of investigative actions and initiatives set forward by state and local resource management agencies, county and local government and local emergency response personnel as reaction to an expressed need to reduce the risks to life, property and natural resources from the potential effect of wildfire. The following text is a general synopsis of the events leading to the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Town of Rome in Adams County, Wisconsin.

1. Initiating the Process

In late 2005 the WDNR, the Town of Rome and the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) met to discuss the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Following this meeting, it was determined that there was sufficient interest to collaborate and prepare a formal proposal to the WDNR. The NCWRPC submitted a proposal and funding was approved in the spring of 2006. An initial meeting was held at the Town of Rome to establish a steering committee to provide oversight of the planning process.

2. The Pre-Planning Process

A pre-planning meeting was held in October of 2005, with the development of a general work plan for the project. Funding for the project was secured through the WDNR.

The steering committee, created in May of 2006, was the principal body directing plan development. The members of this committee are listed below. The composition of the committee included representatives from the local organizations, WDNR, and Adams County. Representatives from the NCWRPC facilitated committee meetings and drafted plan narrative. The formal process was initiated with a kick-off meeting in August of 2006.

3. Plan Development Process

At each meeting, the committee engaged in open discussion and commentary relative to the pertinent issues and action items described in the meeting agenda. Early efforts focused on establishing goals and objectives, describing existing conditions and mapping planning areas. Middle stages of the process involved developing a hazard assessment model. Using committee defined inputs and data provided by the participants, a series of models were developed by NCWRPC and presented to the committee for discussion and revision. The later stages of the process focused on the development of hazardous fuels reduction projects and general wildfire mitigation actions.

E. STEERING COMMITTEE

The Town of Rome established a committee of 11 members to guide the planning process. The members are:
Committee Meeting

Jolene Ackerman, WDNR Wildland-Urban Interface Coordinator, attended several committee meetings and provided thorough review of the draft report.

F. PLANNING AREA

Adams County is located in central Wisconsin, and is surrounded by Marquette and Waushara Counties to the east, Portage and Wood Counties to the north, Juneau County to the west, and Columbia County to the south. There are seventeen towns in the county. The Town of Rome is along the northern edge of the Wisconsin River (see Map 1).

The Town of Rome encompasses over 62 square miles, or about 39,680 acres. Table 1 breaks down the planning area versus the county. Map 2 is the planning area base map.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Area in square miles</th>
<th>Area as Percent of County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Land Area</td>
<td>Water Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Rome</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams County</td>
<td>647.7</td>
<td>40.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

Major property owners within the Town include Plum Creek, Wisconsin Public Service, property owner associations, and several individual private landowners with sizeable holdings (see Map 3).

1. General Land Use Patterns

Land use is an important determinant in the potential impact a particular hazard may have, and in action which may be taken to mitigate the hazard impacts. An understanding of the amount, type, and distribution of land uses within the Town and the surrounding area is an important consideration in the planning process, see Map 4.
Map 3
Map 4
The dominant land use in the Town is wooded with areas of concentrated residential and commercial land uses. This compares to the county land area which is approximately 57 percent forested, comprised of 251,358 acres of woodland. Agricultural land covers another 25 percent of the county's land area. The main agricultural practices in the county are irrigated vegetables and dairy farming. There are also 200-500 acres of cranberry production concentrated in the Town of Leola, which adjoins the Town of Rome to the east. Commercial and industrial development makes up only about 0.4 percent of the total area of the County. Land use for commercial and industrial development is also scattered throughout the county. There are four designated industrial parks in Adams County. They are in the City of Adams, Village of Friendship, Town of Preston, and Town of Rome.

2. Surface Water

The total surface water area of lakes and streams in Adams County exceeds 20,000 acres. Petenwell and Castle Rock flowages, the second and fifth largest lakes in the state cover 16,295 acres together. Petenwell establishes the western boundary of the Town. Although much of the shoreline is still undeveloped, some residential areas exist.

Lake Sherwood, Lake Camelot, and Lake Arrowhead dams are located in the Town of Rome. These three lakes were designed for recreational and economic purposes related to property development. The lakes were formed by artificially constructing earth dams made of native soil material across the waterways. In 1967, Lake Sherwood was the first of the three dams created by damming Fourteen Mile Creek and Spring Branch Creek. Lake Camelot was created in 1969 by damming Spring Branch Creek near the end of the upper arm of Lake Sherwood and Fourteen Mile Creek near the end of the lower arm. A channel between the two diverts part of the greater flow of Fourteen Mile Creek to the upper part of Lake Camelot to reduce stagnation problems which could have arisen from the low flow in Spring Branch Creek and resultant slow replacement of water in the lake. The Lake Arrowhead dam was the last of the series of dams constructed in 1978 over Fourteen Mile Creek and is located approximately 2.7 miles west of State Highway 13.

G. DEMOGRAPHICS

There is an increasing number of people residing and recreating within the Town. Most wildfires in Wisconsin, including the project area, are caused by the actions of humans. As human encroachment on wildlands and forest usage increases, so does the risk that a wildfire may start.

Over the last ten years the county grew by over 27 percent. It far outpaced all of the surrounding counties in the area as well as the state (see Table 2).
Table 2: Area County Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>No. Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>15,682</td>
<td>19,920</td>
<td>4,238</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juneau</td>
<td>21,650</td>
<td>24,316</td>
<td>2,666</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portage</td>
<td>61,405</td>
<td>67,182</td>
<td>5,777</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>73,605</td>
<td>75,555</td>
<td>1,950</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>4,891,769</td>
<td>5,363,675</td>
<td>471,906</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


There were 2,656 persons and 1,181 households in the Town in 2000. These increased from 1,674 persons and 711 households in 1990 (see Table 3).

Table 3: Population and Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Population 1990</th>
<th>Population 2000</th>
<th>Increase (%)</th>
<th>Households 1990</th>
<th>Households 2000</th>
<th>Increase (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town of Rome</td>
<td>1,674</td>
<td>2,656</td>
<td>58.7</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>1,181</td>
<td>66.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams County</td>
<td>15,682</td>
<td>19,920</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>5,972</td>
<td>7,900</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The equalized value of the Town is a substantial portion of the overall total county value. In 2005, the Town value was $383 million, which represents 25 percent of the county value (see Table 4).

Table 4: Equalized Value Comparison between the Town of Rome and Adams County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Real Estate ($)</th>
<th>Personal Property ($)</th>
<th>Total ($)</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town of Rome</td>
<td>380,556,400</td>
<td>2,554,500</td>
<td>383,110,900</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams County</td>
<td>1,501,471,700</td>
<td>16,649,900</td>
<td>1,518,121,600</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WI Department of Revenue, 2006

H. CRITICAL FACILITIES

Located within the Town are several critical facilities. These include the town hall, fire stations, communication tower, water tower, and medical facility (see Map 5).

The Rome Water Utility provides a private water supply system to over 1,800 customers around...
Lake Camelot. The infrastructure of electric and telephone lines should be considered in the events of high wind, ice storms, tornadoes, flooding, and fire. Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative provides electric service throughout the Town. The American Transmission Company owns, maintains, and operates the major transmission facilities located in the Town. There are two telephone providers in the Town: Solarus and Marquette-Adams.

I. EMERGENCY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The type and location of public emergency services are an important consideration in hazard mitigation planning because of the potential direct involvement of such facilities in certain hazard situations. The location of fire stations, police departments, and ambulance services are displayed on Map 5.

There are six fire stations that serve the local units of governments in Adams County. The Rome Fire Department provides a full-time fire chief, while the remainder of the departments rely on volunteers for this service. There are five ambulance service providers to the County. Nekoosa provides their service to the Town of Rome through their fire department. The WDNR has primary responsibility for wildfire suppression.

The Adams County Sheriff’s Department provides service to all the towns and the village for law enforcement. The Town of Rome has its own police department. It is staffed with seven full-time officers. The County provides dispatch for the Town of Rome.

To coordinate these services, Adams County has created an Emergency Operations Plan, which was last updated in 2002. It provides a general overview for County and municipal emergency response personnel during response to a number of disasters. The document serves to coordinate the County and local units of government during times of response and recovery. The Town of Rome Fire Department has mutual aid agreements with Big Flats, Grand Rapids, and Nekoosa Fire Departments.

The Town of Rome developed an Emergency Response Plan in 2007. The purpose of the plan is to establish emergency response plans and to organize personnel and Town resources.

J. TRANSPORTATION

The transportation system provides the basis for movement of goods and people into, out of, through, and within the Town; and as such, are critical resources.

Highways link Adams County with the rest of the state and the nation. Map 5 shows the Town transportation system. The area is served by State Highway 13, which runs north-south through the center of the Town. Highway Z also runs north-south along the lake on the western edge of the Town. County Highway D runs east-west through the northern...
section of the Town. Highway O runs east-west near the southern section of the Town. Highway 73 runs east-west along the northern border of the Town.

II. EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. DEVELOPMENT CONDITIONS IN THE PLANNING AREA

A quick review of the demographic profile for the Town of Rome presented in section I reveals that the population growth in the town has exceeded that of the surrounding communities, as well as the overall statewide average. This growth has resulted in the current population of 3,051 (2006 estimate). Of course, the related increases in occupied housing units parallel population growth, with approximately 1,356 occupied units in 2006 (NCW RPC estimate). Another factor that must be considered is vacant - seasonal / recreational housing units. The 2000 Census shows that there were 1,173 (49.8%) vacant units within the Town of Rome in addition to the resident households with 1,095 (46.5%) of those identified as seasonal units. This is significantly higher than the surrounding communities.

To help identify how these housing units are concentrating within the Town, population density indicators are used. The Census showed the overall population density of the Town to be 48.9 persons per square mile. This figure is approximately double that of surrounding Adams County towns, but only half of the statewide number. However, the seasonal population is not accounted for in the Census density. County land records data is used to map the density of housing units throughout the Town, including both full-time and seasonal units (see Map 6).

Future development is projected in the Town’s 2003 Comprehensive Plan. The Town is projected to accommodate an additional 2,215 acres of residential land (about 6.3% of the total land area) by 2020.

The 2003 Comprehensive Plan also describes the development conditions within the Town by land use category, as follows:

1. Residential

About 11 percent of the Town’s total acreage is in single-family residential use. This use makes up about 65 percent of the developed acreage in the Town. Single-family residential use areas are primarily concentrated around Lakes Arrowhead, Sherwood, and Camelot and around the Town’s two golf-course developments. Additional single-family residential areas exist in the far western portion of the Town, near Lake Petenwell.

Very little multi-family housing exists within the Town. A small multi-family development is presently located south of Lake Arrowhead. In its Comprehensive Plan, the Town has identified several areas for future multi-family development over the next 20 years, including areas near STH 13 and Alpine Drive, along Apache Avenue south of the golf course, and two areas south of Lake Arrowhead.
Map 5
2. Agricultural

The Town currently has a limited amount of land in agricultural production. Approximately 950 acres, or 2.4 percent of the Town, is identified as agriculture with the majority of this land either being located northeast of Lake Camelot or northwest of Lake Arrowhead. Cranberry production is the primary crop.

3. Commercial

Less than one percent of the Town is identified as commercial. Of existing commercial land, the majority is found along either sections of STH 13 concentrated near CTH D/Alpine Drive, Lakes Arrowhead and Sherwood, or to a lesser extent along portions of CTH D (west of STH 13 to CTH Z).

4. Manufacturing

The Town is currently developing a 250-acre business park/town center at the southwest intersection of CTH D and STH 13. Outside this area, the Town has very little land in manufacturing use with only about 14 acres located along CTH D.

5. Forest – Corporate

Nearly 13,000 acres of forested land within the Town is privately owned by a forest products company. Currently, this land is dedicated to the growth of trees for pulp production. In addition, the majority of this land is under the State of Wisconsin’s Managed Forest Law program and open for public hunting and other recreational uses.

6. Forest – Private

An additional 5,500 acres of land within the Town is identified as privately owned forested land. The majority of this land is also in the Managed Forest Law program but closed for public hunting and other recreation.

7. Forest - Public/Semi-Public

Approximately 2,200 forested acres are classified as public/semi-public. The majority of this land is owned by Wisconsin Public Service and located along Lake Petenwell. Additional public forest land is either owned by the Town, Adams County, or the State of Wisconsin (e.g. the WDNR owns recreational land at the far reaches of Lake Camelot).

8. Public and Quasi-Public

Throughout the Town are public/quasi-public lands owned by the Town, County, or State. This total acreage accounts for less than one percent of the total land area. The Town owns several municipal parcels including the Town facilities at STH 13 and Alpine Drive (formerly CTH D) and the recycling center. The County also maintains several small park areas and boat landings along Lakes Camelot and Arrowhead.
9. Park and Recreation

Two large 18-hole championship golf courses are located in the Town. The original 18-hole course was opened in 1985 and is located west of STH 13. The second course, located south of Lake Arrowhead, was opened in 1998. Additional private parks and open space is located throughout the three lake developments. A total of 890 acres, or roughly 2.2 percent, is classified as private parkland.

10. Transportation/Utility

Approximately 1,475 acres of land within the Town is classified as transportation or utility use, which includes roads/highways (current use or reserve for future use) and utility usage. This figure accounts for approximately 4 percent of the Town’s developed land area.

11. Water/Wetlands

The most significant water features within the Town are Lake Sherwood, Lake Camelot and Lake Arrowhead (the “Tri-Lakes”) and also Lake Petenwell, part of the Wisconsin River that forms the western boundary of the Town of Rome. The Tri-Lakes have a surface area of approximately 1,000 acres. Originally created to attract development and recreational homes, there are currently more than 4,000 home sites near the Tri-Lakes. By the late 1990’s, more than 1,800 homes had been built in the area. Fourteen Mile Creek, flowing westerly into Lake Petenwell, was damned to create the Tri-Lakes.

Within the Town of Rome, large areas of wetlands are primarily concentrated in the Town’s southeastern quadrant and comprise approximately 4,360 acres. Additional wetlands are found along Fourteen Mile Creek to Lake Arrowhead and along areas east of Lake Camelot. Other wetlands are found in areas adjacent to Lake Petenwell and Chester Creek in the west central and northwest parts of the Town.

Additional water features, located in the southeast part of the Town, include Dorro Couche Lake and Dead Horse Creek. Both are located near Dyracuse Park, south of Archer Drive and Aspen Avenue.

12. Vacant/Open Space

About 2,000 acres of the Town is vacant or open space. These are parcels identified from the 2001 tax roll and orthophotography that were either assessed as residential but had no listed improvement value, or those parcels that were not forested, farmed or in another land use category. This figure accounts for about 5 percent of the Town’s total land area and the majority are vacant or empty parcels located throughout the lakes region and other residential areas within the Town.
B. WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI)

Wildfires have been a part of the natural cycle since before the dawn of man. They are not, by themselves, an environmental problem any more than any other natural phenomenon. As with all natural disasters, the problem lies in the intersection between the phenomenon and human development.

