

Fire Districts Profile

- Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department**
- Bertrand Fire Department**
- Elwood Volunteer Fire Department**
- Funk Rural Fire Department**
- Holdrege Fire & Rescue**
- Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue**
- Minden Volunteer Fire Department**
- Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District**

Tri-Basin NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan

2023

District Planning Teams

Each fire districts' local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All planning worksheets were filled out and returned by district planning team members from each fire district.

Table FD.1: Fire Districts Planning Team Members

Name	Title	Fire District	R1 Meeting	R2 Meeting
Jeff England	Fire Chief	Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department	Recording	Holdrege
Kevin Stehl	Fire Chief	Bertrand Fire Department	Recording	Holdrege
Dustin Clouse	Fire Chief	Elwood Volunteer Fire Department	Recording	Recording
Roger Powell	Emergency Manager	Elwood Volunteer Fire Department	Elwood	Elwood
Greg Vandell	Fire Chief	Funk Rural Fire Department	Elwood	Holdrege
Dallas Roemmich	Fire Chief	Holdrege Fire & Rescue	Holdrege	Holdrege
Orville Samuelson	Fire Chief	Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue	-	Recording
Marvin Nelson	Board Member	Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue	-	Holdrege
Tom Brown	Fire Chief	Minden Volunteer Fire Department	Minden	Recording
Steven Borgman	Fire Chief	Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District	Recording	Recording

Location and Geography

Landscapes within the planning area include mixed-prairie, lowland tallgrass prairie, riparian deciduous forests, cropland, pastures, and woody wetlands. Dense and unhealthy woodlands along the eastern redcedar encroachment on grasslands continue to create extreme wildfire risk in the area. Eastern redcedar is especially bad in southern Gosper County. Other areas of concern include population centers adjacent to wildlands, wooded areas along rivers and streams and rough terrain south of Elwood and Smithfield. Water sources for fighting fires include the Platte River, Little Blue River, Elwood Reservoir, Johnson Lake, Phelps County Irrigation Canal, Adams County Canal, Tri-County Supply Canal, municipalities, windmills, streams, ponds, stock tanks, and private wells.^{1,2} Figure FD.1 shows the location of all the fire districts in the planning area.

Table FD.2: Acres Covered

Participating Fire District	Acres Covered
Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department	62,560
Bertrand Fire Department	129,920
Elwood Volunteer Fire Department	137,808
Funk Rural Fire Department	74,240
Holdrege Fire & Rescue	64,000
Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue	65,000
Minden Volunteer Fire Department	192,640
Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District	80,640

1 Nebraska Forest Service. 2021. "South Central West Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan". <https://nfs.unl.edu/community-wildfire-protection-plan>.

2 Nebraska Forest Service. 2021. "Loess Canyons Region Community Wildfire Protection Plan". <https://nfs.unl.edu/community-wildfire-protection-plan>.

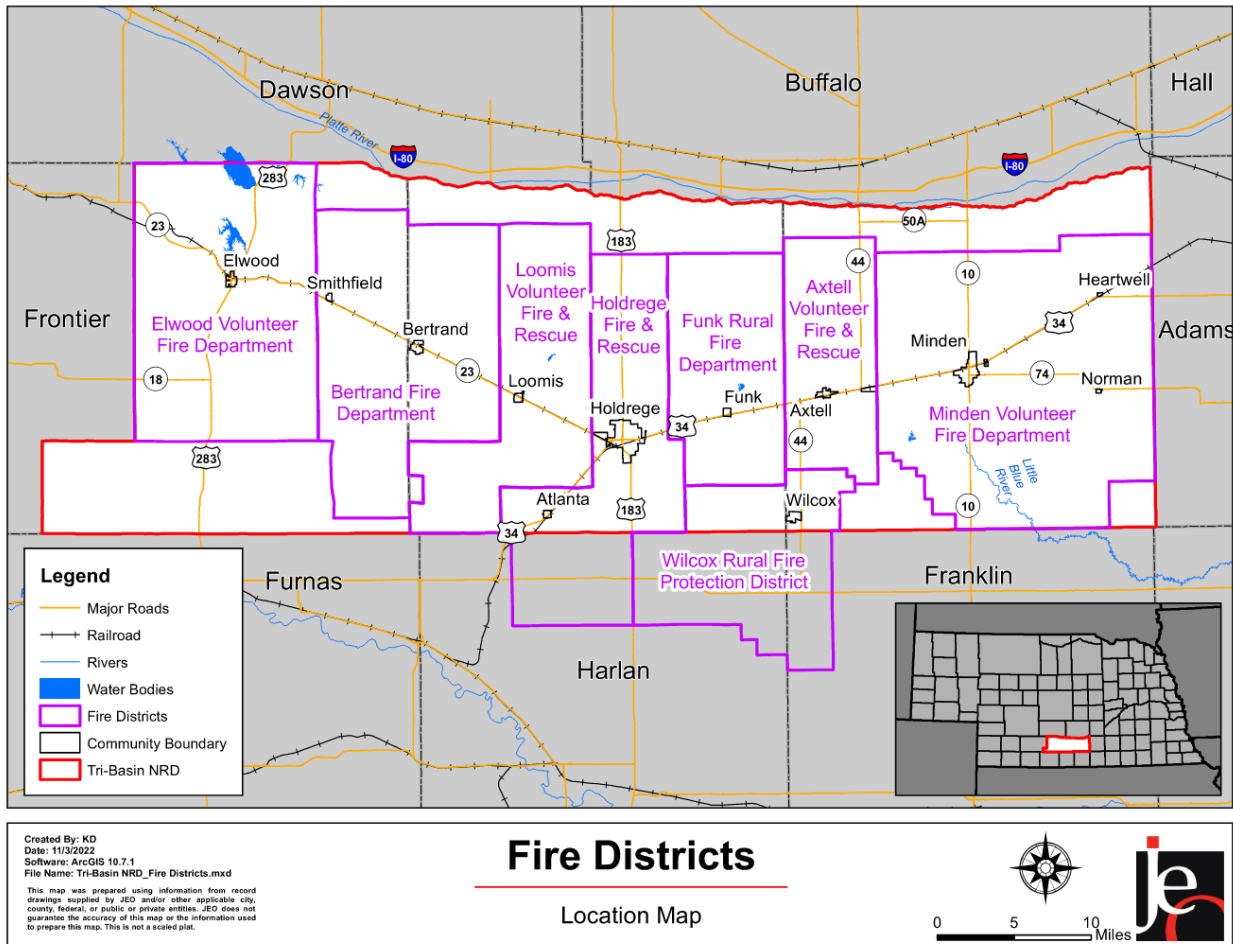
Demographics

The fire districts do not collect demographic information of their population, nor does the U.S. Census Bureau recognize fire districts as a distinct unit. As a result, there is no demographic data generated specifically for each fire district. For information regarding population data, please refer to individual community and county profiles. The table below gives an approximate number of people served for each participating district.

Table FD.3: Populations Served

Participating Fire District	Population Served
Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department	1,800
Bertrand Fire Department	1,500
Elwood Volunteer Fire Department	1,500
Funk Rural Fire Department	400
Holdrege Fire & Rescue	7,000
Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue	1,300
Minden Volunteer Fire Department	4,200
Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District	1,000

Figure FD.1: Fire Districts in the Planning Area



Governance and Staffing

Each fire district is supervised by a fire chief and a board of directors who will oversee the implementation of hazard mitigation projects. The number of staff and type for each participating district is listed below.

Table FD.4: Staffing

Participating Fire District	Number of Staff	Type
Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department	27	Volunteer
Bertrand Fire Department	24	Volunteer
Elwood Volunteer Fire Department	24	Volunteer
Funk Rural Fire Department	20	Volunteer
Holdrege Fire & Rescue	27	Volunteer
Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue	17	Volunteer
Minden Volunteer Fire Department	30	Volunteer
Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District	29	Volunteer

Capability Assessment

Due to the unique structure of fire districts, the typical capability assessment table was not used. The following table summarizes each district's overall resources. In addition, each district can utilize mutual aid, county, and state resources if needed during large-scale events.