The trend toward introducing more human development into fire prone areas has brought about the term wildland urban interface or WUI. The WUI identifies areas where structures and human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildlands. It is within these areas where wildfire poses the greatest risk to human lives and property.

Interface areas are those with housing in the vicinity of contiguous wildland vegetation, while intermix areas are those where housing and vegetation intermingle.

Within the intermix areas, wildland vegetation is continuous (more than 50% vegetated). These areas have a residential development density of more than 1 house per 40 acres. Interface areas are those with residential development in the vicinity of contiguous vegetation. Interface areas have more than 1 house per 40-acres, have less than 50% vegetation and are within 1.5 miles of an area over 1,325 acres that is more than 75% vegetated.

The WDNR has engaged in a statewide survey of Communities at Risk to wildfire by developing a computer model that maps values at risk, wildfire risk, and hazards. Inputs in the values at risk layer include housing density from the 2000 Census and proximity to flammable vegetation (Wisconsin’s Wildland-Urban Interface, developed by UW-Madison). Wildfire risk inputs include historic fire occurrence, population density, and distance to roads and railroads. Hazard inputs include vegetation information from WISCLAND, historic fire regime data, moisture index data, and Finley’s pre-settlement vegetation data.

Based on HFRA authorization, the State of Wisconsin defines the boundaries of Communities at Risk for CWPP purposes to correspond with civil town boundaries. Therefore, based on the values at risk, wildfire risk, and hazards within the Town of Rome, the entire Town is considered to be a Community at Risk.

Wildfires are more than just a phenomenon and natural hazard. They are also very much a human triggered hazard unlike tornados or earthquakes. Humans may not control weather or geologic processes, but can and often do control combustion and the flammable material on which it feeds.

C. TRADITIONAL USE OF FIRE

People worldwide have used fire to manipulate their environment for thousands of years. In many areas, fires started by people have played an important role in creating certain ecosystems that are now valued for the unique plants, animals or natural communities they support.
People burn the lands around them to meet their basic needs and aid their livelihoods. Many important activities are facilitated by using fire, including: hunting, stimulating growth of plants used for food or other needs, clearing vegetation for agriculture, improving forage for domestic animals and controlling pests.

Prescribed fire is the application of carefully controlled burns under defined fuel and weather conditions to accomplish specific land management or ecological objectives. Prescribed fire can also be used to create fuel breaks to facilitate the control of unwanted wildfires.

Wildfire itself can be used to achieve land management goals. The level of management of unplanned fires may range from monitoring within predetermined fire size limits to more aggressive containment within specified zones.

Waste disposal is another traditional use of fire. Individuals may desire to burn small amounts of dry leaves, plant clippings, brush and dry combustible rubbish including paper, cardboard and clean untreated/unpainted wood. Burning permits are required by the WDNR in many parts of the state, including the Town of Rome, to conduct outdoor burning. The permit establishes conditions/guidelines for safe burning.

Cooking, heating or campfires are other traditional uses of fire that do not require a permit, as long as there are no emergency forest fire regulations in place. Any person or organization allowing a fire to become a wildfire is liable for all suppression costs incurred by state and local governments and may be subject to civil liability for damages.

D. AREA FIRE HISTORY

The Town of Rome area, like much of central Wisconsin, has had little recent exposure to large-scale wildfire. Fires occurring in the past 30 years have been relatively small, averaging 2.1 acres in size. However, the Town must remain cognizant of the nearby Cottonville Fire, which could have just as easily been in the Town of Rome.

A detailed database of fire reports for fires from 1977 to 2006 and a copy of the fire codes from the Individual Forest Fire Report Handbook were obtained from DNR field staff. The data (see Figure 1) shows a total of 277 DNR reported fires within the Town of Rome over the 30-year period (see Map 7). There is an average of 9.23 fires per year. The most active year was 1988 with 22 total fires as part of a three-year spike from 1987 to 1989 (12 and 18, respectively).
The biggest time of year for fires appears to be April and May, with 99 and 64 occurrences respectively (see Figure 2). The occurrences remain elevated March through November with a spike again in July with 36 fires. Figure 3 shows fire occurrences by day of the week. The weekend period, Friday through Sunday experiences the most fires with Saturday being the biggest day at 74 occurrences.
Figure 4 identifies the total area in acres burned by year. Although 1988 was the big year in terms of number of fires, the average size of fire was only 2.0 acres with a total of 43.85 acres burned. The big year for acreage burned was 1998 when a total of 168.55 acres were burned in only eight fires for an average of 21.1 acres. Another notable spike in area burned occurred in 1980 with 98.93 acres burned.
The banner year in 1998 can be explained by one fire in which approximately 158 acres of red pine went up in April. Residents in the path of the fire had to be evacuated, but there were no injuries and no homes were lost. Property damages exceeded $80,000.

E. FIRE CAUSES

Debris burning (see Figure 5) is the number one cause of wildfire in the Town of Rome (85 fires since 1977) and Wisconsin overall. Outdoor burning is regulated by the state, which authorizes this activity through the issuance of a burning permit. Illegal burning and failure to follow the requirements of a permit are often the cause of wildfires. Attachment A provides an overview of the basic factors influencing wildfire susceptibility.

The next biggest cause “category” is Miscellaneous with 74 fires since 1977. Within this figure are factors such as experimenting with fire / playing with matches which leads with 17 combined and fireworks with 16. Power line and improper ash disposal are significant with 9 and 8 fires respectively. Only two structure fires resulted in wildfire. Also among the miscellaneous are 21 “others” that probably remain unknown. The actual cause of a wildfire sometimes cannot be identified.

Other causes of wildfire in the Town of Rome include campfires (36), smoking (16), and equipment (42) which includes off-road recreation vehicles, vehicle or aircraft crashes, vehicle and equipment exhaust, equipment sparks, off-road logging or farm equipment, small motors, etc.

Incendiary (18) fires include arson and pest control (gone awry) among others. Essentially, the only natural cause of wildfire in the Town of Rome is lightning with 6 fires since 1977. Lightning is the primary natural cause of wildfire in the state.
Figure 6 shows that incendiary fires are the most destructive by burning 199.4 acres over only those 18 fires since 1977. Campfires resulted in 111 acres burned (36 fires) and equipment took 101.7 acres (42 fires). The miscellaneous group burned a combined total of 64.6 acres (74 fires), and similarly debris burning took 63.5 acres in 85 fires. By comparison, lightning has only resulted in 15.7 acres burned since 1977. Map 7 shows the causes of the various fires by geographic location of ignition.

F. HISTORY OF FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE PLANNING AREA

The state of Wisconsin is divided into three fire management areas: Co-op, Extensive, and Intensive (see Figure 7). Adams County, including the Town of Rome, falls into the Intensive fire management area. These areas are generally more heavily forested parts of the state. Due to the higher risk for wildfire, W DNR stations and fire fighting resources are concentrated in these areas. Burning permits are required whenever the ground is not snow-covered. Fire detection involves citizen reporting, W DNR aircraft and fire towers strategically located throughout the area.
WDNR Forester-Rangers regularly patrol the Town of Rome for illegal burning and burning permit violations. An average of 9 citations and 36 warnings are issued each year. In 2006, dry conditions prompted the WDNR to step-up enforcement activities, resulting in 21 citations and 70 warnings. The Department estimates that many more violations go uncaught. WDNR Forester-Rangers can write citations for the following violations:

- Burning without a permit - intensive area: Wis.Stats. 26.12(5)(a)
- Setting fires and failing to extinguish: Wis. Stats. 26.14(5)
- Possess or use fireworks: Wis. Stats. 167.10(3)
- Allowing a fire to escape: Wis. Stats. 26.14(6)
- Intentionally set fire to lands of another or a marsh: Stats. 26.14(8)
- Negligent handling of burning material: Wis. Stats. 941.10

The WDNR uses National Fire Plan (NFP) funding to reduce fuels, better prepare for wildfires and educate the public within Adams County and the Town of Rome. Mock fire exercises have been conducted with local wildland and structural firefighters in the Adams County area including the Town of Rome to improve preparedness. Incident Management Teams have been established to train and prepare for large fires throughout the year. Operations plans are made and distributed each day during fire season, and Fire Action Plans are updated for each of the states fire areas including Adams County every year before fire season.

In 2005, the NCWRPC prepared Structure Zone Map books with NFP funding through the WDNR, for use by emergency services personnel in Adams County, including the Town of Rome. These maps document both structural and wildland resources to help protect life, property and natural resources during fire emergencies.

Several educational projects have been conducted within the County. These include local newspaper press releases and advertisements, articles in lake association newsletters, a fire prevention billboard and other signs, radio announcements in the spring (fire season kick-off), WUI calendar, a Firewise workshop, the "Point of Origin" newsletter, a "Living with Fire" newspaper insert and a homeowner wildfire protection flyer mailed with every property tax bill. WDNR field staff have also taken the initiative to develop and distribute fire prevention packets to large land developers and purchasers of new lots in the Town.

G. FIRE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

There are various local, state and federal programs and policies related to community fire planning and protection. Most recently, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act was signed into law in 2003 and the National Fire Plan established in 2001. Locally, Adams County adopted its first All Hazards Mitigation Plan in 2004, and the Town of Rome has adopted...
ordinances and is working on Firewise implementation. The following provides a brief overview of these policies and programs:

- **Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA)** - This federal law is designed to promote fuels reduction projects on federal lands, community plans and biomass energy production.

  Title III of the Act encourages the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans under which communities will designate their WUI areas, where HFRA projects may take place. Half of all fuel reduction projects under the HFRA will occur in the community protection zone as defined by the HFRA. The HFRA also encourages biomass energy production through grants and assistance to local communities to create market incentives for removal of otherwise valueless forest material.

- **National Fire Plan (NFP)** - This is a federal interagency plan that focuses on firefighting, rehabilitation, hazardous fuels reduction, community assistance and accountability.

  The NFP is a long-term investment that is intended to help protect communities and natural resources. The plan establishes a commitment to communication, cooperation and collaboration between federal agencies, states, local governments, tribes and interested parties. Federal wildland fire management agencies worked closely with these partners to prepare a 10-year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan. The NFP calls for the development of Community Fire Plans to aid in effectively implementing NFP goals.

- **Adams County All Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP)** - A multi-jurisdictional planning effort adopted by the County, City of Adams, Village of Friendship and most of the Towns in 2004, this plan is required by FEMA under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

  The plan features a very general, county-wide risk assessment and mitigation strategy for eight categories of hazard event including wildfire. The AHMP identifies two general strategies to address the wildfire hazard, as follows:

  1.) Continue to provide outreach efforts to homeowners on protecting homes and structures from wildfires.

  2.) Provide ample training for volunteer fire fighters for larger fires.

- **Town of Rome Regulations** - The Town of Rome has a code of ordinances established per state statutes that contains a number of regulations that pertain, either directly or indirectly to wildfire planning and protection.
Code Chapter 3, Public Safety, has provisions regarding responsibility for burning permits and fees for extinguishing fires and accumulation of combustible material. Chapter 4, Public Works, specifies driveway turnaround requirements for any residence 200 feet or more off the roadway. Refer to Attachment B for current code text.

- **Firewise Resolution** – The Town of Rome has committed to Firewise program implementation.

  As a result of concerns about the overall wildfire risk facing the Town as brought to light by the Cottonville Fire in 2005, the Town of Rome passed a resolution to implement a Firewise program within the Town. An informational meeting was held in September of 2005 to kick-off program implementation in the Town, including the development of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

- **Lake Camelot Firewise Program** – The property owner’s association for Lake Camelot is actively engaged in Firewise implementation.

  In March of 2006, Lake Camelot Association began implementing a Firewise program. The primary activity of the program to date has been hazardous fuels reduction including the clearing of dead wood and under brush from common areas around Lake Camelot. There has been some resistance to these clean-up activities, but volunteers have been able to overcome somewhat thus allowing the cutting of selected dead trees. Clear cutting is not allowed. Several additions within Lake Camelot will be receiving Firewise Communities USA recognition in 2007. Subsequent additions are expected to follow.

- **Lake Arrowhead Camping Phase-out** – Lots on Lake Arrowhead include a restrictive covenant banning camping on undeveloped lots after 2009.

  Although not specifically fire prevention reasons, this lot restriction will likely have the effect of reducing open burning and campfires, a principle cause of wildfire in the Town of Rome.

### III. WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

#### A. WHAT IS WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT?

The wildfire risk assessment is a primary component of the overall planning process. It is intended to identify the locations for focused resource allocation to most effectively reduce the wildfire risk. While wildfire risk may never be entirely eliminated, the strategic implementation of sound management policy can reduce the threat of wildfire and minimize losses. This assessment provides decision makers with the information necessary to allocate resources effectively to reduce the risks from wildfire.

The model used in this assessment was based on similar approaches used in other planning processes. A GIS based modeling approach was utilized, along with suggestions and inputs
B. RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Many communities across the country have completed or are currently working on wildfire planning efforts. In these processes, they have developed numerous models in an attempt to understand the risks posed by wildfires. The assessment techniques used in these models differ widely in both content and detail of analysis.

This assessment evaluates wildfire risk by analyzing four key “layers” of fire information. These layers are:

- **Hazard**: Natural conditions, including vegetative fuels, weather and topographic features, that may contribute to and affect the behavior of wildfire.

- **Risk**: The potential and frequency with which wildfire ignitions might occur by analyzing historical ignitions over the past 30 years.

- **Values**: The people, property and essential infrastructure that may suffer losses in a wildfire event.

- **Protection Capability**: The ability to plan and prepare for, as well as respond to and suppress, structural and wildland fires.

Each of these layers is developed by compiling and analyzing one or more related factors that can lead to, aggravate or mitigate a wildfire. These data layers are analyzed and displayed using Geographic Information System (GIS) computer mapping software.

GIS is an extremely helpful tool for evaluating wildfire risk. This assessment uses GIS to perform a number of spatial analyses and to manage, store and display wildfire information. The output of this analysis is a series of map layers displaying separate but interconnected pieces of wildfire risk data. Through comparison and analysis of these layers, this assessment indicates area that express high, moderate and low potential risk of being impacted by a wildfire.

C. RISK ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the assessment are the following:

1. Determine the potential risk of wildfire for areas within the Town of Rome through a collaborative effort that incorporates local, on-the-ground knowledge with the best available data and geographic analysis.