Table FD.5: Overall Resources

Participating Fire District	Aerial	Pumper	Tanker	Pumper / Tanker	Grass-Weed Truck	Utility Truck	Rescue Units	Special Teams	Special Equipment
Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department	1	2	1	1	3	-	2	1	-
Bertrand Fire Department	-	2	1	-	2	1	2	-	Jaws / Light Tower / Cascade / Air Bags / Compressor / Grain Bin Rescue
Elwood Volunteer Fire Department	-	1	3	-	2	-	2	-	-
Funk Rural Fire Department	-	1	1	-	3	-	1	-	-
Holdrege Fire & Rescue	1	5	1	-	2	1	1	-	Jaws / Cascades / Light Plants / Grain Bin Extraction Trailer / Exhaust Fans
Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue	-	1	1	-	2	1	1	-	Jaws/Air bags
Minden Volunteer Fire Department	1	2	2	-	3	1	2	-	-
Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District	-	2	2	-	4	1	1	-	-

Table FD.6: Mutual Aid Agreements

Participating Fire District	Mutual Aid Partnerships
Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department	Central Nebraska Volunteer Fire Association Mutual Aid, Quad Cities Mutual Aid
Bertrand Fire Department	Central Nebraska Volunteer Fire Association Mutual Aid, Phelps County Mutual Aid
Elwood Volunteer Fire Department	South Central Nebraska Mutual Aid
Funk Rural Fire Department	Central Nebraska Volunteer Fire Association Mutual Aid, Phelps County Mutual Aid
Holdrege Fire & Rescue	Central Nebraska Volunteer Fire Association Mutual Aid, Phelps County Mutual Aid
Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue	Central Nebraska Volunteer Fire Association Mutual Aid, Phelps County Mutual Aid
Minden Volunteer Fire Department	Central Nebraska Volunteer Fire Association Mutual Aid, Quad Cities Mutual Aid
Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District	Central Nebraska Volunteer Fire Association Mutual Aid, Quad Cities Mutual Aid

Plans and Studies

Each fire district has standard operating procedures (SOPs) or standard operating guidelines (SOGs). The SOPs/SOGs outline the district’s response to a variety of different calls that could be received. SOPs/SOGs are unlikely to be further integrated with the hazard mitigation plan as they deal directly with response efforts. In addition, the districts will either be a part of the 2021 Loess Canyons Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) or the 2021 South Central West Nebraska CWPP. These CWPPs discuss county specific historical wildfire occurrences and impacts, identifies areas most at risk from wildfires, discusses protection capabilities, and identifies wildfire mitigation strategies. These documents are updated every five years. Information from the CWPPs has been reviewed and added to this profile whenever possible. Finally, each county has its own Local Emergency Operation Plan (LEOP). Annex F in these LEOPs covers fire services by listing the county fire departments, mutual aid partners, and equipment lists. Each LEOP is updated every five years by the county emergency management.

Any other district specific planning documents are identified on the next page. Each fire district will work to integrate the hazard mitigation plan into any future planning documents.

Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

The Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department also has a Standards of Cover plan that was completed in 2019. This plan gives a comprehensive analysis of the department and the community it serves. Specific sections include a description of the community served, review of services provided, community expectations and performance goals, community risk assessment, historical performance, performance objectives and measures, and overall evaluation. The study is reviewed annual to ensure objectives are being met and to identify areas that may need to be addressed. Since this is the first time participating in the hazard mitigation plan it has not been integrated in the Standards of Cover plan.

Future Development Trends

Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

Over the past five years, a new grass rig was purchased. In addition, a new subdivision was built in the district near the Axtell swimming pool park. This new equipment likely made the district less vulnerable to hazards, but the new subdivision added to the structures in the service area. In the next five years, a new ambulance, new SCBAs, and a new engine/pumper are planned to be purchased.

Bertrand Fire Department

In the past five years, new equipment was purchased including a gas monitoring device, personal respirators, and new SCBAs. In addition, a new SCBA fill station was purchased. This new equipment likely made the district and volunteers less vulnerable to hazards. In the next five years, a new fire station and new pumper truck is planned which will improve current capabilities. The new fire station will be located at 516 Minor Avenue.

Funk Rural Fire Department

Over the past five years, the Funk Rural Fire Department built a new fire hall and added newer bunker gear. This likely made the district less vulnerable to hazards. In the next five years, new air packs are planned to be purchased.

Elwood Volunteer Fire Department

Over the past five years, the Elwood Volunteer Fire Department purchased a new Type 6 Grass Truck. This likely made the district less vulnerable to hazards, specifically grass/wildfire. In the next five years, the district plans to update fire and rescue equipment.

Holdrege Fire & Rescue

Over the past five years, a new aerial truck was purchased. This likely made the district less vulnerable to hazards, specifically grass/wildfire. In the next five years, a new Class A Pumper is planned to be purchased.

Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue

During the last five years, Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue built a new fire hall, and acquired a new pumper, SCBA air compressor, and a backup generator. The local planning team indicated that the department would like to acquire a new rescue unit in the near future.

Minden Volunteer Fire Department

Over the past five years, new subdivisions were built throughout the district. This likely makes the district more vulnerable to hazards as new subdivisions are likely to be located in the wildland-urban interface. In the next five years, nothing is planned at this time, but some discussions are taking place about department improvements.

Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District

Over the past five years, the district has updated rescue equipment. This likely makes the district less vulnerable to hazards, specifically grass/wildfire. In the next five years, new apparatus, rescue unit, and a new fire hall is planned in Wilcox.

Community Lifelines

Each participating district identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the districts' functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The following lists and maps the community lifelines for each fire district, as identified by each local planning team.

Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

Table FD.7: Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (G) Shelter (S)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Axtell Community Hall / Alert Siren	Safety and Security	G	N
2	Axtell Community School	Food, Water, Shelter	S	N
3	Axtell Fire & Rescue Station	Safety and Security	G	N
4	CPI Fuel Station	Energy	-	N
5	Kats Korner	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
6	Kearney County Communications	Communications	G	N
7	Mosaic Campus	Health and Medical	-	N

Bertrand Fire Department

Table FD.8: Bertrand Fire Department Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (G) Shelter (S)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Bertrand Community Building	Food, Water, Shelter	S	N
2	Bertrand Fire Station	Safety and Security	G	N
3	Bertrand Nursing Home	Health and Medical	G	N
4	Bertrand School	Food, Water, Shelter	S	N
5	Bertrand Water Tower	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
6	Bertrand Well #1	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
7	Bertrand Well #2	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
8	C Plus	Energy	-	N
9	Cenex	Energy	-	N
10	Countryside Market	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
11	Lexington Regional Clinic	Health and Medical	-	N
12	Substation	Energy	-	N

Elwood Volunteer Fire Department

Table FD.9: Elwood Volunteer Fire Department Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (G) Shelter (S)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	American Legion	Food, Water, Shelter	S	N
2	Aurora Coop	Energy	-	N
3	DC Express	Energy	-	N
4	Elwood Fire House / EMS / Warning Siren	Safety and Security, Health and Medical, Communications	-	N
5	Elwood Funeral Home	Health and Medical	-	N
6	Elwood Grocery Store	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
7	Elwood Schools	Food, Water, Shelter	S	N
8	Elwood Senior Center	Food, Water, Shelter, Health and Medical	S	N
9	Gosper County Courthouse	Safety and Security	G	N
10	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Food, Water, Shelter	S	N
11	Red Barn	Food, Water, Shelter, Energy	-	N

Funk Rural Fire Department

Table FD.10: Funk Rural Fire Department Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (G) Shelter (S)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	CPI – Tire	Energy	-	N
2	Fire Hall / EMS	Safety and Security, Health and Medical	G	N
3	Fridhem Lutheran Church	Food, Water, Shelter	S	N
4	Funk Community Center	Food, Water, Shelter	S	N
5	Funk Water Well	Food, Water, Shelter	G	N
6	Old School Building	Other	-	N
7	Outdoor Siren	Communications	G	N
8	SPPD Sub Station	Energy	-	N

Holdrege Fire & Rescue

Table FD.11: Holdrege Fire and Rescue Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (G) Shelter (S)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Allmand Brothers	Other	-	N
2	Becton Dickinson	Other	G	N
3	Casey's North	Energy	-	N
4	Casey's West	Energy	-	N
5	Cell Tower #1	Communications	G	N
6	Cell Tower #2	Communications	G	N
7	Electrical Substation #1	Energy	-	Y
8	Electrical Substation #2	Energy	-	N
9	Electrical Substation #3	Energy	-	N
10	Electrical Substation #4 / Well #5	Energy	-	N
11	Family Medical Specialties	Health and Medical	G	N
12	Holdrege Elementary	Other	-	N
13	Holdrege Fire Station	Safety and Security	G	N
14	Holdrege Market Place	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
15	Holdrege Middle School	Food, Water, Shelter	G,S	N
16	Holdrege Police Station / City Building / Holdrege Siren #5	Safety and Security	G	N
17	Holdrege Senior High	Food, Water, Shelter	G,S	N
18	Holdrege Siren #1	Communications	-	N
19	Holdrege Siren #2	Communications	-	N
20	Holdrege Siren #3	Communications	-	N
21	Holdrege Siren #4	Communications	-	N
22	Holdrege Water Tower / Well #6	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
23	Holdrege Well #1	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
24	Holdrege Well #12	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
25	Holdrege Well #13	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
26	Holdrege Well #14	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
27	Holdrege Well #15	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N
28	Nelson-Bauer Funeral Home	Other	-	N
29	Phelps County Sheriff / Courthouse	Safety and Security	G	N
30	Phelps Memorial Hospital	Health and Medical	G	N
31	Post Office	Communications	-	N
32	Pump & Pantry	Energy	-	N
33	Radio Tower #1	Communications	G	N
34	Radio Tower #2	Communications	G	N
35	Radio Tower #3	Communications	G	N
36	Radio Tower #4	Communications	G	N
37	Radio Tower #5	Communications	G	N
38	Sunmart	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N

Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Table FD.12: Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (G) Shelter (S)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Alert Siren	Communications	-	N
2	Alert Siren	Communications	-	N
3	CHS Dry Fertilizer	Hazardous Materials	-	N
4	Loomis Community Building	Food, Water, Shelter	S	N
5	Loomis Fire Hall / 911 Backup System	Safety and Security Communications	G	N
6	Loomis School	Food, Water, Shelter	S	N
7	Phelps Memorial Hospital	Health and Medical	G	N
8	Townmart	Food, Water, Shelter	-	N

Minden Volunteer Fire Department

Table FD.13: Minden Volunteer Fire Department Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (G) Shelter (S)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Minden Fire & Rescue	Safety and Security	G	N
2	Kearney County Health Services	Health and Medical	G	N
3	Sheriff's Office	Safety and Security	G	N

Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District

Table FD.14: Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (G) Shelter (S)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Alert Siren – Wilcox	Communications	-	N
2	CPI	Energy	-	N
3	Viaero Tower	Communications	G	N
4	Wilcox Fire Hall – Ragan / Alert Siren	Safety and Security	G	N
5	Wilcox Fire Hall – Wilcox	Safety and Security	G	N
6	Wilcox Hildreth School	Food, Water, Shelter	S	N

Figure FD.2: Community Lifelines – Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

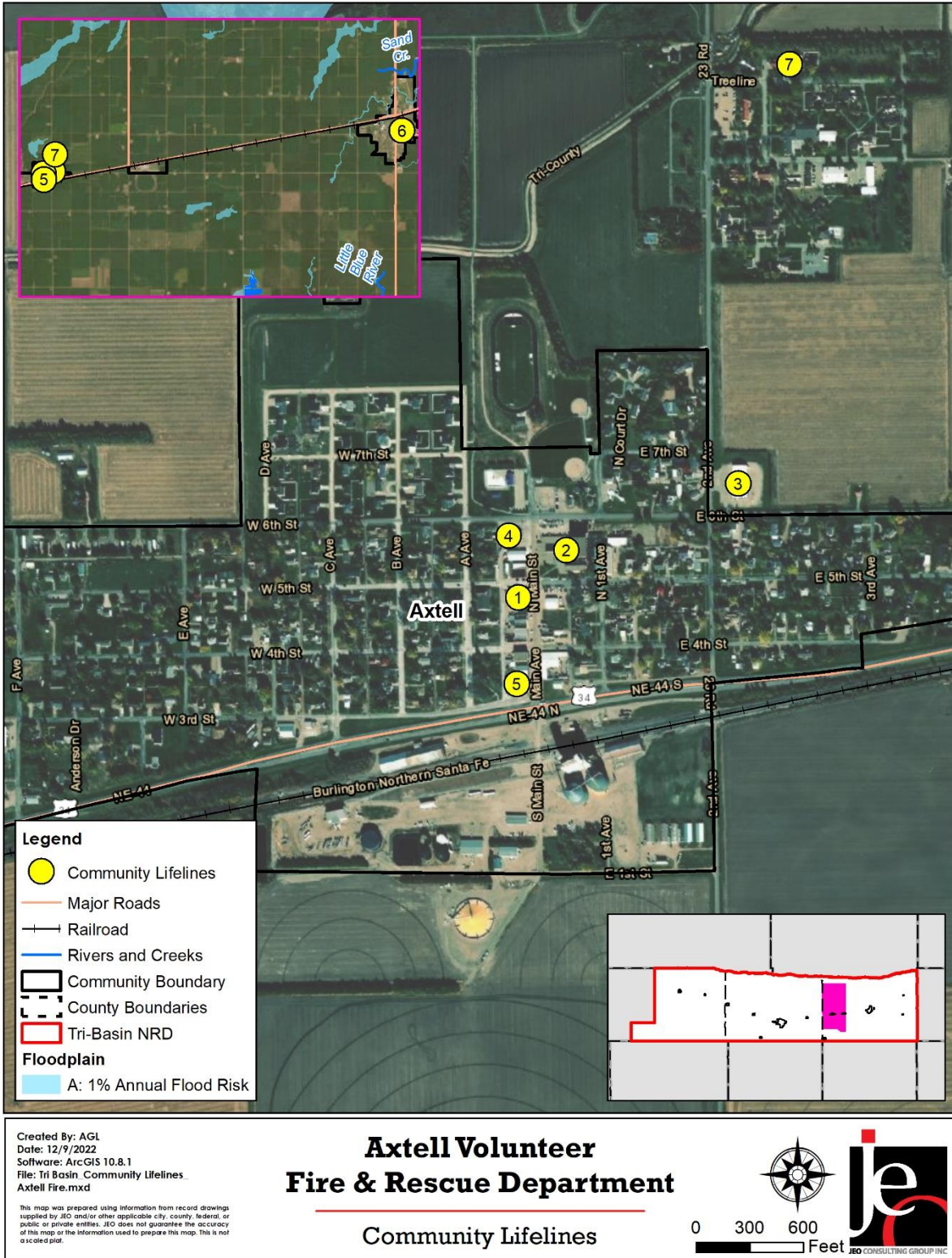
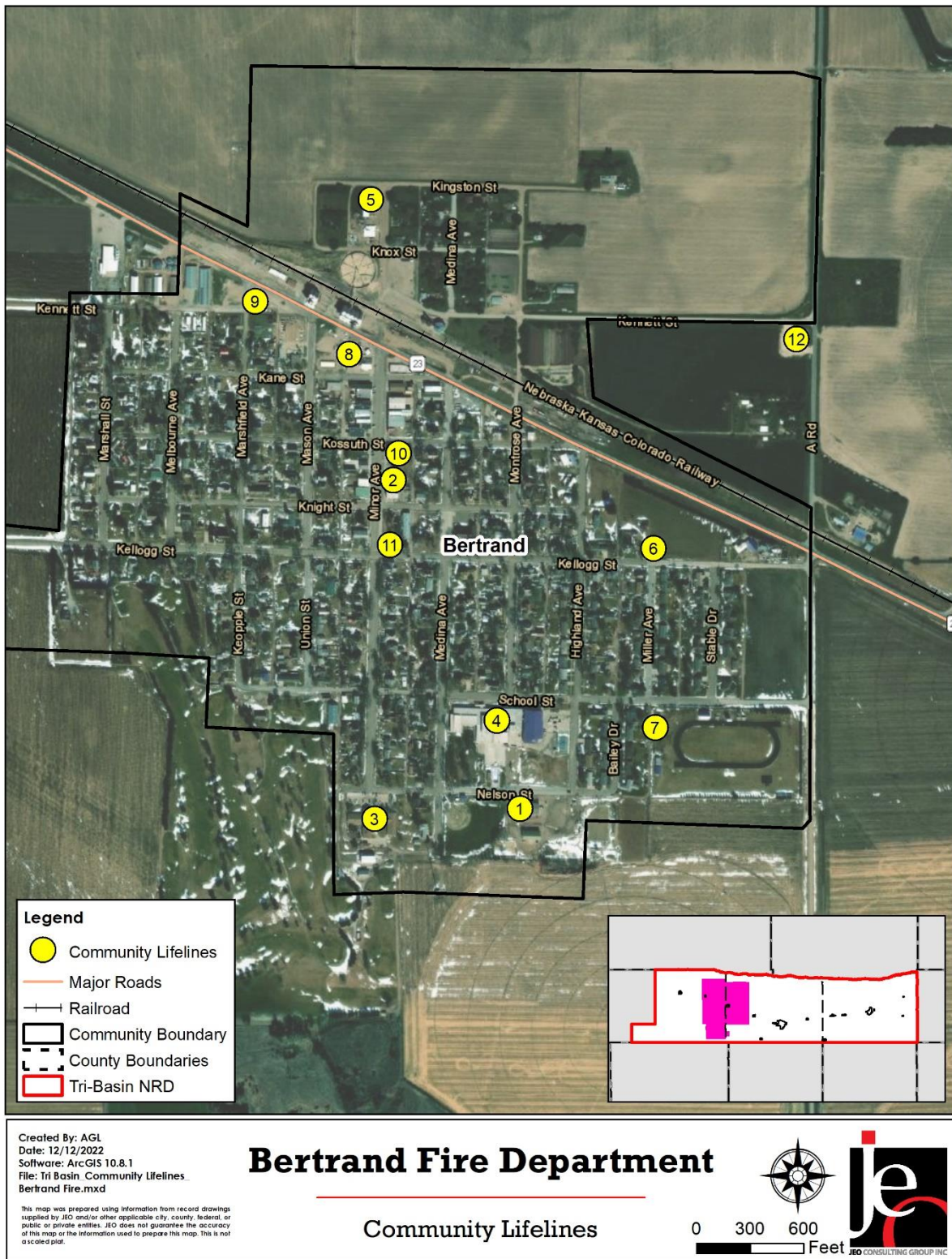


Figure FD.3: Community Lifelines – Bertrand Fire Department



*No floodplain located in the community.