2. Create digital layers for the following data sets:
• Planning Units
• Hazard posed by fuels, weather and topography
• Risk of wildfire occurrence
• Values (life, property and essential infrastructure) requiring protection
• Fire protection response
• Overall interface fire risk

3. Provide insight for the prioritization of hazardous fuel reduction projects.

D. PLANNING UNITS

The Town of Rome itself has been identified as one of the Communities at Risk to wildfire within the state of Wisconsin. However, a community may be broken down into smaller units. Subdivisions, neighborhoods and town centers may all be considered communities. The assessment highlights these smaller “communities at risk” for more refined assessment.

The Steering Committee has identified the following fourteen planning units within the Town of Rome as potential communities at risk, refer to Map 8:

1. North Arrowhead  
2. South Arrowhead  
3. East Arrowhead  
4. West Arrowhead  
5. Rome Center  
6. North Shermalot  
7. Shermalot Island  
8. South Shermalot  
9. North Camelot  
10. Roma Woods  
11. Rome 1  
12. Rome 2  
13. Rome 3  
14. Rome 4

The characteristics of each planning unit are described below:

1. North Arrowhead

This planning unit encompasses the densely developed area north of Lake Arrowhead between Highway 13 and Petenwell. The area is primarily residential in nature with some larger undeveloped parcels west of the lake. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 279 housing units currently in this area. Total land area of the planning unit is 1,049 acres with approximately 22 percent (236 acres) developed residential and 56 percent (591 acres) wooded.

2. South Arrowhead

This planning unit encompasses the densely developed area south of Lake Arrowhead. The area is primarily residential in nature, but also includes part of the golf course and a 49-site campground. Some larger undeveloped parcels are located west of the lake. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 515 housing units currently in this area. Total area of the planning unit is 1,966 acres with
Map 8
approximately 18 percent (355 acres) developed residential and 59 percent (1,165 acres) wooded and another 9.7 percent (191 acres) of golf course. The east end of the unit near Highway 13 includes the clinic, library/emergency shelter and a power substation. A second emergency shelter is located at the clubhouse in the south-central area of the unit.

3. East Arrowhead

This planning unit encompasses the densely developed area around the golf course just below the South Arrowhead planning unit. This area is primarily residential developed around a golf course and is completely platted. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 288 housing units currently in this area. Total area of the planning unit is 851 acres with approximately 24 percent (201 acres) developed residential and 39 percent (330 acres) wooded. The golf course makes up another 19.7 percent (168 acres). The centrally located clubhouse also serves as an emergency shelter.

4. West Arrowhead

This planning unit encompasses the heavily developed/developing area adjacent to Petenwell Lake just below the South Arrowhead planning unit. This area is primarily residential in nature with large wooded areas. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 533 housing units currently in this area. Two major new developments, Arden Forest and West Wind Shores, will add a significant number of housing units to this area. Total area of the planning unit is 2,103 acres with approximately 29 percent (605 acres) developed residential and 57 percent (1,165 acres) wooded. A church on the north end of the unit is a designated emergency shelter.

5. Rome Center

Just north of the Lakes, the smaller, less densely developed Rome Center planning unit is the governmental and commercial “center” of the town. The area is still primarily wooded at 67 percent (216 acres) of 325 total acres. Approximately 2 percent (7 acres) of the area is governmental development including the Town Hall and central Fire Station. About 14 percent (44 acres) is developed commercial including the Alpine business and industrial park. Only 6.5 percent (21 acres) is developed residential.

6. North Shermalot

The densely developed area north-northwest of Lakes Sherwood and Camelot between Highways 13 and D is the North Shermalot planning unit. The area is primarily residential in nature and is completely platted. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 311 housing units currently in this area. Total area of the planning unit is 386 acres with approximately 44 percent (170 acres) developed residential and 38 percent (148 acres) wooded. The Lake Camelot lodge in this area also serves as an emergency shelter.
7. Shermalot Island

The very densely developed island/peninsula area between Lakes Sherwood and Camelot is the Shermalot Island planning unit. The area is primarily residential in nature with some common woodland space and is completely platted. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 576 housing units currently in this area. Total area of the planning unit is 487 acres with approximately 59 percent (289 acres) developed residential and 21 percent (103 acres) wooded.

8. South Shermalot

The densely developed area south of Lakes Sherwood and Camelot between Highways 13 and 8th Avenue is the South Shermalot planning unit. The area is primarily residential in nature and is near completely platted. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 556 housing units currently in this area. Total area of the planning unit is 639 acres with approximately 42 percent (267 acres) developed residential and 37 percent (239 acres) wooded. Nearly a third of this woodland is owned by Adams County south of the dam. On the east side of the unit adjacent to Highway 13 is a hotel and the Lake Sherwood lodge, which serves as an emergency shelter.

9. North Camelot

The densely developed area north and east of Lakes Sherwood and Camelot is the North Camelot planning unit. The area is primarily residential in nature with some common woodland space and larger parcels which have the potential for additional platting. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 687 housing units currently in this area. Total area of the planning unit is 1,085 acres with approximately 34 percent (373 acres) developed residential and 50 percent (548 acres) wooded.

10. Roma Woods

This planning unit is comprised of the Roma Woods subdivision in the northwestern corner of the Town. The area is wooded residential in nature and completely platted, although a few larger parcels may have some potential for further division. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 28 housing units currently in this area. Total area of the planning unit is 81 acres with approximately 57 percent (46 acres) developed residential and 32 percent (26 acres) wooded.

11. Rome 1

This planning unit encompasses the northwest quadrant of the Town, less the area included in the Roma Woods, Rome Center, North Arrowhead and South Arrowhead units. This area is primarily wooded in nature with scattered agricultural, residential and commercial use. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 75 housing units currently in this area. Total area of the planning unit is 4,510 acres with approximately 3 percent (142 acres) developed residential and 85 percent (3,837 acres) wooded.
wooded. There is a communications tower and church that serves as an emergency shelter located in section 7.

12. Rome 2

This planning unit encompasses the northeast quadrant of the Town, less the area included in the Rome Center, North Shermalot, North Camelot, Shermalot Island and South Shermalot units. This area is primarily wooded in nature with scattered agricultural, residential and commercial use. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 29 housing units currently in this area. Total area of the planning unit is 6,171 acres with approximately 1 percent (46 acres) developed residential and 80 percent (4,941 acres) wooded. This unit has the most ag-land in the Town with 577 acres. Another 446 acres is grassland. There is a communications tower in section 5.

13. Rome 3

This planning unit encompasses the southwest quadrant of the Town less the area included in the East and West Arrowhead units. This area is primarily wooded in nature. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 14 housing units currently in this area. Total area of the planning unit is 5,655 acres with less than 1 percent (22 acres) developed residential and 96 percent (5,428 acres) wooded. A Town fire station and community center that is also an emergency shelter are located within this unit.

14. Rome 4

This planning unit encompasses the southeast quadrant of the Town. This area is primarily wooded or wetland in nature with scattered agricultural, residential and commercial use. Residential assessment information indicates that there are approximately 33 housing units currently in this area. Total area of the planning unit is 8,795 acres with less than 1 percent (37 acres) developed residential and 59 percent (5,187 acres) wooded. Approximately 37 percent (3,254 acres) of this area is wetland. Dyracuse Fire Tower is in section 35.

E. RISK ASSESSMENT MODEL

The intent of a wildfire risk assessment is to evaluate the factors that define high fire-risk areas and contribute to high fire damage in areas to “prioritize areas for treatment and to identify the highest priority uses for available financial and human resources” within each of the identified planning units.

This assessment is divided up into 5 steps:

1. Fuel hazards
2. Risk of wildfire occurrence
3. Homes, businesses and essential infrastructure at risk
4. Local preparedness and firefighting capability/accessibility
5. Overall assessment
This process is derived from the publication “Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities” which can be found on the web at: http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/cwpphandbook.pdf

In order to perform community risk assessments, a modeling tool has been developed using the geoprocessing framework of ESRI’s ArcGIS 9 software. This modeling tool is used to create and analyze the data layers for each of the five steps of the risk assessment model. A brief overview of each model step follows.

1. Fuel Hazards

Step 1 evaluates the vegetative fuels present in a community. Specific areas are identified where the condition of vegetative fuels is such that, if ignited, they would pose a significant threat to the community or essential community infrastructure. Factors considered in this portion of the assessment include:

- Output from FlamMap3 (flame length, spread rate, heat per unit area and crown fire activity)
- Insect /disease damage (gypsy moth treatment areas)

FlamMap3 is a fire behavior model. Inputs to FlamMap3 include a landscape file generated by FARSITE (another fire behavior model), fuel moisture data and wind (direction and speed). Moisture and wind data used are average or typical values for the Town of Rome. The FARSITE landscape file is generated based on the following:

- Topography (elevation, slope and aspect) from digital elevation model (DEM)
- Canopy characteristics (% cover, stand height, crown base height, and crown bulk density)
- Ground cover characteristics (duff loading and course woody profile)
- Fuel model (standard fire behavior fuel model assigned based on vegetative cover type). Refer to Table 5 for description of fuel models used (see Map 9).

The model uses standard Joint Fire Science Program scoring and weighting for this layer to represent typical fire behavior based on the geographic conditions and fuel types entered. Refer to Attachment C for technical details on how these inputs work through the modeling process.

The results of Step 1 are on a scale of low to very high, where a very high value represents areas identified to have large amounts of hazardous fuels and therefore are a high threat to the community (see Map 10). These high hazard areas also represent locations where fuels treatments could be most effective in reducing wildfire risks to communities and/or their essential infrastructure.

For example, within the insect and disease layer, a high value means that the area has been greatly damaged by insect and disease and therefore has a high amount of potential fuel if a wildfire ignites.
Table 5:
Standard Fire Behavior Fuel Models Selected for Town of Rome Wildfire Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fuel Model</th>
<th>Cover Types</th>
<th>Flame Length</th>
<th>Spread Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NB3 (93)</td>
<td>Agricultural</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR3 (103)</td>
<td>Low Load, Very Course, Humid Climate Grass (Dynamic)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR5 (105)</td>
<td>Low Load, Humid Climate Grass (Dynamic)</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR6 (106)</td>
<td>Moderate Load, Humid Climate Grass (Dynamic)</td>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>Very High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH3 (143)</td>
<td>Moderate Load, Humid Climate Shrub</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH6 (146)</td>
<td>Low Load, Humid Climate Shrub</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH7 (147)</td>
<td>Very High Load, Dry Climate Shrub (Chaparral)</td>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL6 (186)</td>
<td>Moderate Load Broadleaf Litter</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL9 (189)</td>
<td>Very High Load Broadleaf Litter</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USFS, 2005 & WDNR, 2007

2. Risk of Wildfire Occurrence

Step 2 determines the common causes and relative frequency of wildfires in a community using historical data and local knowledge. Sources of ignition risk data are broken down into two categories: human-caused ignitions and natural ignitions. Factors considered include:

- Actual historic fire occurrence (model accounts for location & density).
Human-caused ignitions are based on locations that allow human access and increase the probability of ignitions taking place. These locations include residential areas measured by housing density and buffers around roads and trails.

The scoring and weighting of this layer is summarized in Table 6. The table represents user variables that can be adjusted to more accurately reflect local conditions. The values shown are those established by the Steering Committee during the planning process for the Town of Rome. Refer to Attachment C for technical details on how these inputs work through the modeling process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Map Buffer (meters)</th>
<th>Raw Factor Score</th>
<th>Weight (% of element score)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Occurrence</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1-9</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Density</td>
<td>pls 40-grid</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Wildfire Plan Steering Committee, 2007

The results of Step 2 are on a relative scale of low to very high, where a very high value represents areas identified to have a high risk of fire occurrence, and therefore are a high threat in the community (see Map 11).

3. Homes, Businesses, and Essential Infrastructure at Risk

Step 3 assesses areas of the community that would be adversely impacted by wildfire. The intent of this step is to show which areas in a community are in the greatest need of protection from a fire, because their destruction would be disastrous and costly. Factors considered include:

- Homes
- Businesses
- Critical facilities
- Power lines/substations / pipelines and communications towers
- Water supply structures
- Escape routes

Also included within this layer is a general evaluation of various development-related risk factors affecting the individual planning units.

Each of the 14 planning units was rated on a number of design and development criteria and the level of hazard each poses within the unit (see Table 7). The summary score was then incorporated into Step 3 of the model. The higher the score, the greater the overall wildfire hazard.
Table 7: Planning Unit Infrastructure Risk Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subdivision Design</th>
<th>North Arrowhead</th>
<th>South Arrowhead</th>
<th>East Arrowhead</th>
<th>West Arrowhead</th>
<th>Rome Center</th>
<th>North Shermalot</th>
<th>Island Shermalot</th>
<th>South Shermalot</th>
<th>North Camelot</th>
<th>Roma Woods</th>
<th>Rome 1</th>
<th>Rome 2</th>
<th>Rome 3</th>
<th>Rome 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ingress/Egress</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One road, primary route, plus alternative</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One way in/out</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Road Widths</td>
<td>Minimum 24 ft.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 24 ft.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>Smooth road, grade less than 5%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough road, grade less than 5%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Road Terminus</td>
<td>Loop road or cul-de-sacs with turnaround radius greater than 45 ft.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Cul-de-sac turnaround radius less than 45 ft.</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead-end roads less than 200 ft. in length</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead-end roads over 200 ft. in length</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Lot Size</td>
<td>More than 10 acres</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 1 and 10 acres</td>
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<td>Street Signs</td>
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<td>Vegetation</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels/Density (General)</td>
<td>Grass with scattered trees or oak brush</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>10</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Thinned</em> conifers (10 ft. or more between trees)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sagebrush/willow</td>
<td>Dense, continuous conifers and/or thick oak brush</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Defensible Spaces Completed</td>
<td>More than 70% of sites</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Between 30 – 70% of sites</td>
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<td>TOPOGRAPHY</td>
<td>Slope (Predominant)</td>
<td>Less than 8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Between 9 – 20%</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Between 21 – 30%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>FIRE PROTECTION</td>
<td>Response Time</td>
<td>Within 15 minutes</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Within 16 – 30 minutes</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Greater than 31 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydrants</td>
<td>500 gpm hydrants on less than 1,000 ft. spacing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrants, but less than above or pump-site available on-site</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>No hydrants or pump-site</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Draft Sources</td>
<td>W thick 20 minutes round trip</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W thick 21 – 45 minutes round trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRUCTURE HAZARD</td>
<td>Materials (Predominant)</td>
<td>Roof and siding materials non-wood</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flammable siding/non-flammable roof (includes mobile home)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flammable roof</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTILITIES (Gas and/or Electric)</td>
<td>Placement</td>
<td>All underground</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One underground, one aboveground</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All aboveground</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WDNR & NCWRPC, 2007
The Shermalot Island planning unit faces a number of compounding factors including the number and close proximity of homes and the road system comprised of numerous dead ends and limited access points. The Roma Woods unit also stands out due to drive time from fire station for emergency response, lack of established water points and its location within a high fuel hazard area. The other planning units around the lakes, as well as East Arrowhead, have similar situations to Shermalot Island but are not quite as dense and have better access.