Figure FD.4: Community Lifelines – Elwood Volunteer Fire Department

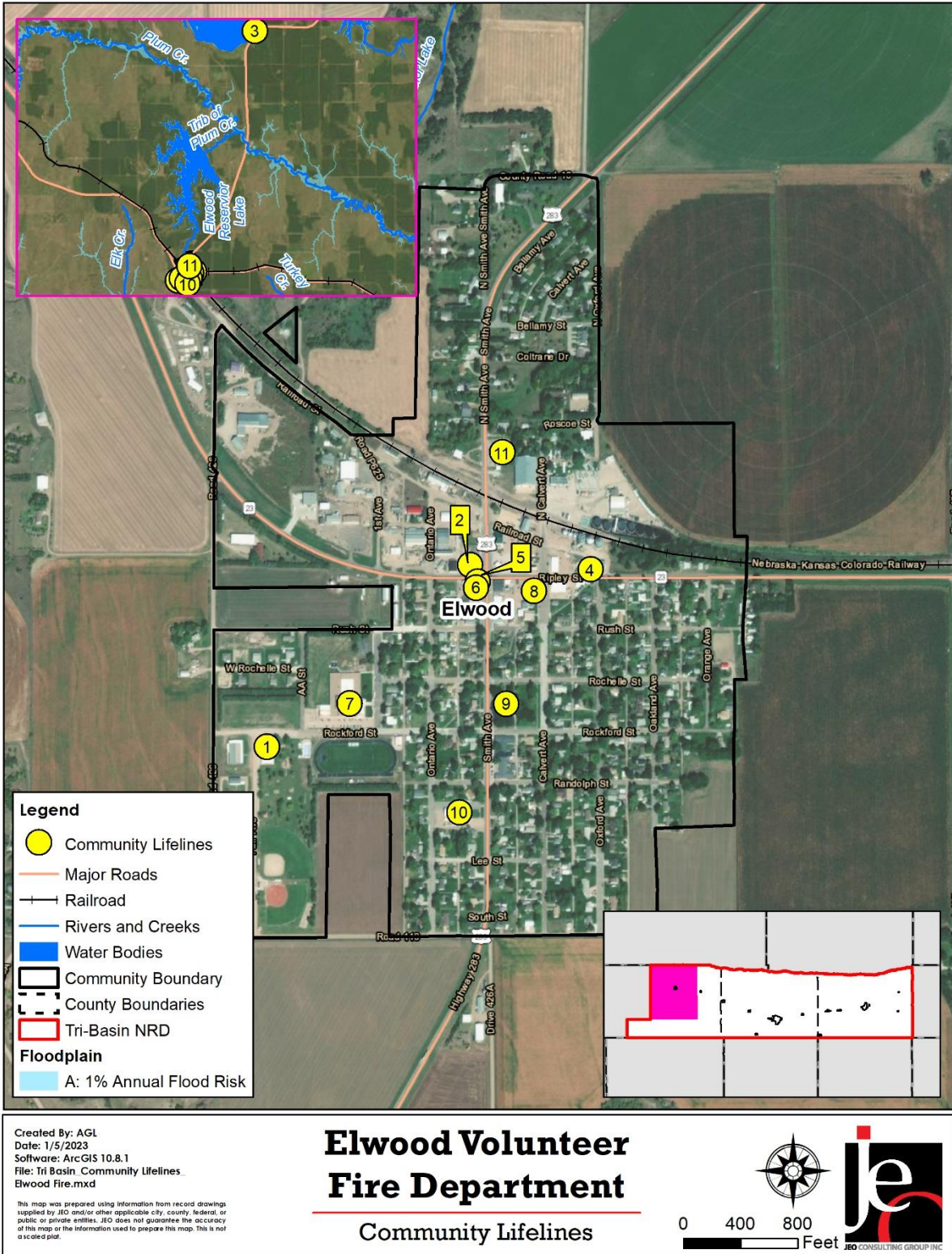


Figure FD.5: Community Lifelines – Funk Rural Fire Department

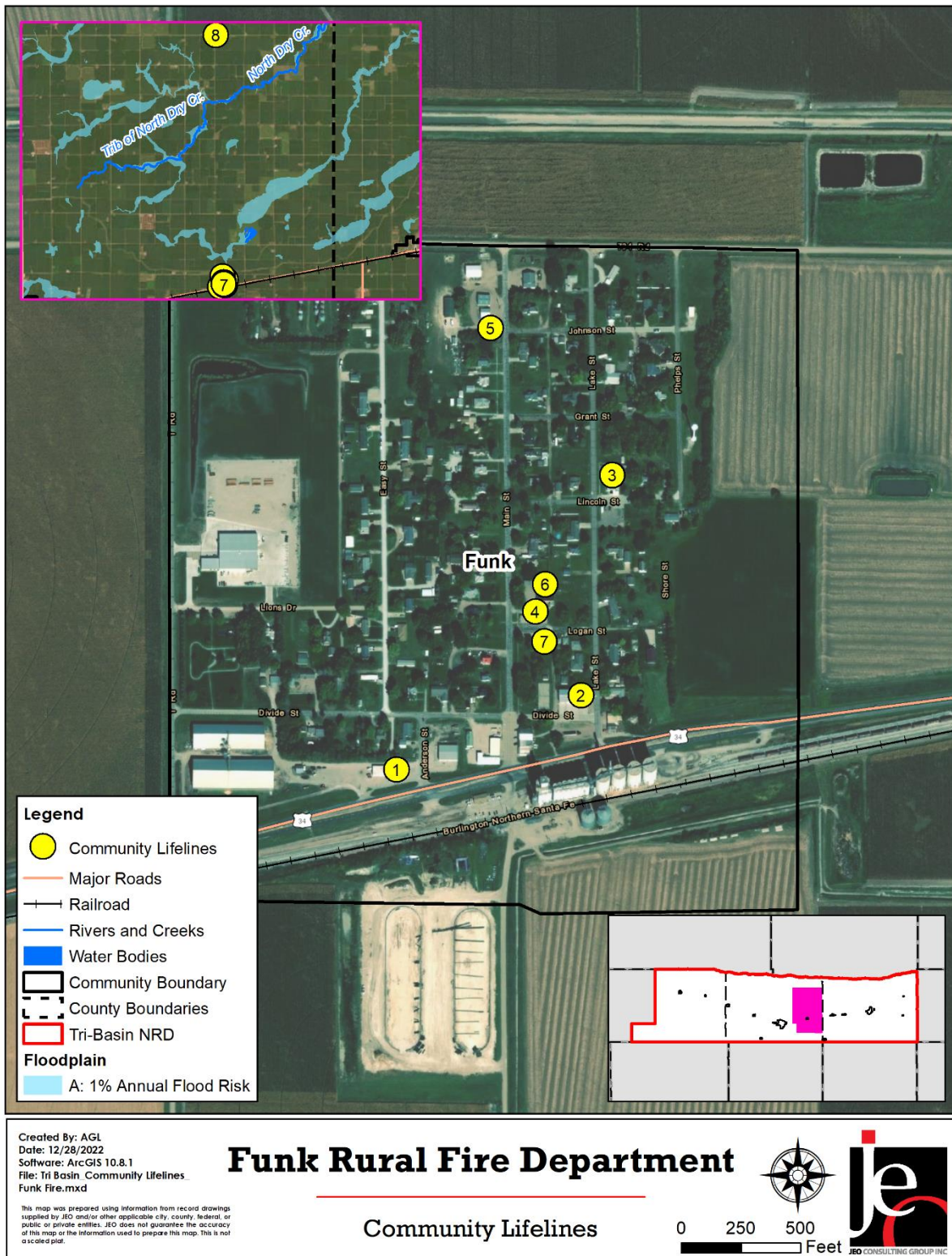