The scoring and weighting of this layer is summarized in Table 8. The table represents user variables that can be adjusted to more accurately reflect local conditions. The values shown are those established by the Steering Committee during the planning process for the Town of Rome. Refer to Attachment C for technical details on how these inputs work through the modeling process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Map Buffer (meters)</th>
<th>Raw Factor Score</th>
<th>Weight (% of element score)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Unit</td>
<td>areawide</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Lines</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substations</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Points</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitive Facilities</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Structures</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escape Routes</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipeline</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipeline Valve</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Wildfire Plan Steering Committee, 2007

The results of Step 3 are on a relative scale of low to very high, where a very high value represents areas where a fire would take the greatest toll in the community, and therefore are very important to protect (see Map 12).

4. Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability

Step 4 assesses the level of a community's emergency preparedness. Areas are ranked according to their relative accessibility, which will determine the effectiveness of potential firefighting efforts. Factors considered include:

- Fire station response times
- Location of water sources
- Location of dead end roads
Map 12
The scoring and weighting of this layer is summarized in Table 9. The table represents user variables that can be adjusted to more accurately reflect local conditions. The values shown are those established by the Steering Committee during the planning process for the Town of Rome. Refer to Attachment C for technical details on how these inputs work through the modeling process.

| Table 9: Model Scoring & Weighting for Risk Associated w/ Firefighting Capability |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Factor                         | Map buffer (meters)            | Raw Factor Score               | Weight (% of element score)     |
| Response Time                  | drive distance                 | 1-5                            | 40                              |
| Water Points                   | 100                            | -2                             | 20                              |
| Deadend Roads                  | 20                             | 2                              | 40                              |

Source: Wildfire Plan Steering Committee, 2007

The results of Step 4 are on a relative scale of low to very high, where a very high value represents areas that are less accessible to firefighters, such as dead ends or at far distances from roads or water sources, and thus have a greater risk of damage from a fire (see Map 13).

5. Overall Assessment

Step 5 is the final output of the model (see Map 14) and is a weighted composite of each of the previous four steps, as shown in Figure 8. The final layer (overall assessment) is a weighted overlay of each of the four individual layers of the model. The values shown are those established by the Steering Committee during the planning process for the Town of Rome. Refer to Attachment C for technical details on how these inputs work through the modeling process.
Map 13
Map 14
This approach allows examination of multiple variables simultaneously in order to understand the cumulative impact of all the risk factors. The overall hazard assessment for each of the planning units was determined by calculating the mean cell value from each step of the model within each of the 14 planning units (see Figure 9).
IV. FIRE SUPPRESSION RESOURCES AND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire suppression and management activities within the Town of Rome are carried out by three jurisdictions: state, county and local in accordance with their respective operations and management plans and cooperative agreements between the jurisdictions. Primary responsibility for these activities within each jurisdiction falls to the WDNR (state), Adams County Emergency Management Office (county) and the Town of Rome Fire Department (local).

A. WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

While there is limited state land ownership within the Town, the WDNR has wildfire authority and jurisdiction on county, town and privately owned lands. As stated in Wisconsin Statutes s26.11, "The Department is vested with power, authority and jurisdiction in all matters relating to the prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires outside the limits of incorporated villages and cities in the state..., and to do all things necessary in the exercise of such power, authority and jurisdiction."

The WDNR has 57 ranger stations that are outfitted with firefighting vehicles, equipment and staff to support wildland fire control in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Rapids Dispatch Group (see Figure 10) includes six Ranger Stations and covers Adams, Portage and parts of Marathon, Wood, Juneau and Sauk counties.

The Nekoosa Fire Response Unit (FRU) is responsible for the Town of Rome, but resources can be drawn from other stations as necessary. Since initial response and suppression efforts are most crucial to limiting the damages from wildfire in Wisconsin, Table 10 outlines the WDNR personnel and apparatus that would be available within a 1-hour response radius for the Town of Rome. In addition, the WDNR does hire limited term employees as seasonal firefighters to assist with suppression and detection efforts. Additional WDNR resources stationed beyond 1-hour could be requested for a large fire, but to evaluate the resources available for initial attack, only those resources stationed within the 1-hour (approx. 50 miles) response radius are listed.

The WDNR has a number of mutual aid agreements with local fire departments, county agencies and private contractors. The state often contracts larger pieces of heavy equipment and fire suppression aircraft to augment existing resources. The WDNR is prepared to mobilize all units to anywhere across the state as the need arises, as in the case of the recent Cottonville Fire. WDNR also has ability to request resources nationwide through the Eastern Area Coordination Center.

Refer to the section titled: History of Fire Management in the Planning Area for more information on past fire management efforts including education and training programs that have been conducted.
Figure 10

SOURCE: WDNR & NCWRPC, 2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
<th>Apparatus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nekoosa FRU</td>
<td>1 Forester Ranger</td>
<td>1 Type 7 Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Forestry Technicians</td>
<td>2 Type 4 Engines w/ plow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Team Leader</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Foresters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babcock FRU</td>
<td>1 Forester Ranger</td>
<td>1 Type 7 Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Forestry Technician</td>
<td>1 Type 4 Engine w/ plow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Sandhill Forester</td>
<td>1 Type 8 Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendship FRU</td>
<td>1 Forester Ranger</td>
<td>1 Type 7 Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Forestry Technicians</td>
<td>3 Type 4 Engines w/ plow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Team Leader</td>
<td>1 Type 8 Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Foresters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Dells FRU</td>
<td>1 Forester Ranger</td>
<td>1 Type 7 Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Forestry Technicians</td>
<td>2 Type 4 Engines w/ plow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiting FRU</td>
<td>1 Forester Ranger</td>
<td>1 Type 7 Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Forestry Technician</td>
<td>1 Type 4 Engine w/ plow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Foresters</td>
<td>1 Type 8 Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Necedah FRU</td>
<td>1 Forester Ranger</td>
<td>1 Type 7 Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Forestry Technicians</td>
<td>2 Type 4 Engines w/ plow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Forester</td>
<td>1 Type 8 Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wausau FRU</td>
<td>1 Forester Ranger</td>
<td>1 Type 7 Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Forestry Technicians</td>
<td>3 Type 4 Engines w/ plow</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 Team Leader</td>
<td>2 Type 8 Engines</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2 Foresters</td>
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<td>Wautoma FRU</td>
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<td>Pray FRU</td>
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<td>1 Type 7 Engine</td>
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<td>Necedah Refuge</td>
<td>Various staffing throughout</td>
<td>1 Type 6 Engine w/ 2 ATVs</td>
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<td>the fire season</td>
<td>1 Type 6 Engine w/ ATV</td>
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<td>1,200 Gallon T ender</td>
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<td>1 JD 550 T ractor Plow</td>
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<td>2 Heavy D ozers</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1 Marsh Master Low Ground Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WDNR, 2007
A brief description of these various types of WDNR fire suppression equipment follows:

**Tractor-Plow Unit**
- Suppresses wildland fires in Wisconsin, especially larger fires or smaller intense fires with poor road access.
- Back mounted plow creates a mineral soil firebreak (or furrow) 6-feet wide and is intended to contain a wildfire and prevent disasters.
- The six-way front blade buries burning debris, separates burn piles, constructs roads and creates fire lines.
- Carries 150 gallons of water for protection of the operator and mop-up activities to make sure the fire is completely out.
- The tractor is also equipped with two fire shelters and a shower system where water is dispensed through overhead nozzles - both used for operator protection.

**Type 4 Engine (3-Ton)**
- Suppresses wildland fires in Wisconsin where road access is poor and the tractor plow unit is needed.
- Hauls the tractor-plow unit on a tilt bed trailer.
- Carries 850 gallons of water.
- Uses a pump to apply and draft water from other various sources (i.e. lakes, rivers and swimming pools).
- Has class A foam capability, which prevents water from evaporating quickly and is used for structural protection.
- The engine is equipped with mobile radio for communications and is outfitted with hand tools and back cans for a 20-person hand crew.

**Type 7 Engine (4X4)**
- Patrols and is responsible for initial attack suppression of wildland fires in Wisconsin.
- Primary source of transportation for Foresters and Forester Rangers.
- Has 4-wheel drive capabilities for off-road use.
- Has 150-gallon tank capacity and has the ability to...
pump, draft, and apply water or foam from a gas powered pump mounted near the rear of the slip-on

- H as hand tools and back cans to outfit a 6-person hand crew and is equipped with mobile radio for communicating with dispatch centers and other vehicles

**Marsh Rig- Muskeg Low Ground Unit**

- Fights wildland fires in wet-ground situations and extracts other stuck firefighting vehicles
- Outfitted with 260-gallon water tank, pump, hosereel, winch and class A foam system
- Has powerful 3-speed transmission and 4-cylinder diesel engine and tops out at 16 mph
- The tracks supporting the rig are constructed of rubber with steel cross links for grip and durability
- Rides up to four firefighters safely in the partitioned area between the air-conditioned cab and water tank

**Single Engine Air Tanker (S.E.A.T.)**

- Fights wildland fires from the air and slows the fire until ground units arrive on scene
- Holds one passenger along with its 820 gallons of foam, water or retardant
- Can drop its water mixture to cover approximately 100 feet wide by 400 feet long
- Tops out at 210 mph with is 59-foot wingspan
- DNR contracts out for SEATs in the spring through private companies. SEAT’s are pre-positioned according to fire severity

**B. ADAMS COUNTY**

The Adams County Emergency Management Department assists with planning, grant writing and administration, coordinating training exercises and other assistance related to preparation and response to emergency situations. The County Coordinator is the primary point of contact to obtain additional county, state (including National Guard) and federal resources as needed. The County has an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) established at the Community Center in Friendship.

The Adams County Sheriff’s Department can be dispatched with a mobile command post trailer or a mass casualty trailer upon request. The County may also supply heavy equipment primarily through the County Highway Department.
The County dispatches the Town Rome Fire Department through the county-wide 911 system including mutual through adjacent departments.

C. TOWN OF ROME

The Town of Rome Volunteer Fire Department provides wildland fire suppression for the Town and part of southern Wood County.

The main fire station is centrally located in the Town, adjacent to the Town Hall. The building was originally constructed in 1975 and houses office space and garage area for vehicles, equipment and maintenance. The vehicles available for service within the station include:

- Two engines (1,000 gal. ea.)
- Two tankers (2,000 and 3,500 gal.)
- Brush truck
- Rescue unit
- Wildland trailer
- Hazmat trailer
- Other miscellaneous resources

A second fire station is located on Apache Avenue. This station was constructed in 1986 for additional fire protection and consists of office space and vehicle storage. Currently, based at this station are:

- Engine (1,000 gal.)
- Tanker (2,000 gal.)

Currently, there are 40 volunteer members on the Department and a full time Chief. The Department has mutual aid agreements with Adams County and surrounding community fire departments.

D. LOCAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS

The Town of Rome has a need for additional vehicle/equipment storage space. The Town has outgrown the capacity of its main fire station, originally built in 1975. A new central station would provide needed space to consolidate and more efficiently organize equipment and for maintenance activities.

Locating a new, third station on east side of the Town in the vicinity of Apache and 8th Avenue would improve response time to areas on the east side, particularly parts of Lake Camelot.
V. WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGY

The following recommendations are offered as a comprehensive strategy for addressing the planning goals established at the outset of this wildfire protection planning process. The strategies are organized around five core action areas: fire protection, defensible space, reducing structural ignitability, education and vegetative treatments in the planning units.

A. FIRE PROTECTION

1. Working Group

Form a Wildfire Mitigation Working Group to coordinate and lead plan implementation efforts. This group should include representation from lake associations (i.e., Firewise chairs) and major woodland owners and developers like Plum Creek Timberlands, Inc. and Naterra Inc.

   Responsible Parties: Town of Rome / WDNR
   Timeframe: Immediately following plan adoption and on-going

2. Enforcement of Fire Laws

Continue aggressive enforcement of state forest fire laws.

   Responsible Parties: WDNR
   Timeframe: On-going

3. Enact proposed addition to Chapter 9, Offenses and Nuisances, Town of Rome Code of Ordinances re: restrictions on dead timber and brush

The combination of heavy woodlands and high density residential makes the Town particularly vulnerable to wildfire. The proposed ordinance provisions identify dead trees and brush as an ideal fuel for the start and spread of wildfires and determine that they constitute a public nuisance within subdivisions. Subdivision landowners would be required to keep parcels within subdivisions free of dead trees, limbs and brush, within certain guidelines such as limitations on cutting oak to prevent spread of oak wilt. Owners may be fined, and the Town may take action to abate the nuisance. Refer to Attachment E for draft of text proposed prior to start of wildfire protection planning process.

   Responsible Parties: Town of Rome
   Timeframe: 2007

4. Burning Permits

Explore further restrictions on burning permits.

   Responsible Parties: Town of Rome / WDNR
   Timeframe: 2008
5. Development Review

As part of local subdivision review and approval process, new or proposed subdivisions should be reviewed by the Town of Rome Fire Department for comment.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome / Adams County
Timeframe: On-going

6. Comprehensive Planning

The recommendations, maps and policies contained in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan are used to make decisions regarding land use and other aspects of the community’s development over time. It is important to consider the contents of the CWPP when engaging in long-range planning and making land use and other local decisions.

When the Town updates its 2003 Comprehensive Plan, wildfire protection planning and mitigation should be made an integral part of the planning effort and final plan. The use of regulatory tools such as wildfire mitigation overlay districts and Firewise subdivision ordinances should be considered. An example of a wildfire mitigation subdivision ordinance can be seen in the Virginia Department of Forestry’s model at http://www.dof.virginia.gov/fire/subdivision-guidelines.shtml.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome
Timeframe: 2008-2013

B. DEFENSIBLE SPACE

1. Neighborhood Defensible Space / Fuels Reduction Demonstration Project

Establish and coordinate a neighborhood fuels reduction demonstration project on 20 private properties within the Town. Seek National Fire Plan (Hazard Mitigation) funding to provide cost-share reimbursement incentives to willing landowners for creating defensible space.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome / WDNR
Timeframe: 2007-2009

2. Firewise Communities USA

Encourage the other lake districts and property owners associations within the Town to become active in the Firewise Communities USA program using Lake Camelot as a model.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome / Lake Districts / Property Owners Associations / WDNR
Timeframe: 2009 and ongoing
3. Firewise Clean-up Week

Host an annual “Firewise Clean-up Week” held in the spring to encourage landowners to create defensible space around their homes. Specific demonstration projects should be designed and utilized to educate residents about longer-term investments they could make to increase fire safety.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome / WDNR
Timeframe: Each spring beginning in 2008

C. REDUCING STRUCTURAL IGNITABLITY

1. Building Codes / Permits

Building codes and guidelines should be developed and adopted to reduce structural ignitability. Critical elements include: roofing, vents, eaves and overhangs, windows, exterior walls, chimneys and flues.