Figure FD.6: Community Lifelines – Holdrege Fire & Rescue

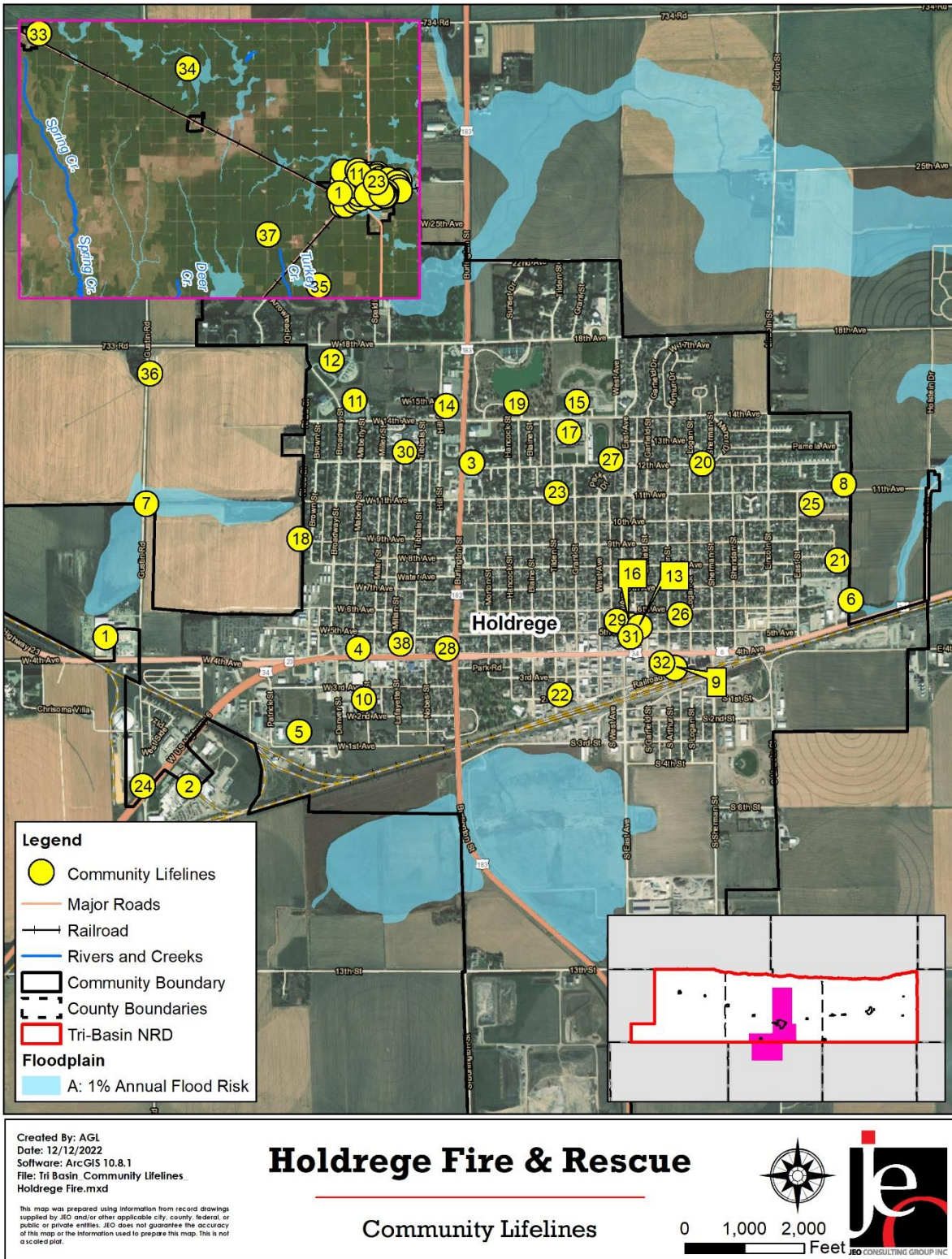


Figure FD.7: Community Lifelines – Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue

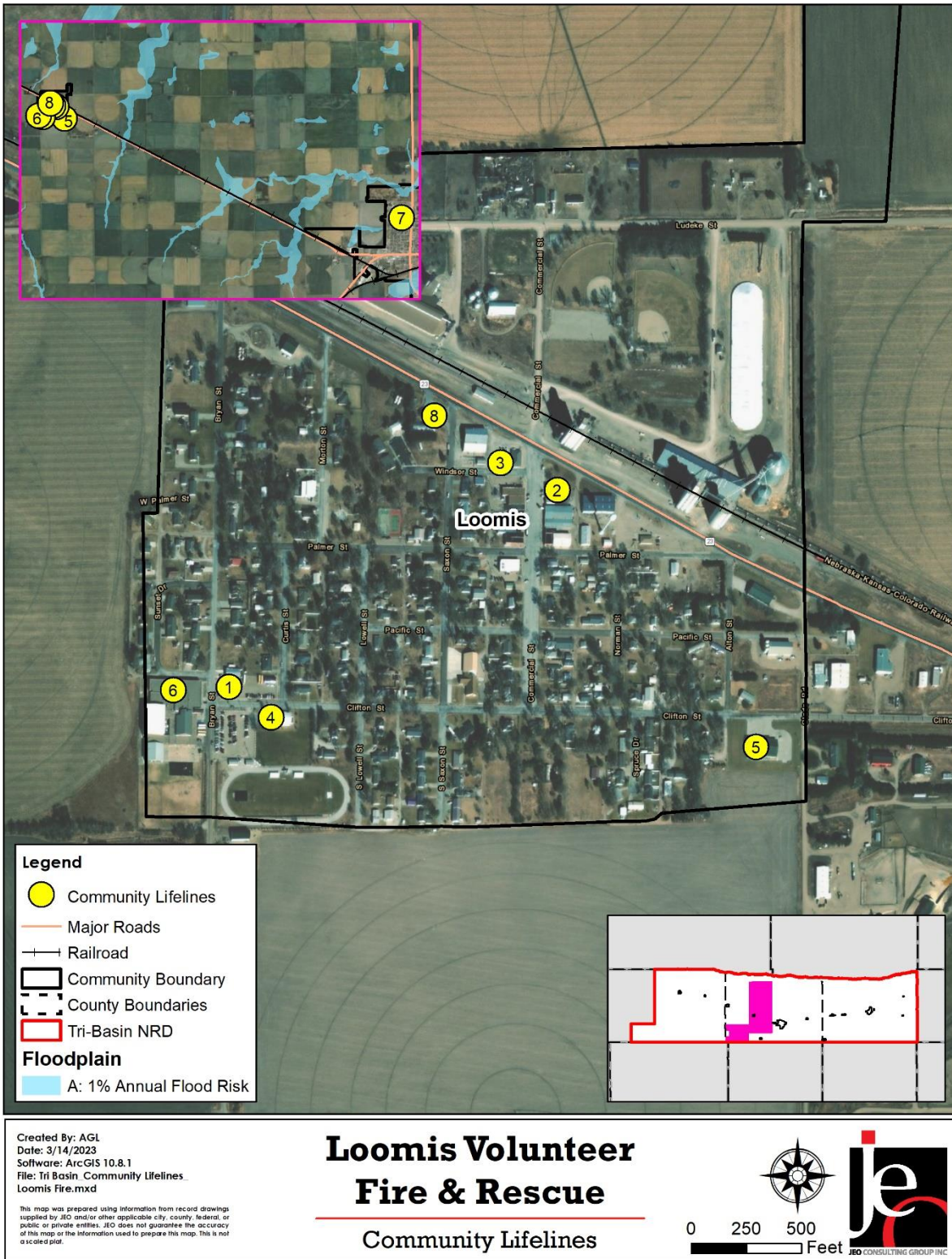
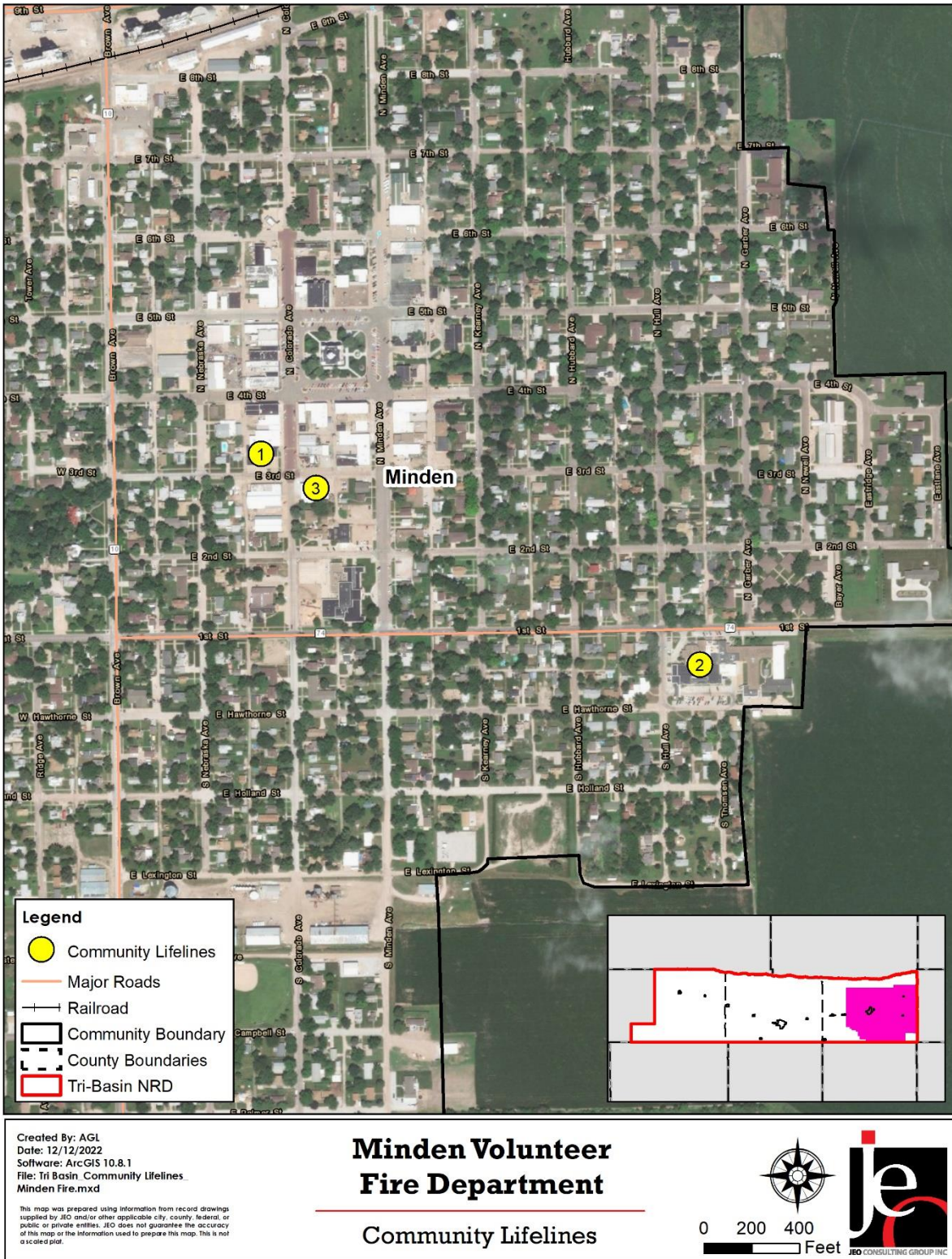


Figure FD.8: Community Lifelines – Minden Volunteer Fire Department



*No floodplain located in the community.

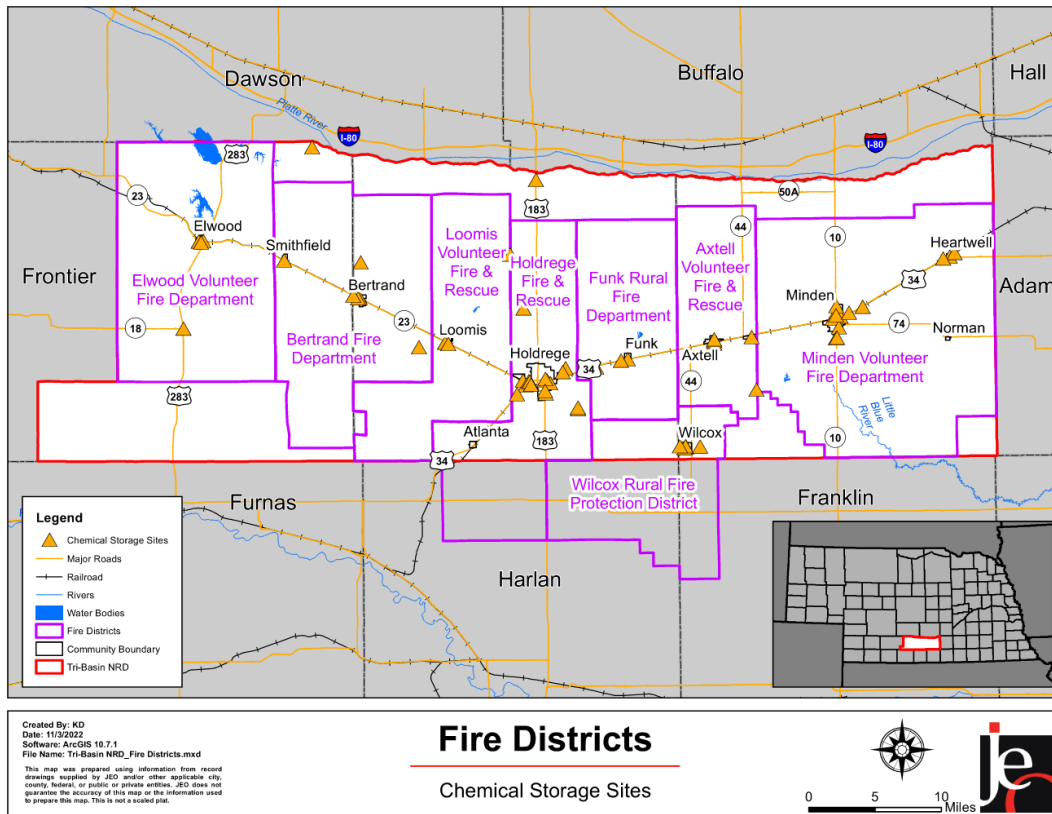
Transportation

US Highways 6/34, 183, and 283 and Nebraska State Highways 4, 10,18,23,44, and 74 all travel through the planning area. The most traveled route is Highway 6/34 in Holdrege with an average of 10,795 vehicles daily, 680 of which are trucks.³ A Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway/Amtrak line and a Nebraska Kansas Colorado line travel through the planning area. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors, areas more at risk of transportation incidents, and high-risk spill areas. Holdrege Fire & Rescue indicated that rural areas in the district would be difficult to evacuate due to no outdoor warning system and low participation in cellphone alerts. Bertrand Fire Department indicated that evacuating the Village of Bertrand would be difficult due to the amount of people and limited equipment. The Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department indicated that Mosaic in Axtell would be difficult to evacuate as residents would need greater assistance than the rest of the population. The Funk Rural Fire Department noted that the highway and railroad go across the edge of the village and could make evacuation more difficult. The Elwood Volunteer Fire Department said that the Johnson Lake area would be difficult to evacuate because most areas have limited access.

Hazardous Materials

The Hazardous Materials Lifeline includes chemical storage facilities, pipelines, and transported chemical tanks. According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, there are 58 chemical sites within the various fire districts which house hazardous materials.⁴ Figure FD.10 shows the location of all the chemical sites.