Such specifications apply directly to new construction; however, existing structures often present a greater problem. Building permit requirements for remodeling or expansion should be established. Re-roofing should require use of fire-resistant or non-combustible roof coverings. Other “easy” fixes include screening of vents and installation of shutters.

The Town should also investigate the addition of landscaping requirements/restrictions to its building code. Landscaping is an important element in reducing structural ignitability through the creation of defensible space.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome
Timeframe: 2009

D. EDUCATION

1. CWPP and Firewise to Web

Add this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and Firewise information to Town website along with relevant information on escape routes and ongoing mitigation activities.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome
Timeframe: 2008

2. Plan Distribution

Provide a brief summary of this CWPP to all households (5-6 pages). Distribution options include: special mailing, inclusion w/ other official town-wide mailing, or newsletter.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome / WDNR
Timeframe: 2007
3. New Landowner Forest Fire Prevention Packets

The WDNR Wisconsin Rapids staff should continue to distribute their forest fire prevention information packets to new landowners within the Town of Rome. This serves to bring the issue to attention while providing new owners with a quick and easy source of useful reference information on what they can do to protect against wildfire.

Responsible Parties: WDNR / Town of Rome
Timeframe: On-going

E. VEGETATIVE TREATMENTS IN PLANNING UNITS

1. Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects - Priority Areas

Focus future hazardous fuels mitigation projects in the highest risk areas as identified on the final hazard assessment map. These areas are primarily the Tri-Lakes and other concentrated residential areas within the East and West Arrowhead planning units (see Map 15). In addition to creating defensible space around homes, vacant lots and common areas should be targeted for clean-up and fuels reduction.

These areas should seek becoming involved in the Firewise Communities program and look at hosting “chipping days” to get rid of unwanted brush, tree limbs, etc.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome / WDNR / Lake Associations / Property Owners
Timeframe: On-going

Firewise Chipping Day at Lake Camelot
Map 15
2. Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects - Town Wide

Throughout the Town, disease-killed trees and storm damage should be cleaned up and removed to reduce this source of hazardous fuel. Gypsy moth, jack pine budworm and oak wilt are among the primary vectors to be monitored in the area. Storm damage and blow-down can lead to significant areas of hazardous fuels.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome / Property Owners  
Timeframe: On-going

3. Fire Breaks

Recommended fire breaks are shown in Map 15. Fire breaks should be established where contiguous vegetation meets up with developed areas to provide an opportunity to slow or halt the advance of a wildfire.

Plum Creek should establish fire breaks where their properties meet concentrated, high-value residential areas in the Town.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome / WDNR / Plum Creek Timber Co. Inc. / Property Owners  
Timeframe: On-going

4. Town Road Right-of-Way Treatments

Town roads that are narrow, earth-surfaced facilities provide poor access for fire trucks and apparatus. Treatment options include widening the open right-of-way by cutting back and brushing encroaching vegetation, establishing mineral soil barriers, or converting fuel types adjacent to the roadway from pine to hardwood. Town Public Works Department should consult with Town Fire Department and WDNR specific treatment specifications. Map 15 identifies town roads recommended for treatment.

Responsible Parties: Town of Rome / Property Owners  
Timeframe: On-going
VI. EVACUATION PLANNING

Some areas of the Town are limited in ingress/egress options. Within the Shermalot Island planning unit there is essentially one-way in or out for a significant portion of the area. With only one way in for emergency responders and out for residents in an emergency, a critical traffic flow issue could be created.

Map 16 identifies primary escape routes within the Town of Rome. These roads are life safety escape routes and should be protected from fire impingement. Radiant heat and heavy smoke from burning vegetation can prevent traffic use of a roadway. Protecting the community’s primary vehicle escape and emergency access routes is critical.

Thinning along these corridors should include an area of at least 200 feet. This distance should be modified to account for increased slope and other topographic features that increase fire intensity. The cooperation of adjacent landowners is critical. Landowner participation allows more flexibility in selecting trees for removal. This also allows greater consideration for visual screening and aesthetics.

Posting signs clearly marking “emergency escape route” (on non-combustible poles) will provide functional assistance during an evacuation and communicate a constant reminder of wildfire to the community. Currently, there is limited signage within the Town. This should be expanded and improved.

The following recommendations are made to enhance wildfire evacuation in the Town of Rome:

1. Post designated escape routes.

2. Undertake hazardous fuels reduction within the right-of-way along designated escape routes.

3. Work with Adams County to ensure that the 10th Avenue dam can be a viable alternate escape route for residents of the Shermalot Island planning unit.

4. Identify local routes that serve as secondary collectors connecting to primary routes, as appropriate.

5. Create and distribute a “Fire Evacuation Plan” informational brochure or pamphlet including evacuation procedures and guidelines and emergency travel routes and safe refuge areas map.

6. The Town of Rome should adopt official public guidelines and procedures for evacuation (see Attachment D).
VII. WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROGRAMS

There are numerous wildfire mitigation programs available to local units of government. The National Database of State and Local Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Programs (http://www.wildfireprograms.com/) is an excellent online resource of programs, studies and wildfire mitigation actions used in communities across the country. Below is a brief list of programs that local communities can use to reduce the risk and threat from wildfire in their communities. These programs focus primarily on the educational and regulatory aspects of mitigation and do not in any way represent an exhaustive inventory. Many other possibilities exist through the use of administrative and incentive-based mitigation programs and tools.

A. HAZARD MITIGATION

In 2001, the National Fire Plan was established to help communities across the nation become better prepared for wildfire. Through this program, states are able to compete for grants to fund projects that meet the goals of the National Fire Plan. The WDNR Division of Forestry manages these funds through their Hazard Mitigation program. Projects fall under a few general categories: readiness, prevention, fuel breaks, and vegetation management. Communities with a Community Wildfire Protection Plan are eligible to apply for these funds to conduct projects such as access improvement, fuels reduction, prescribed burning, and education, to name a few. Smaller associations within the larger community are also eligible to apply for funds to carry out projects such as chipping days, defensible space creation, and fire-prone property assessments, for example.

B. COMMUNITY PLANNING

Human development is increasingly encroaching on to the forested landscape. The same values which attract people to the forest can also pose threats to forest health and safety. As more and more people reside within the wildland environment, the threat of wildfire ignition and the potential for loss increase significantly. Wildfire, like other natural ecological processes, serves a role in the natural system. It only becomes problematic when people and development are exposed to this natural process. A fundamental principal of community planning is to site future growth and development in areas which avoid natural hazards and to minimize risk to life and property. By establishing clear growth management goals, policies and implementation strategies within the context of wildfire hazard mitigation, communities can reduce the potential dangers from wildfire. Implementation strategies may range from advisory recommendations for construction and site design, to regulatory controls including zoning, land division and other ordinances, building codes, subdivision controls, design standards, road & signage standards and others.

Wisconsin’s comprehensive planning legislation (Chapter 66.1001) provides a general framework for the development of a comprehensive plan. Communities which engage in certain activities identified in the legislation (such as zoning) are required to base decisions
on the contents of a plan which meets the Chapter 66 standards. Wildfire mitigation and risk reduction planning efforts can be incorporated into each of the nine required planning elements.

The CWPP can be used by communities as a tool in the development of a comprehensive plan. Hazard risk analysis and assessment information can also be used to assist in allocating future growth.

C. EDUCATION

Education is one of the most effective wildfire prevention tools available. Community wildfire education and prevention activities directed at homeowners can help reduce fire risk in the WUI by encouraging and promoting Firewise landscaping, defensible space and outdoor fire safety. Education programs for children can be very effective as these programs help prepare future homeowners for living with wildfire. Numerous educational materials and programs are available on the Internet and through the WDNR. Additionally, the State of Wisconsin offers educational grant opportunities under the Forest Fire Protection Grant Program. Funding can be used to develop forest fire prevention materials. The materials could include information on planning and managing forest to ensure considerations are made for fire prevention in the community.

D. WILDFIRE EDUCATION RESOURCES

1. Education Programs for Children

Learning, Experiences & Activities Program (LEAF)  
http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/fire/index.htm

Smokey Bear Program http://www.smokeybear.com

Minnesota DNR Fire Prevention Education Curriculum  
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/education/wildfire/curriculum.html

FEMA for Kids http://www.fema.gov/kids/wildfire.htm

Home Fire Escape Plan  
http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/fireprevention/education/homefirescapeplansafety.pdf

Good Fire Bad Fire  
http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/fireprevention/education/goodfiresbadfires.pdf

2. Wildfire Resources for Adults

WDNR Forest Fire Program  
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/fire/

NOAA Fire Weather Information Center  http://www.noaa.gov/fireweather/

NPS & Fire Management http://www.nps.gov/fire/

National Interagency Fire Center http://www.nifc.gov/

Fire Information Toolbox http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/fio/general.htm

3. Education Resources for Homeowners

Firewise
http://www.firewise.org

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forest Fire Program
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/fire

National Interagency Fire Center, Prevention and Education
http://www.nifc.gov/preved/index.html

American Red Cross Fire Wildfire Information
http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/readywildfire.html

FEMA Wildfire Preparedness

Firewise Around Your Home
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/publications/FirewiseAroundYourHome.pdf

Creating Wildfire Defensible Zones
http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/06302.html

Fire-resistant Landscaping
http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/06303.html

E. REGULATORY PROGRAMS

Regulatory programs can be effective tools for reducing the threat of wildfire and the resulting damage to property as a result of fire. These programs utilize jurisdictional legal authority to develop and implement regulations to protect health, welfare and safety.

F. SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

Subdivision regulations provide the procedures and standards for the division of land into smaller parcels while giving local government the authority to regulate the design and improvement of subdivisions, require dedications of public improvements, require payment of impact fees, and require compliance with the objectives and policies of a Comprehensive Plan. These regulations can also impose restrictions on development
aspects such as building design, emergency vehicle and water access, defensible space and road design. The Virginia Department of Forestry has developed a sample subdivision ordinance for communities at risk from the threat of wildfire (http://www.dof.virginia.gov/fire/subdivision-guidelines.shtml). The Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact (GLFFC) has also published a handbook for local officials on designing zoning and building standards. This information is available on the Internet at http://www.glffc.com/public/prevention/prevention_committee.html.

G. COVENANTS OR DEED RESTRICTIONS THAT REQUIRE WILDFIRE HAZARD MITIGATION

Deed restrictions and restrictive covenants are written agreements that restrict or limit property use or activities. These restrictions appear in the deed records, and are private agreements or contracts between a property buyer and a property seller. Restrictions may include requirements for residents to maintain appropriate fuels reductions measures on their property.

H. TRADITIONAL ZONING

Traditional zoning is the most widely applied tool for regulating land development in Wisconsin. Local zoning ordinances can include requirements for setbacks, landscaping, and site access, to name a few, that can assist in reducing fire hazard.

I. WILDFIRE HAZARD OVERLAY DISTRICTS

Overlays, or “floating districts,” are mapped areas with additional requirements beyond those of the underlying zoning district. Ordinance text imposes specific requirements for building setbacks, design or other wildfire hazard mitigation standards.

J. BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Performance standards are zoning controls that regulate the effects or impacts of a proposed development or activity on the community, rather than separating uses into various zones. Standards may require the maintenance of defensible space and other measures that reduce or mitigate wildfire hazards before development approval.

K. DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS

Development Agreements are contractual agreements voluntarily entered into by a municipality and a developer to vest development rights for a specific development project. Through the Development Agreement, the municipality may require the reservation or dedication of land for public purposes and may include conditions and restrictions for subsequent discretionary actions. For example, a municipality may require dedication of emergency access easements, dedication of land for fire fighting facilities, on-going maintenance of those facilities, and subsequent review of fire safety plans before later phases of development can begin.
L. FIREWISE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The national Firewise Communities program is a multi-agency program, which promotes partnerships between community leaders, homeowners, planners, developers and others to promote wildfire preparedness—before a fire starts. The Firewise approach emphasizes local community responsibility for designing and maintaining safe communities through land use planning, mitigation activities, collective decision-making and effective response.

Firewise Communities/USA is a project of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team and is the latest component of the Firewise program. According to the NWCG, the Firewise Communities concept "provides citizens with the knowledge necessary to maintain an acceptable level of fire readiness, while ensuring firefighters that they can use equipment more efficiently during a wildland fire emergency."

Becoming a Firewise Community involves a 7-step process.

Step 1: Contact Firewise
Step 2: Site visit with local Firewise Communities USA representatives
Step 3: Community representatives create a multi-discipline Firewise board/committee
Step 4: Assessment & evaluation
Step 5: Create plan – Create agreed-upon, area-specific solutions to its WUI fire issues
Step 6: Implement solutions – Local solutions are implemented following a schedule designed by the local Firewise board and WUI specialist.
Step 7: Apply for recognition
FACTORs INFLUENCI NG WILDFIRE SUSCEPTIBILITY

Weather

Weather conditions are a significant contributing factor to wildfire susceptibility. In Wisconsin wildfire weather hazards are generally the most severe during spring, following snowmelt and prior to the "green-up" of vegetation. Rains during the spring season and new green growth lessen the likelihood that wildfires will start and spread. Weather related risk is greatest when multiple condition factors occur simultaneously.

Precipitation levels, temperature, relative humidity and wind speed are the primary factors influencing wildfire risk. Precipitation levels strongly influence the moisture content of fuels. Drought conditions and low relative humidity (a measure of the amount of water in the air compared with the amount of water the air can hold at a given temperature) can desiccate these fuels, increasing vulnerability to ignition. High temperatures also reduce fuel moisture levels and tend to "preheat" fuels, allowing them to burn and spread faster. Wind conditions are the most significant weather related factor contributing to wildfire. Windy conditions dry fuels and increase oxygen supply. With a steady oxygen supply, fuel and temperature become critical to sustaining a fire once it's ignited. Winds also influence the direction and rate of fire spread. In Wisconsin, wind direction almost always changes in a clockwise rotation and winds tend to be the strongest in mid-afternoon.

Fuels

Fuels are combustible materials comprised of both living and dead vegetation. Wildfire is part of the natural disturbance regime, which serves to reduce the amount of fuels present. These fuels have been accumulating during at least the past 50 years due to fire suppression, forest management and other wildland management policies and practices, and other factors.