Figure FD.10: Chemical Storage Sites



3 Nebraska Department of Transportation. 2021. "Annual Average Daily Traffic Flow." Accessed September 2022.

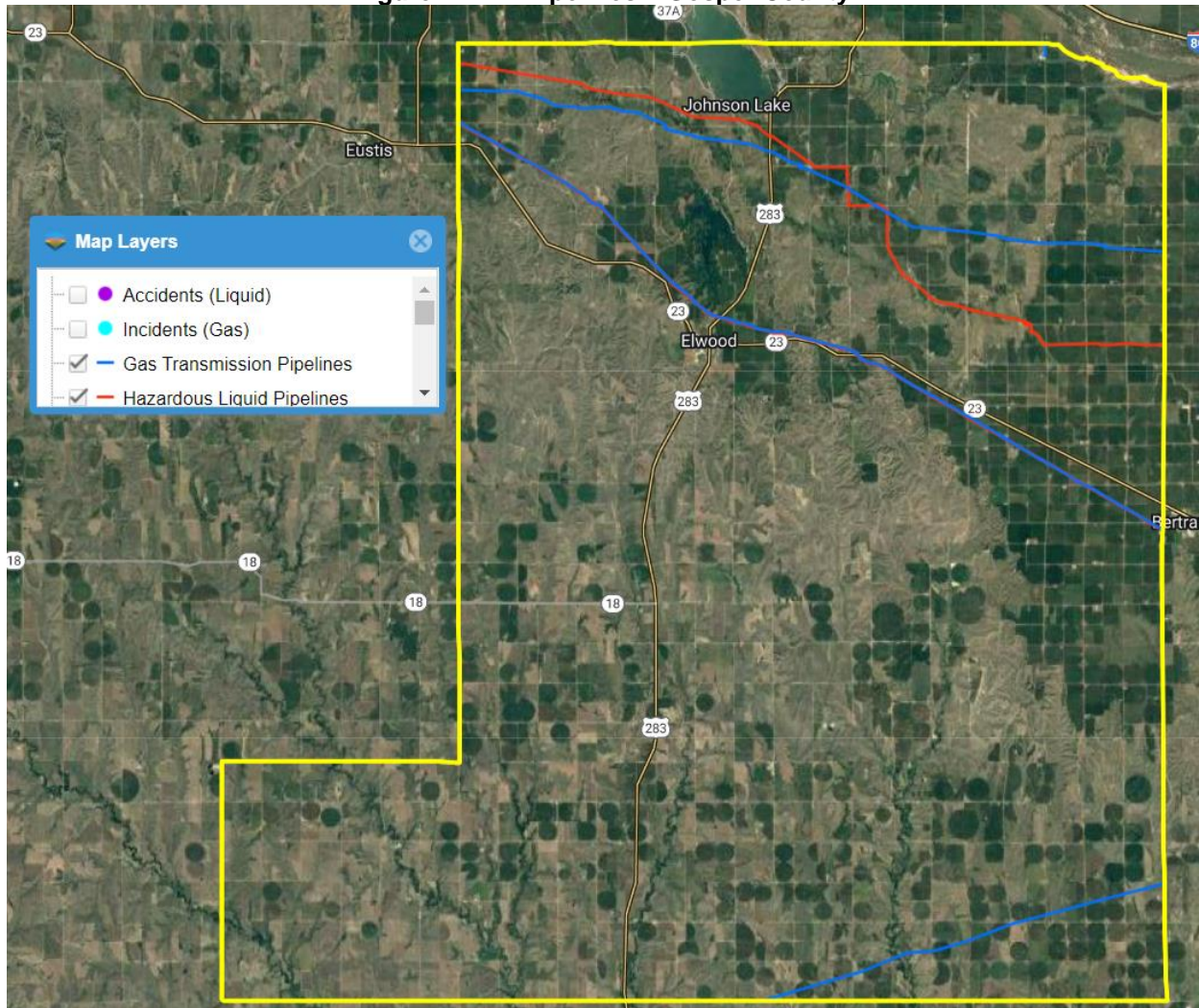
<https://gis.ne.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bb00781d6653474d945d51f49e1e7c34>.

4 Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. "Search Tier II Data." Accessed August 2022.

Section Seven | Fire Districts Profile

There are several gas transmission pipelines that travel through the fire districts and can be seen in the figures below.