Fuel types vary in the ways they respond to fire, although all plants will burn if exposed to enough heat. Jack pine and red pine are among the most flammable forest species found in the project area conversely, deciduous species do not readily burn therefore they are not as susceptible to wildfire.

Wildland fuels can also be described using vertical separation as ground surface, ladder and aerial fuels.

Ground fuels are comprised of combustible materials lying beneath the surface including roots, buried logs, deep duff and other organic matter. Ground fires (sometimes referred to as "bog fires") burn ground fuels and tend to smolder rather than producing much flame. These types of fires occur relatively infrequently.

Surface fuels include combustible materials lying directly above the surface such as logs, stumps, logging slash, leaves, pine needles, grass and other understory vegetation. Surface fuels are referred to as light and flashy fuels because they ignite easily and burn rapidly. Surface fires consume surface fuels and are the most common type of wildfire occurring in
the mixed forests of northern Wisconsin. These fires are generally low intensity and do not kill mature trees, although some mortality may occur in moderate to severe surface fires.

**Aerial fuels** include both living and dead plant materials in the upper forest canopy. Fires, which burn through the canopy, are referred to as crown fires, which are the most destructive and dangerous class of wildland fire. Crown fires are also generally the most difficult fires to control. In catastrophic crown fires, tree mortality can be high. Given a pathway, intense surface fires can spread to the aerial fuels to become crown fires. Ladder fuels such as shrubs or small trees of intermediate height, act as ladders carrying the flames from the forest surface up into the tops of trees.

**Topography**

Topography has a strong influence on wildfire behavior. Because heat rises, up sloping fire spreads more quickly as pre-heated fuels readily ignite. It is also difficult to fight fires on steeply sloping lands. Aspect also influences wildland fire risk as southern or southwestern slopes generally have lower relative humidity and higher temperatures than those on north or northeast slopes. Because of longer and more intense solar exposure, fuels along these slopes may be drier. Consequently, fire hazard is often higher on south and southwest facing hills.
ATTACHMENT B
Town of Rome Ordinances Relating to Wildfire Protection
CHAPTER 3
PUBLIC SAFETY

3.01 FIRE PROTECTION: (1)

ORGANIZATION:

(a) General Authority:

1. The Town Board shall provide fire protection for the Town by establishing a town fire department.

2. The Town Board shall appropriate money to pay for fire protection in the Town.

(b) Organization:

1. The Town of Rome Fire Department is hereby officially recognized.

2. New members of the Department shall serve a one (1) year probationary period.

(2) POWERS:

(a) The Chief and Assistants or officers in command of the Fire Department are hereby vested with full and complete police authority at emergency situations. Any officer of a Fire Department may cause the arrest of any person failing to give the right-of-way to a Fire Department in responding to an emergency call.

(b) The Fire Chief may prescribe certain limits in the vicinity of any fire within which no persons, excepting firemen, law enforcement officers and those admitted by order, shall be permitted to come.

(c) The Fire Chief shall have the power to cause the removal of any property whenever it shall become necessary for the preservation of such property from fire or to prevent the spreading of fire or to protect the adjoining property, and during the progress of any fire he shall have the power to cause the removal of all wires or other facilities and the turning off of all electricity or other services where the same impedes the work of the Department during the progress of a fire.

(d) Members of a Fire Department, when at the scene of a fire or other emergency, or when Fire Department vehicles are upon the street pursuant to an emergency call, shall have the authority of traffic officers to direct traffic, as conditions require, notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter.

(e) It shall be lawful for any firefighter while acting under the direction of a Fire Chief or any Officer to enter upon the premises adjacent to or in the vicinity of a building or other property then on fire for the purpose of extinguishing such fire and in case any person shall hinder, resist or obstruct any firefighter in the discharge of his duty as is herein before provided, the person so offending shall be deemed guilty of resisting firemen in the discharge of their duty.

(f) Every person who shall be present at a fire shall be subject to the orders of the Fire Chief and may be required to render assistance in fighting the fire or in removing or guarding property. The Fire Chief shall have the power to cause the arrest of any person or persons refusing to obey said orders.

(3) DAMAGING FIRE HOSE PROHIBITED; PARKING BY HYDRANTS; BLOCKING FIRE LANES:

(a) No person shall willfully injure in any manner any hose, hydrant or fire apparatus belonging to a Fire Department, and no vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose of a Fire Department when laid down on any street, private driveway or other place, to be used at any fire or alarm of fire, without the consent of the Fire Department Incident Commander.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to park any vehicle or leave any object within twenty (20) feet of any fire hydrant at any time.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person, in case of fire, to drive or park any vehicle within one block from the place of fire without the consent
and authority of the Fire Chief or any Incident Commander.

3.02 FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY CODES:

(1) INTENT OF CODE: It is the intent of this Chapter to prescribe regulations consistent with recognized standard practice for the safeguarding to a reasonable degree of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion arising from the storage, handling, and use of hazardous substances, materials, and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life and property in the use or occupancy of buildings or premises.

(2) ADOPTION OF STATE CODES:

(a) The following orders, rule, and regulations of the Department of Commerce, all of which are set forth in the Wisconsin Administrative Code as from time to time amended, are incorporated herein by reference and adopted as part of the Fire Prevention Chapter:

1. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 1; Safety.
2. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 5; Explosives and Blasting Agents.
3. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 7; Cleaning and Dyeing.
4. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 8; Flammable and Combustible Liquids.
5. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 9; Liquefied and Petroleum Gases.
6. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 20; Dusts, Fumes, Vapors and Gases.
7. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 21; Spray Coating.
8. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 35; Safety in Construction.
10. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 50; Administration and Enforcement.
11. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 51; Definitions and Standards.
12. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 52; General Requirements.
13. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 53; Structural Requirements.
14. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 54; Factories, Office and Mercantile Buildings.
15. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 55; Theaters and Assembly Halls.
16. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 56; Schools and Other Places of Instruction.
20. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 60; Child Day Care Facilities.
21. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 61; CBRF.
22. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 62; Specialty Occupancies.
23. Wis. Adm. Code Ch. COMM 64; Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning.

(b) The following codes of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) are hereby adopted by reference and made part of the Town of Rome Fire Prevention Code:

1. Volume IV -- Extinguishing Equipment.

(c) Whenever the provisions of the aforementioned codes conflict, the stricter interpretation shall apply.

(d) Official copies of each of said codes are now on file in the office of the Chief of the Fire Department of the Town of Rome and shall remain on file
and be, at all reasonable times, open to inspection by any interested persons.

(3) APPLICATION TO NEW AND EXISTING CONDITIONS: The provisions of this Chapter shall apply equally to new and existing conditions except that existing conditions not in strict compliance with the terms of this Chapter shall be permitted to continue where the exceptions do not constitute a distinct hazard to life or adjoining property.

(4) FIRE INSPECTION DUTIES:

(a) While acting as fire inspector pursuant to Sec. 101.14(2), Wis. Stats. the Fire Chief, or any member of the Fire Department designated by the Fire Chief, shall have the right and authority to enter any building or upon any premises in the Town of Rome at all reasonable hours for the purpose of making inspections or investigations which, under the provisions of this Code of Ordinances, he may deem necessary.

(b) The Chief of the Fire Department is required, by himself or members of the Fire Department designated by him as fire inspectors, to inspect all buildings, premises, and public thoroughfares, except the interiors of private dwellings, for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable to cause fire, or any violations of any law or ordinance relating to the fire hazard or to the prevention of fires and to insure compliance in all places of assembly with all laws, regulations, and orders dealing with use of decorative materials, maintenance of exit ways, and maintenance of fire alarm and fire detecting systems, and fire extinguishing systems, and appliances. Such inspections shall be made at least once in six (6) months in all the territory served by such Fire Department. Each six (6) month period shall begin on January 1 and July 1 of each year. The Fire Inspector may inspect facilities where hazardous chemicals are stored.

(c) Written reports of inspections shall be made and kept on file in the office of the Fire Department or Fire Inspector in the manner and form required by the Department of Commerce. A copy of such reports shall be filed with the Town Clerk.

(d) The Chief of the Fire Department or an inspector thereof, upon the complaint of any person of whenever he or they shall deem it necessary, shall inspect any buildings and premises within their jurisdiction.

(5) ORDERS TO ELIMINATE FIRE HAZARDS:

(a) Whenever any of the officers, members, or inspectors of the Fire Department as mentioned in this Chapter shall find any building or upon any premises dangerous or hazardous conditions as follows, he or they shall order such dangerous conditions or materials to be removed or remedied in such manner as may be specified in said order:

1. Dangerous or unlawful amounts of combustible or explosive matter.

2. Hazardous conditions arising from defective or improperly installed equipment for handling or using combustible or explosive matter.

3. Dangerous accumulations of rubbish, wastepaper, boxes, shavings, or other highly flammable materials.

4. Accumulations of dust or waste material in air conditioning systems or of grease in kitchen exhaust ducts.

5. Obstructions to or on fire escapes, stairs, passageways, doors, or windows liable to interfere with the operation of the Fire Department or egress of occupants in case of fire.

6. Any building or other structure which, for want of repairs, lack of sufficient fire escapes or other exit facilities, automatic or other fire alarm apparatus or fire extinguishing equipment, or by reason of age or dilapidated condition, or from any other cause, creates a fire hazard or a threat to life and safety.
(6) SERVICE OF ORDERS:

(a) The service of such orders as mentioned in this Chapter may be made upon the owner, occupant, or other person responsible for the conditions, either by delivering a copy of the same personally or by delivering the same to and leaving it with any person in charge of the premises, or in case no such person is found upon the premises, by affixing a copy thereof in a conspicuous place on the door to the entrance of the said premises. If the owner is absent from the jurisdiction of the officer making the order, by mailing such copy to the owner’s last-known post office address.

(b) If buildings or other premises are owned by one (1) person and occupied by another under lease or otherwise, the orders issued in connection with the enforcing of the Chapter shall apply to the occupant thereof, except where the rules or orders require the making of such additions to or changes in the premises themselves, such as would immediately become real estate and be the property of the owner of the premises; in such cases the rules or orders shall affect the owner and not the occupant unless it is otherwise agreed between the owner and the occupant.

(7) EXCEPTIONS: Nothing contained in this Chapter shall be construed as applying to the transportation of any article or thing shipped in conformity with the regulations prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, or as applying to the military forces of the United States.

(8) PERMITS:

(a) A permit shall constitute permission to maintain, store, or handle materials, or to conduct processes, which produce conditions hazardous to life or property, or to install equipment used in connection with such activities. Such permit does not take the place of any license required by law. It shall be for an indefinite period, not transferable, and any change in use or occupancy of the premises shall require a new permit.

(b) Before a permit may be issued, the Chief of the Fire Department, or his assistants, shall inspect and approve the receptacles, vehicles, building, or storage places to be used. In cases where laws or regulations enforceable by departments other than the Fire Department are applicable, joint approval shall be obtained from all departments concerned.

(c) All applications for a permit required by this Code shall be made to the Chief of the Fire Department in such form and detail, as it shall prescribe.

(d) Permits shall, at all times, be kept on the premises designated therein and shall, at all times, be subject to inspection by any officer of the Fire or Police Departments.

(e) The Chairperson, the Chief of the Fire Department, and the Fire Inspectors shall act as a committee to determine and specify, after giving affected persons an opportunity to be heard, any new materials, processes, or occupancies, which shall require permits, in addition to those now enumerated in said Code. The Chief of the Fire Department shall post such a list in a conspicuous place in his office and in the office of the Clerk and may distribute copies thereof to interested persons.

(f) Whenever the Chief of the Fire Department shall disapprove an application or refuse to grant a permit applied for, or when it is claimed that the provisions of the Code do not apply or that the true intent and meaning of the Code have been misconstrued or wrongly interpreted, the applicant may appeal from the decision of the Chief of the Fire Department to the Town Board within ten (10) days from the date of the decision of the Chief. In the event of such appeal, the Board shall set a time and place for hearing thereof and give to the appellant at least ten (10) days' notice thereof by mail or personally.
(9) BURNING PERMIT:

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to burn leaves, rubbish, or debris of any kind within the Town of Rome on any public street, alley, or other public property within said Town; but such fires may be set on private driveways anywhere back of the lot line or on private property, except that no open burning shall be allowed closer than thirty (30) feet to any building, or closer than fifteen (15) feet to any building if an enclosed incinerator or fireplace is used for such burning. No materials may be burned upon any street or road.

(b) A fire in a wire-type basket shall be considered as being an "open" fire.

(c) No fire for burning rubbish, scrap, or debris shall be started prior to the time set by the Wisconsin Department Natural Resources (DNR), except in areas zoned heavy industrial where no fire shall be started prior to 2:00 p.m., and no fire shall be left unattended.

(d) Any person, firm, or corporation that desires to burn grass off a field or lot, or rubbish, leaves, or debris of any kind on their own premises may do so by first obtaining permission from the DNR or person designated. A permit shall be necessary for burning rubbish, leaves or debris if the party has an outside fireplace or rubbish burner. All grass fires for burning off a field or lot must be set not prior to the time designated by the DNR, and all fires shall at all times be kept under control.

(e) Whenever the DNR shall deem it prudent for burning of grass, rubbish, leaves, or debris of any kind within the Town of Rome, whether it is because of extreme dryness, shortage of water, high wind, or particular hazardous location, they may forbid the setting of such fire.

(f) Whenever a fire has been ignited without the permission of the DNR or the person designated by the DNR as provided in this Section, or if a fire has been ignited, with permission, and becomes hazardous in the opinion of the Fire Chief or DNR, they may order the person or persons responsible or on whose premises of said fire exists, to extinguish the same; and if said person refuses to do so, the Chief or DNR may call the Town of Rome Fire Department to extinguish the same.

(g) Any damage caused to another person's property by burning of rubbish, leaves, or other debris, whether authorized or not, shall be the responsibility of the person or persons responsible for igniting the same.

(h) The landowner where a fire is set shall be liable for all expenses incurred in the suppression of the fire by the Town when burning without a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit or contrary to the written restrictions on a permit. The Town will charge per vehicle per person at an hourly rate set by the Town Board for a minimum of one (1) hour. After one (1) hour time will be billed to the nearest one half (½) hour. Time shall be measured from the time of the call until the completion of all necessary work and units and equipment used at the fire scene are placed back to in-service status. The Officer in Charge of the fire scene will determine liability of the property owner after a complete investigation and a written report is submitted to the Town.

(i) Any person convicted of burning in violation of this ordinance shall forfeit a fine of no more than $1,000, plus costs for each violation.

(10) DEPOSITING OR ACCUMULATING COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL:

(a) No person shall deposit hot ashes or cinders, or smoldering coals, or greasy or oily substances liable to spontaneous ignition, into any combustible receptacle or place the same within ten (10) feet of any combustible materials.

(b) Accumulations of wastepaper, litter or combustible or flammable waste or rubbish of any kind shall not be permitted to remain in any yard. All weeds, grass, vines, or other growth, when the same endangers property, or is
liable to be fired, shall be cut down and removed by the owner or occupant of the property it is on.

(c) Storage Requirements. Storage in buildings shall be orderly, shall not be within two (2) feet of the ceiling, and not so located as to endanger exit from the building. Storage in the open shall not be more than twenty (20) feet in height, shall be so located with respect to adjacent buildings as not to constitute a hazard, and shall be compact and orderly.

(d) Cotton batting, straw, dry vines, leaves, trees, or other highly flammable materials shall not be used for decorative purpose in show windows or other parts of stores unless flameproof, provided, however, that nothing in this Section shall be held to prohibit the display of saleable goods permitted and offered for sale. Electric light bulbs in stores shall not be decorated with paper or other combustible materials unless such materials shall first have been rendered flameproof.

(11) CHIMNEYS, HEATING APPLIANCES, ETC.: All chimneys, smokestacks, or similar devices for conveying smoke or hot gases to the outer air and the stoves, furnaces, fireboxes, or boilers to which they are connected shall be constructed and maintained in such a manner as not to create a fire hazard.

(12) USE OF TORCHES OR FLAME-PRODUCING DEVICES: Any person using a torch or other flame-producing device for removing paint from any building or structure shall provide one (1) approved fire extinguisher or water hose connected to the water supply on the premises where such burning is done. In all cases, the person doing the burning shall remain on the premises one (1) hour after the torch or flame-producing device has been used.

(13) TENTS:

(a) All circuses, carnivals, or other exhibitions shall employ one (1) or more qualified persons to serve as firewatchers where large crowds assemble. They shall familiarize themselves with all fire protection facilities and fire prevention features and with the condition of exits and shall patrol the entire tent area during the time of occupancy. They shall see that aisles and exit-ways are kept open and that "No Smoking" rules are enforced.

(b) The design, construction, flameproofing, location, maintenance, and use of tents for assembly shall be in accordance with recognized safe practices. Compliance with the American Standard of Outdoor Assembly, Grandstands and Tents, as adopted by the National Fire Protection Association, shall be considered as prima facie evidence of compliance with such recognized safe practices.

(14) SMOKING PROHIBITED UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS:

(a) Where conditions are such as to make smoking a hazard in any areas of warehouses, stores, industrial plants, institutions, places of assembly, and in open spaces where combustible materials are stored or handled, the Chief of the Fire Department is empowered and authorized to order the owner or occupant in writing to post "No Smoking" signs in each building, structure, room, or place in which smoking shall be prohibited. The Chief of the Fire Department shall designate specific safe locations, if necessary, in any building, structure, or place in which smoking may be permitted.

(b) "No Smoking" signs required in accordance with this Chapter shall be by order of the Chief of the Fire Department.

(c) No person shall remove any legally required "No Smoking" sign or to smoke in any place where such signs are posted.

(15) ADMINISTRATION:

(a) Enforcement:

1. The Fire Prevention Code Chapter shall be enforced by the Chief of the Fire Department of the Town of Rome and such subordinates in said Department, as the Chief shall designate.
2. This Chapter shall not be construed to affect the responsibility of any person owning, operating, or installing any equipment for damage to persons or property caused by any defect therein, nor shall the Town be held as assuming any such liability by reason of the inspection or re-inspection authorized herein or the permit issued as herein provided or by reason of the approval or disapproval of any equipment authorized herein.

(b) Modifications:

1. The Chief of the Fire Department shall have the power to modify any of the provisions of the Fire Prevention Code upon application in writing by the owner or lessee, or his duly authorized agent, when there are practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the strict letter of the Code, provided that the spirit of the Chapter shall be observed, public safety secured, and substantial justice done. The particulars of such modification, when granted or allowed, and the decision of the Chief of the Fire Department thereof shall be entered upon the records of the Department and a signed copy shall be furnished to the applicant.

(16) PENALTY:

(a) Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Chapter or fail to comply therewith, or who shall violate or fail to comply with any order made there under, or who shall build in violation of any detailed statement of specifications or plans submitted and approved there under, or any certificate or permit issued there under, or who shall fail to comply with such an order as affirmed or modified by the Chief of the Fire Department or the Town Board or by a court of competent jurisdiction within the time fixed herein shall be subject to the penalty set forth in Chapter 1.

(b) The application of the above penalty shall not be held to prevent the enforced removal of prohibited condition.

3.03 AMBULANCE SERVICE: (1) AMBULANCE SERVICE: The Town Board shall contract for ambulance services for the Town. The Town Board may purchase equipment for medical and other emergency calls.

3.04 LAW ENFORCEMENT: (1) ORGANIZATION:

(a) General Authority:

1. The Town Board shall provide police protection for the Town by establishing a town police department.

2. The Town Board shall appropriate money to pay for police protection in the Town.

(b) Organization: The Police Department shall consist of a Chief of Police and such other officers, assistants, and patrolmen as from time to time may be appointed, pursuant to the provisions of the Wis. Stats., and the ordinances of the Town of Rome.

(2) POWERS: Every member of the Police Department shall:

(a) Familiarize himself with the ordinances of the Town and the Statutes and attend to the enforcement of such ordinances by all lawful means.

(b) Help prevent crimes, misdemeanors and violations of Town ordinances and protect the health, safety, public peace and order of the Town and its inhabitants.

(c) Report all street and sidewalk obstructions, unlighted street lamps, unlawful street signs or signals, and defective or dangerous streets and sidewalks to the appropriate person or organization responsible for their repair or service.

(d) Maintain order at the scene of a fire or any other fire response within the Town.

(e) See that the necessary permits and licenses issued by the State or Town are in the possession of or properly displayed by any person engaged in an activity or business within the Town for which such permit or license is re-
quired and that the terms of such permits or licenses are complied with.

(f) Perform such other lawful duties as ordered by the Chief of Police or his authorized representative.

(g) All persons in the Town, when called upon by any police officer or peace officer, shall promptly aid and assist him in the execution of his duties and whoever shall neglect or refuse to give such aid or assistance shall be subject to the general Penalty as provided in Chapter 1.
4.03(9) (k.)

Any private driveway leading to a building or structure located 200 feet or more from the public right-of-way shall be at least 18 feet in width; shall provide an unobstructed height throughout the entire length and width of the driveway of at least 14 feet, and shall have a cul-de-sac or turn around at or near the end of the driveway with a minimum right-of-way radius of 50 feet. Greater dimensions may be required by the Superintendent of Highways if the cul-de-sac or turn around would not be sufficient so as to accommodate fire fighting vehicle, apparatus and equipment that might be required to serve the property.
(STEP A) FUEL HAZARDS

FARSITE – use this to create Landscape file

Input

  Landscape Utilities
  Generate Landscape file

These three files created from 30 meter
DEM Using ArcMap Grid to ASCII

  Elevation ASCII (elevation.txt)
  Slope ASCII  (slope.txt)
  Aspect ASCII (aspect.txt)

Fuel Model ASCII (fuel.txt)

Coded from veg_cover.shp see Town of Rome Fuel Model Ratings
Converted to GRID then to ASCII using ArcMap 9.x  Fuel types provide by DNR

Canopy Cover ASCII (canopy.txt)

Coded from veg_cover.shp see Town of Rome Fuel Model Ratings
Converted to GRID then to ASCII using ArcMap 9.x  Fuel types provide by DNR

The canopy cover theme is necessary for computing shading and wind reduction factors for all fuel models. Canopy cover is the horizontal percentage of the ground surface that is covered by tree crowns. It is a stand-level descriptor.

Canopy Cover is NOT the same as crown closure. Canopy cover is measured as the horizontal fraction of the ground that is covered directly overhead by tree canopy. Crown closure refers to the ecological condition of relative tree crown density. Stands can be said to be "closed" to recruitment of canopy trees but still only have 40% or 50% canopy cover.

Coverage units can be categories (1-4) or percentage values (0-100). Categories are assumed to be the following:

1. 1-20%
2. 21-50%
3. 50-80%
4. 81-100%

with zero cover specified by 0 or 99.
Stand Height ASCII (stand_h.txt)

Coded from veg_cover.shp see Town of Rome Fuel Model Ratings
Coverted to GRID then to ASCII using ArcMap 9.x  Fuel types provide by DNR

Stand height is an optional spatial data theme that is used for computing spotting distances and wind reduction to midflame height. The values in the raster theme can be either integers or decimal values, meters or feet. The precision of the fire behavior calculations are limited to the nearest 1/10th meter or foot. Thus, if you have integer values and you want greater precision you should use the calculator features of your GIS to multiply the original height units by 10 and select meters*10 or feet*10 in the "Landscape (LCP) File Generation" dialog box. This conversion is optional for decimal stand height values.

Crown Base Height (c_base.txt)

Coded from veg_cover.shp see Town of Rome Fuel Model Ratings
Coverted to GRID then to ASCII using ArcMap 9.x  Fuel types provide by DNR

Crown Base Height the height to the bottom of the live crown over the area. Crown Base Height should incorporate the effects of ladder fuels. Zero is not a valid input for this field.

Crown Bulk Density (c_bulk.txt)

Coded from veg_cover.shp see Town of Rome Fuel Model Ratings
Coverted to GRID then to ASCII using ArcMap 9.x  Fuel types provide by DNR

Canopy Bulk Density (CBD) is an optional raster theme that is critical to determining the spread characteristics of crown fires. The values in the raster theme can be integers or decimal values in either kg/m3 or lb/ft3. The precision of canopy bulk density values are used to the nearest 100th kg/m3 or 1000 lb/ft3. Thus, if you have integer values in your canopy bulk density theme, you must use the calculator features of your GIS to multiply the original crown bulk density units by 100 (kg/m3) or 1000 (lb/ft3). This conversion is optional for decimal bulk density values.

Thus, if the actual canopy bulk density were in metric units (say 0.25 Kg/m3), the value in the raster map would be multiplied by 100 to give an index of 25 for those cells. If the actual canopy bulk density were in English units (say .015 lb/ft3), the value in the raster map would be multiplied by 1000 to give an index of 15 for those cells.

A value of zero for CBD is invalid, zero values will be assumed to be 0.1 when encountered in a simulation.
**Duff Loading ASCII** (set to constant = 0.3 mg/ha)

The duff theme is necessary for utilizing the Post-Frontal Combustion model found in *FARSITE* v4. English units are tons/acre and metric units are megagrams/hectare (metric tonnes per hectare) entered as decimal values. Common loadings are 8-10 tons/acre per inch of duff depth.

**Coarse Woody ASCII** (set to constant = 25)

This is an optional ASCII text file needed to utilize the Post-Frontal Combustion Model in *FARSITE* v4.0. This file contains the data describing each of the Coarse Woody Profiles found on the Coarse Woody Theme, which is found in the Landscape (.LCP) File.

Each Coarse Woody Profile (.CWD) File must contain data in the space delimited ASCII format specified below. *FARSITE* has a Coarse Woody Profile Custom Editor (see below) to help you create or edit Coarse Woody Profile (.CWD) Files. Or, a generic text editing application such as *Notepad* or *WordPad*, a spreadsheet, or the *FARSITE* Editor can be used to create or edit ASCII text files.

The file must be in the space delimited format shown below, and have profile numbers between 1 and 99. *FARSITE* 4.0 allows coarse woody profile inputs in English or metric units. The units are selected by inserting the word ENGLISH or METRIC as the first line of the Coarse Woody Profile (.CWD) File. The file can contain multiple lines per profile, with each line representing a fuel size class and each profile is separated by a header.

**Header Format**

The header is two lines, the first starting with the word "MODEL" and then the model number (integer) and a brief description of the model (with no spaces). The second line starts with the word "DEPTH" and the depth of the profile (decimal) in feet or centimeters.

**Data Format**

*SizeClass Loading HeatContent S/R Moist*

- **SizeClass** - The representative size of the class based on surface to volume ratio. (i.e.; for the 3" to 6" size class the representative size is 4.75, for the 6" to 10" class it is 8.25). A decimal data type, the units are inches or centimeters.
- **Loading** - Fuel loading of the class (decimal), units are tons/acre or kilograms/hectare
- **HeatContent** - Heat content of the class (integer), units are BTU/lb or joules/kilogram
- **S/R** - Sound or rotten is defined by the density of the fuel (lb/ft3, or kg/m3). Typical values are 32 lb/ft3 for sound fuel and 19 lb/ft3 for rotten.
- **Moist** - Moisture content of the size class in percent (integer).
FlamMAP3 – Open FARSITE Rome.LCP file

Analysis Area
New Run

INPUTS

1. Fuel Moisture File (*.fms)

The following ASCII integer space-delimited format is used:

FuelMod 1Hour 10Hour 100Hour LiveH LiveW

Used inputs from DNR
C:\Andy\Adams\Rome\Step_A\DNR_Rome_avg_max.fms
C:\Andy\Adams\Rome\Step_A\DNR_Rome_avg_min.fms (used)

2. Winds

Wind Direction (from DNR)
Wind Speed (8.4 MPH Average) (15.9 MPH Average Max) (used)
Azimuth Degrees 168 (south east)

3. Canopy Characteristics

Height (m) = Average height of tree cover. See Town of Rome Fuel Model Ratings.

Canopy Base Height (m) = See Town of Rome Fuel Model Ratings

Canopy Bulk Density (Kg/m3) = See Town of Rome Fuel Model Ratings

Foliar Moisture Content (%) = 90

A foliar moisture content for conifer crown fuels is always required in the Foliar Moisture Content (%) spin box. Usually this should range between 80 and 130 percent, with 120% being appropriate for average mid-summer conditions and 100% a good value for drought conditions.

4. Fuel Moisture Settings

Use Fix Fuel Moistures from Fuel Moisture File.

FIRE BEHAVIOR OUTPUTS

Select All

Launch Run and export the following asc files

Crown Fire Activity = crownfire.asc
Flame Length = flamelength.asc
Heat/Unit Area = heatperunit.asc
Rate of Spread = spreadrate.asc
Inputted output ASCII files from FlamMap3 and Insect Damage (poly) from DNR into NCWRPC Step A – Fuel Hazard Model

Final Output
C:\Andy\Adams\ROME\STEP_A\working\stepa_final

(STEP B) RISK OF WILDFIRE C:\Andy\Adams\Rome\Step_B

Fire Occurrence (Points) Shapefile from DNR on Historic Fire Occurrences 1977-2006
Created a density map from points using Spatial Analyst, Raw Score 1-9 Weight 35%

Roads (Lines) Existing roads Town of Rome.
Buffer 60 Meters, Raw Score 3, Weight 20%

Trails (Lines) Shapefile from DNR Existing trails Town of Rome
Buffer 20 Meters, Raw Score 2, Weight 15%

Housing Density (Poly) Used existing building points and merged with forty coverage to create housing unit density by forty.
Raw Score 1-5 (based on density), Weight 30%

NCWRPC Step B – Risk of Occurrence Model

Final Output
C:\Andy\Adams\ROME\STEP_B\working\stepb_final

(STEP C) ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE
C:\Andy\Adams\Rome\Step_C

Planning Units (Poly) Shapefile defined by Committee. Raw Score 1-5 based on rating sheets, Weight 14%

Power Lines (Lines) Buffer 50, Raw Score 2, Weight 3%

Substations (Points) Buffer 30, Raw Score 3, Weight 10%

Water Points (Points) Buffer 30, Raw Score 2, Weight 5%

Sensitive Facilities (Points) Buffer 30, Raw Score 3, Weight 15%

Businesses (Points) Buffer 30, Raw Score 3, Weight 15%

Residences (Points) Buffer 30, Raw Score 2, Weight 5%

Communication Structures (Points) Buffer 100, Raw Score 3, Weight 5%
Escape Routes (Lines) Buffer 50, Raw Score 3, Weight 5%

Pipelines (Lines) Buffer 15, Raw Score 3, Weight 1%

Pipeline Valves (Points) Buffer 30, Raw Score 3, Weight 6%

Final Output
C:\Andy\Adams\ROME\STEP_C\working\stepe_final

(STEP E) PREPAREDNESS  C:\Andy\Adams\Rome\Step_E

Response Time (Poly) – Drive distance using Network Analyst
   Raw Score 1-5, Weight 60%

Water Points (Points) Shapefile from DNR
   Buffer 100 feet, Raw Score –2, Weight 20%

Deadend Roads (Lines) Deadend roads from Road Centerlines
   Buffer 20 feet, Raw Score 2, Weight 20%
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<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>NFNL FUEL</th>
<th>STAND HEIGHT</th>
<th>CROWN BASE</th>
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Rome Guidelines for Wildland Fire Evacuation

Town of Rome Evacuation Guidelines

Evacuation guidelines are implemented when all of the following conditions exist:

- Persons or property are directly exposed to severe danger;
- The impact of danger is in progress or is imminent;
- The time lost in obtaining approval would prevent successful protective measures

AUTHORITY:

Once the IC of an event decides an evacuation may be necessary, he/she shall brief the Chief of Police / Adams County Sheriff as soon as possible.

The decision to evacuate can only be made by the Chief / Sheriff (or his designee; i.e. one of his deputies).

Evacuations are ADVISORY ONLY AND CAN ONLY BE DONE ON A VOLUNTARY ACTION.

Voluntary evacuation is exempt during the following situations;

Broader incidents where danger is imminent provided that an Emergency Proclamation or a Disaster Declaration has been executed.

OPERATIONS

Inform and advise potential evacuees of the potential incident related danger.

Law enforcement personnel should always be aware of potential danger and ensure their own personal safety.

As a general rule, we will not spend time and resources arresting people who choose NOT to comply with evacuation orders.

Notification to Evacuate

- If circumstances permit, we will make an effort to notify residents in the affected area of the possibility of an evacuation.

- Unless dangerous circumstances prohibit the above, we will attempt to inform residents door-to-door.
- When door-to-door contact is not possible, deputies should use PA systems, horn and emergency overhead lights.

**Evacuation Control Kits**

**Contents:**

Evacuation information forms (100)

Fluorescent 1" ribbon (10 rolls)

Adhesive tape

Felt tip permanent pen/markers

Zip-lock bags (25-1 gallon capacity)

**Considerations**

A majority of evacuees will secure their own accommodations rather than stay in an Evacuation Center.

- Has Emergency Services been notified?
- Has Local Red Cross Disaster relief team been notified?
- Have Evacuation Centers been established?
- Where are they located?
- What are the best routes to travel to them?

Will transportation assistance be necessary for evacuees?

**Procedures**

- Use evacuation control kit

*Contact residents door to door and inform them of the current evacuation status:

#1. Prepare to evacuate, or
#2. Distribute Evacuation Forms as residents leave.

*Mark residents with a long piece of florescent tape.

- If time permits, decisions to evacuate due to toxic gas/gases or some other extreme degradation of air quality should be coordinated with:
  1. County Health Department and
  2. National Weather service
- Establish:
  #1. 24-hour roadblocks at point of entry and
  #2. Security patrol in evacuated areas
- Evacuated areas are closed to ALL unauthorized persons.
- Begin planning for allowing residents to permanently return to evacuated area.

Evacuation Decision Factors

- Identify evacuation areas by using commonly known boundaries rather than using "distance from" statements.
- When time permits, residents should receive individual briefings on the incident and evacuation procedures.
- When an area is evacuated we should anticipate residents in proximate areas might also be evacuated.
- Grouping specific evacuation orders (i.e. pregnant woman and children) will generate voluntary evacuation by others.
- Planning for logistics of returning residents back to their home should begin as soon as the evacuation order is issued.
Population Protection Guidelines

Evacuation Information for Local Citizens

Town of Rome Police Dept. is preparing a Population Protection Guideline for the citizens in this vicinity ________________________. The guideline is contingency preparedness measures in the event of an evacuation in this area. The information on this sheet is being provided to you to inform you of the steps in the evacuation process and what may be necessary for you to do IF an evacuation occurs.

THREE STATES OF EVACUATION

Stage 1 – Alert and Warning (Voluntary Evacuation)

There is a high probability of the need to evacuate. Law enforcement personnel/representatives (Search and Rescue) will attempt to make personal visits to each resident and business in the threatened area.

Residents are responsible to make arrangements to move property and livestock. Some residents, primarily those with special needs or other concerns, should relocate during this stage of evacuation.

Stage 2 – Request/Order of Security

Evacuation is necessary in order to protect the lives of area occupants and emergency personnel responding to the incident. Law enforcement, Search and Rescue personnel shall attempt to convey this order/request to citizens door-to-door. If this is not practical or possible this information may be delivered via a Public Address System from a patrol vehicle. Should the latter method be employed the personnel will activate the emergency lights and sirens on the vehicle. By code in the State of Wisconsin (?) no resident can be forced to evacuate his or her residence, unless ordered by the Governor. This is a voluntary action.

Roadblocks and 24-hour patrols by law enforcement will be instituted to protect property within the evacuated area.

Stage 3 – Return

Occupants are allowed to return as soon as it is safe.

EVACUATION ROUTES AND CENTERS:

A Staging Area has been established at: (State Location)

In the event of an evacuation you should report to this center and check-in to let officials know that you have made it safely out of the affected area. Following
check-in you have the choice of staying at the center or going elsewhere for accommodations (i.e. friends, relatives or hotels). If the road is blocked, travel in the opposite direction and call the Town of Rome Police Dept./Adams County Sheriff's Office (911) as soon as possible. Please provide the name and phone number of the place to which you are relocating. We will need a point of contact and a phone number.

**Keep Informed.** The success of this guideline requires the cooperation and assistance of informed occupants. Stay tuned to local media outlets for updates. Listen and ask questions when an emergency service representative contacts you.

**Plan Ahead.** Preplanning can help you avoid last minute frustrations. Plan where you will go and **WHAT YOU WILL TAKE** when you evacuate.
WARNING

This area may be evacuated

Because of:

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

By the order of the Town of Rome Police   Date:______  Time:______

Evacuation Center_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Evacuee Information Form NO. ___________________________

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

NAME: ______________________________________
ADDRESS: ___________________________________
NUMBER IN FAMILY: ________________________
WHEN EVACUATED, GO TO: ______________________

Even if you plan to stay elsewhere, please check in at the nearest evacuation center. If you do not plan to stay at the center please fill out the following information.

We will be staying at (Name/physical address)
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

City/State:
_________________________________________________________________

In the case of an actual evacuation, return this form to the nearest roadblock so we are assured of your safety. If you decide to pre-evacuate, please return this form to Town of Rome Police Dept. or call (insert number) and provide the above information. There are 3 stages in the evacuation process. Personnel from the Police Dept., Search and Rescue, or Designee will attempt to contact you and keep you informed as to the current stage of evacuation in your area.
Door-to-Door Contact Checklist

_____ 1. Identify yourself and briefly explain the nature of the emergency.

_____ 2. Advise occupants to evacuate or to be prepared for evacuation. Tell them what the signal will be if evacuation becomes necessary.

_____ 3. If time permits, have occupants complete Evacuee Information Form. If time does not permit, tell evacuees to complete the Form at the evacuation Center.

_____ 4. Inquire if occupants have transportation or if anyone needs special assistance. Advise to take pets and prescription drugs.

_____ 5. Instruct occupants on routes to use, precautions, and the location of the Evacuation Center.

_____ 6. If no one answers the door, ask neighbors for information. Obtain approval for forced entry if necessary to aid children, bedridden, handicapped, or elderly.

_____ 7. Complete Evacuation Refusal Form for persons refusing to evacuate. Log name and address of home where no one answers. Report these names and address to your Supervisor.

_____ 8. Mark evacuated residences with long strip of ribbon from Evacuation Kit.

_____ 9. Mark area with WARNING-AREA EVACUATED notices from the Evacuation Kit.

_____ 10. Maintain log of residents and address contacted.
Public Address Contact Checklist – When Door-to-Door Contact is NOT Possible

____ 1. Incident Commander shall approve the message before used. Content will vary with the circumstances. Keep it short and to the point.

____ 2. Select a broadcast spot for good coverage. Consider wind direction and PA carrying distance.

____ 3. Stop the vehicle and give a steady tone on the siren for 10 to 15 seconds. Wait 10 to 15 seconds.

____ 4. Give the message TWICE. Use a slow command voice. Do not shout for amplification.

____ 5. Sample: "YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE. YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE. THE _________ (Specify Authority) HAS ADVISED THAT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD BE EVACUATED IMMEDIATELY, BECAUSE OF EXTREME DANGER FROM ________________. LOCK YOUR HOMES AND PROCEED ON ____________ (route and directions) TO ________________ (Evacuation Center). PLEASE EVACUATE NOW."

____ 6. Have the team patrol neighborhoods to maintain order and provide assistance to those with no transportation.

____ 7. Hand our Evacuee Information Forms as residents leave the area.

____ 8. Mark each dwelling, known to be evacuated, with a long piece (approx. 36") of reflective ribbon.

____ 9. Mark area with "WARNING AREA EVACUATED" notice form the Evacuation Kit.
EVACUATION CONTACT LOG

EVACUATION STAGE: ____________ INCIDENT: ____________

LOCATION: ____________________ OFFICER(S): ____________

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<th>Physical</th>
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Town of Rome Police Dept.
Evacuation Refusal/Waiver

____ I, ___________________________________________, HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY THE Town of Rome Police Dept. to evacuate this property/location, due to extreme danger, which is evident.

____ I, ___________________________________________, REFUSE to evacuate this property/location and acknowledge that I know and understand the hazards. If, I remain or enter this area, I hold harmless the "agency" responsible for evacuation.

____ I, ____________________________________________, will evacuate this property/location, however, I wish to return to check my property from time to time. I acknowledge that I know and understand the hazard. I hold harmless the "agency" responsible for evacuation. I understand that if I do not check in and out at the same Check Point each time I go to and from my property, I may not be notified if the danger increases.

Address/Location where individual was advised to leave (list below):
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

Person REFUSING to evacuate (list information)

Print name: ________________________________________________________
Date of Birth: ______________________ Social Security #: ________________
Next of Kin (print name): ____________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________
Phone #: ______________________
Signature: __________________________________________
Date: __________________________
ATTACHMENT E
Proposed Addition to Chapter 9 Town of Rome Code of Ordinances
CHAPTER 9

OFFENSES AND NUISANCES

RESTRICTIONS ON DEAD TIMBER & BRUSH

(1) **PURPOSE** The Town of Rome is heavily wooded. Statistics compiled by the State of Wisconsin have classified ___% of the Town's area as woodlands. At the same time, there are several residential subdivisions located within the Town. Most of these subdivisions are located within or are adjacent to woodlands. The combination of woodlands and high density housing make these subdivisions particularly vulnerable to wildfires. The effects of such wildfires would be devastating to both persons and property. Dead trees and brush are highly combustible and represent an ideal fuel for the start and spread of a wildfire. The Town of Rome has determined, in conjunction with fire protection experts, that it is necessary to restrict or regulate dead trees and brush. The Town has determined that dead trees and brush constitute a public nuisance in subdivisions and that it is therefore necessary to regulate them.

(2) **DEAD TREES AND BRUSH PROHIBITED**: Every owner of a parcel(s) of land located within a subdivision shall keep said parcel(s) free of all dead trees, standing or fallen, that are 6 inches or greater in diameter. In addition, said parcels shall be kept free of dead brush and tree limbs, regardless of size. In an attempt to prevent the spread of oak wilt property owners shall void the cutting of standing oak trees during the period of April 15-October 1 of each year.

(3) **PROCEDURE**: Whenever the fire chief shall determine that a property owner is in violation of this section, the fire chief shall send a notice of the violation to the property owner. The notice shall include a description of what constitutes the violation and shall set forth a deadline for the violation to be remedied. If the violation is not timely remedied the property owner may be issued a citation by the police department for the violation. In addition, the Town may abate the nuisance pursuant to the normal procedure for the abatement of a nuisance.

(4) **PENALTIES**: Any owner of property convicted of a violation of this Section shall be subject to a fine of not more than $200.00 plus costs. Each day that the subject property remains in violation of this ordinance shall constitute a separate violation.
ATTACHMENT F

Adoption of Town of Rome Wildfire Protection Plan

_____________________________________________________________
Resolution ______

Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Rome, Wisconsin
Authorizing Approval of the Town of Rome Community Wildfire Protection Plan

WHEREAS, President Bush signed into law the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 in order to reduce the threat of destructive wildfires while upholding environmental standards and encouraging early public input during review and planning processes, and

WHEREAS, on ______________, ______ the Town of Rome Board of Supervisors approved the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Town of Rome, and

WHEREAS, completion of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan will earn communities priority for funding hazardous fuels reduction projects carried out under the auspices of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, and

WHEREAS, the Rome Town Board of Supervisors has reviewed the draft of the Town of Rome Community Wildfire Protection Plan and concurs with the final plan content.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Town of Rome hereby adopts the Town of Rome Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town of Rome Board of Supervisors, this _____ day of ______________, ______.

Philip McLaughlin, Chairman  
David Repinski, Supervisor

Don Fornasiere, Supervisor  
Bob Benkowski, Supervisor

Steve Scarbury, Supervisor

Attest:  
Terri Anderson, Clerk