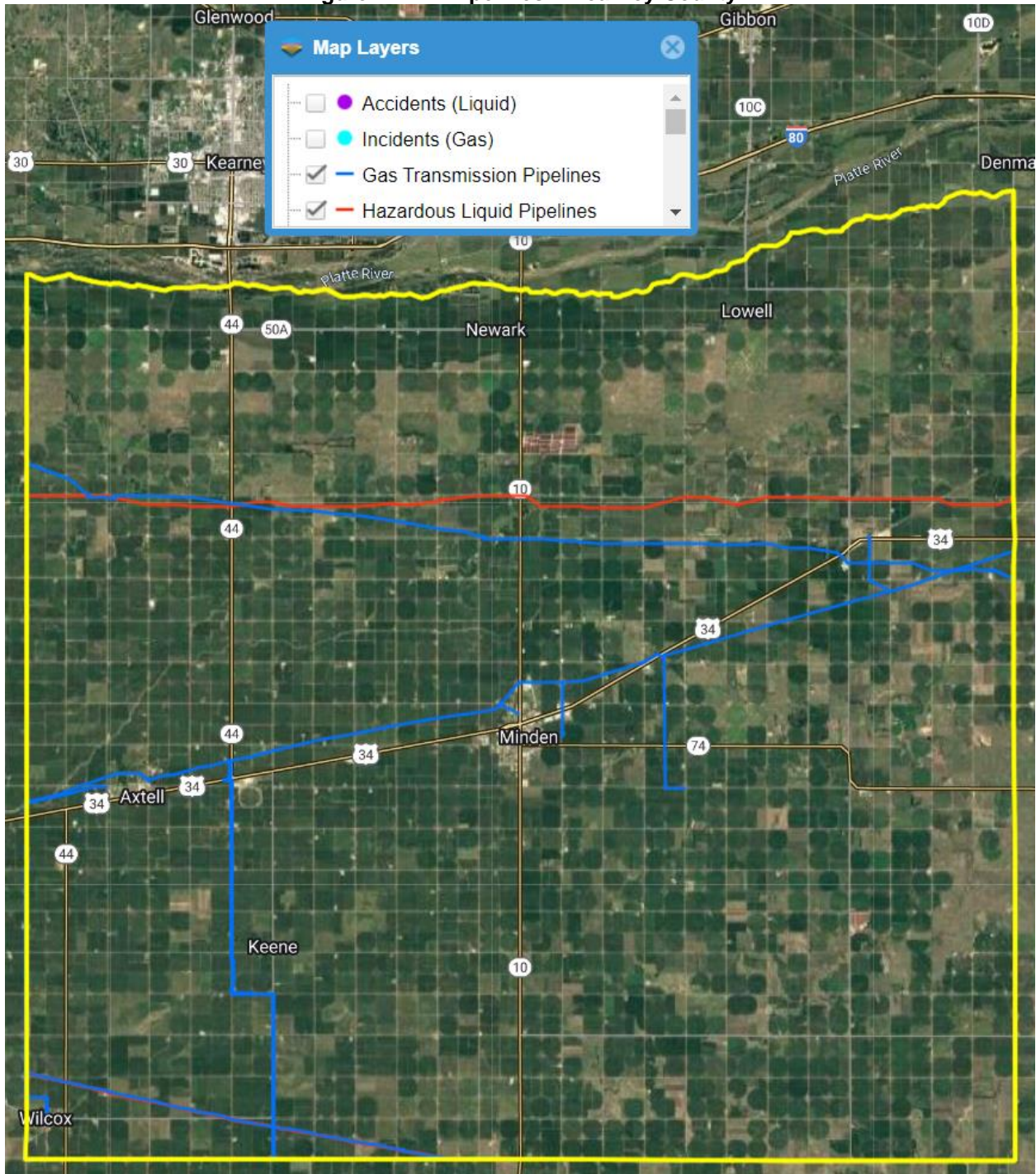
Figure FD.11: Pipelines – Gosper County



Source: National Pipeline Mapping System⁵

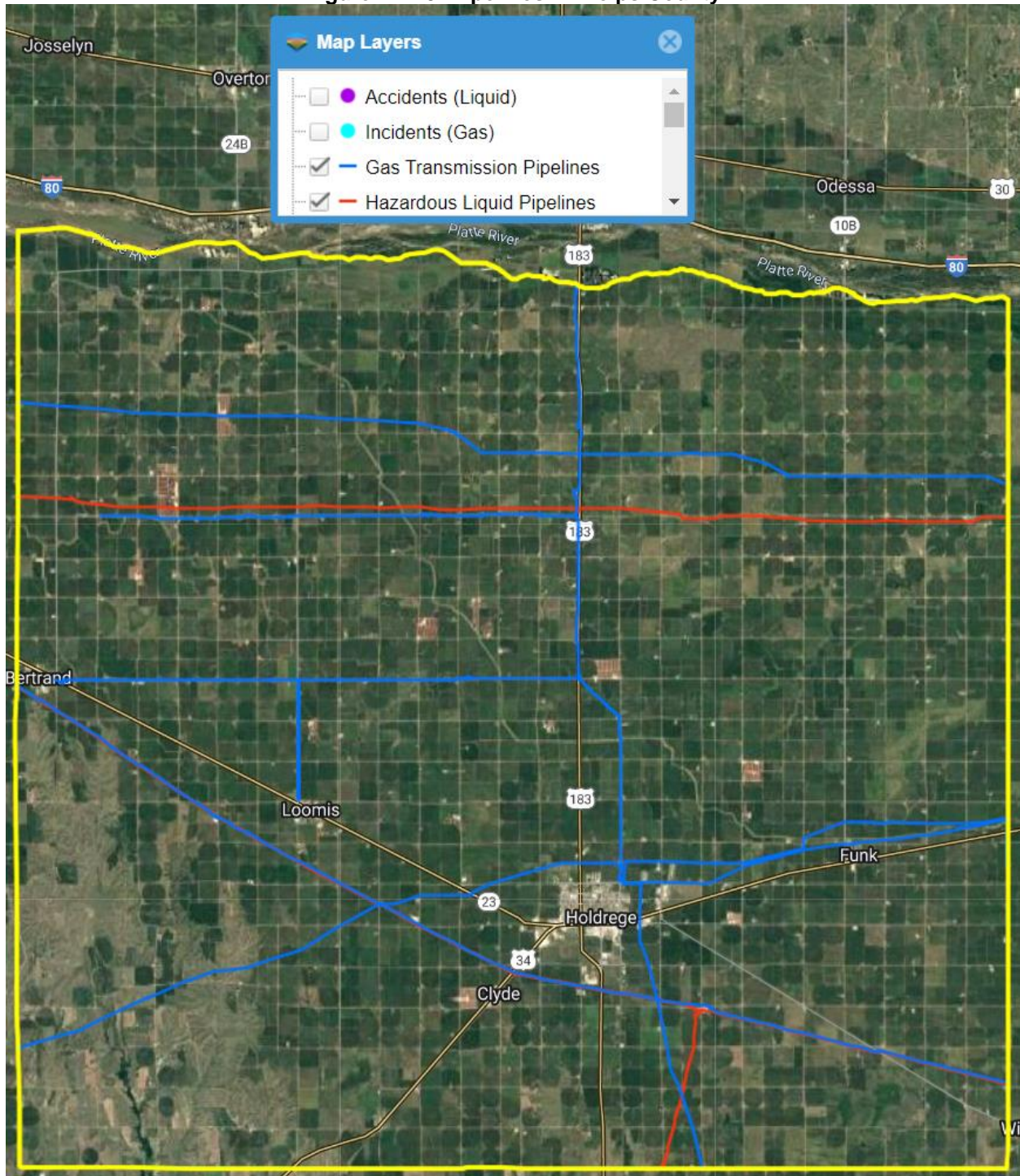
5 National Pipeline Mapping System. 2022. "Public Viewer." Accessed September 2022. <https://pvnpm.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer/>.

Figure FD.12: Pipelines – Kearney County



Source: National Pipeline Mapping System

Figure FD.13: Pipelines – Phelps County



Source: National Pipeline Mapping System

Historical Occurrences

See the county profiles for historical hazard events, including the number of events, damage estimates, and any fatalities or injuries.

Hazard Prioritization

The Hayes, Hitchcock, and Frontier Counties Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning teams identified specific hazards of top concern for their fire district which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by each fire district. Based on this analysis, the local planning teams determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four | Risk Assessment*.

Table FD.15: Hazard Prioritization 1 of 2

Hazards	Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department	Bertrand Fire Department	Elwood Volunteer Fire Department	Funk Rural Fire Department
Animal and Plant Disease				
Dam Failure			X	
Drought			X	
Earthquakes				
Extreme Heat				
Flooding				
Grass/Wildfire	X	X	X	X
Hazardous Materials Release		X		X
Public Health Emergency			X	
Severe Thunderstorms				X
Severe Winter Storms	X			
Terrorism and Cyber Security				
Tornadoes and High Winds		X	X	X

Table FD.16: Hazards Prioritization 2 of 2

Hazards	Holdrege Fire & Rescue	Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue	Minden Volunteer Fire Department	Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District
Animal and Plant Disease				
Dam Failure				
Drought				
Earthquakes				
Extreme Heat				
Flooding			X	
Grass/Wildfire	X	X	X	X
Hazardous Materials Release	X	X		
Public Health Emergency				
Severe Thunderstorms			X	
Severe Winter Storms		X		X
Terrorism and Cyber Security				
Tornadoes and High Winds	X		X	X

Dam Failure

This hazard was identified by the Elwood Volunteer Fire Department. There are 73 dams in Gosper County. Of these, two dams have been identified as high hazard dams, the Johnson Lake Dam and the Johnson Lake West Dike. According to the Gosper County LEOP, if either dam were to fail, the inundation area would be slightly larger than the 100-year floodplain in the Plum Creek Watershed. The greatest effect would be on rural farmland. Flooding could impact roadways throughout the district and may impact response times and recovery efforts.

Flooding

As first responders, fire districts will be a part of the response and recovery efforts during any major flood event. Even minor flooding can impact roadways throughout the planning area. Closed roads and poor road conditions can impact response times for fire districts.

Grass/Wildfires

Grass/Wildfires are the primary responsibility of the fire districts. Specific grass/wildfire concerns for each participating district are discussed below. Planning area wide risk maps and identified areas of concern can be found in *Section 4: Risk Assessment*.

Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

There have been 63 wildfire events reported to the Nebraska Forest Service since 2000. One fatality was reported from a 2012 wildfire. The largest fire occurred in September of 2020 when 30 acres of land burned. Drought conditions since 2021 have caused very dry conditions which increase the risk of wildfires in the district. Public education includes fire prevention for school students and a community CPR class. To reduce the risk of wildfires the district helps farms with controlled burns to manage rangeland grasses. In addition, the number of grass rigs have been increased in recent years.

Bertrand Fire Department

Since 2000 there have been 43 reported grass/wildfires in the district. The largest burned 76 acres in March 2017. Ongoing dry conditions have increased the risk of grass/wildfires, especially since the village is surrounded by crop and grassland. In addition, there are several shelter belts in the wildland-urban interface that add to the fuel load. To help reduce the spread of wildfires, the department has a working relationship with area farmers to have tractors and discs ready to create fire breaks. Bertrand Fire Department also does public education on fire prevention.

Elwood Volunteer Fire Department

In April 2022 a large wildfire (Road 739 Fire) occurred in the county. Eight homes and 46 outbuildings were destroyed, and several other homes and buildings received damage. This fire burned more than 35,000 acres in Gosper and Furnas Counties. It resulted in one fatality and several injuries. A lot of the fire department equipment was damaged or had mechanical issues. Areas in the district most at risk from wildfire include the interface between farm/natural land and communities, along drainages with heavy fuels, Elwood Reservoir, Johnson Lake, and East Phillips Canyon areas. Many of these areas include rough terrain that can be difficult to access. More controlled burns are needed in the district.

Funk Rural Fire Department

In 2022 there were multiple fires within the district that damaged crops, equipment and fencing. Between 2000 and 2021 there were 10 reported wildfires that burned a total of 13 acres. The fire district is primarily agricultural with cropland and pasture. With high winds and nearby houses and outbuildings, there is always a danger of damage to property. Wildfire risk in the district increases when the growing season is over due to the dried residue in the fields. To reduce risk to wildfires in the district, the fire department has been more conscious about burn permits. To help protect firefighters, updated equipment, communications and protective gear is needed.

Holdrege Fire & Rescue

There have been 41 reported wildfire events in the district between 2000 and 2021. The most recent large fire occurred in February of 2022. This wildland fire occurred south of Holdrege near Highways 183 and Highway 4. During the event several firefighters were overheating because of improper gear for that type of fire. In addition, one of the trucks had engine troubles and had to be towed. There is a high likelihood of future wildland fires because of the current drought and weather conditions. Pastures and wildland areas are very dry and are at most risk of fire. Due to firefighters overheating in past fires, the district has begun to research the costs of wildland firefighting gear. To help reduce the chance of fire, Holdrege Fire & Rescue has a fire prevention public outreach and education program.

Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue

There were 12 reported wildland fires in the district from 2000 to 2021. These fires resulted in 46.5 acres being burned, with no injuries or fatalities. The largest fire burned 20 acres in January 2002. The local planning team indicated that the southern and western areas of the fire district are most at risk to fire. These include pastureland with many hills.

Minden Volunteer Fire Department

The district averages around 40+ grass fires a year. Most of these fires are small and easily contained but some can grow quickly, and outside assistance is needed. The largest reported fire burned 81 acres in April 2002. Communities and rural subdivisions in the district are extremely vulnerable to wildfires due to farming practices and large amounts of fuel load growing yards or feet away from buildings. According to the South Central West CWPP, there are two sites northwest of Minden that are areas of concern due to multiple structures, difficult access, heavy

fuels, one way in and out, rough terrain, and lack water within a close distance. To help reduce the district's vulnerability to grass/wildfires the department has increased water capacities on hand and on trucks. In the future the department would like more equipment to help fight fires in the wildland urban interface.

Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District

Since 2000, there have been 30 reported grass/wildfires in district. No large recent fires have occurred. However, firefighters have responded to neighboring districts including the 739 Fire, 702 Fire, and the Naponee Fire. After those events, many of the district's fire trucks needed heavy maintenance. The fire district contains both canyons and flat fields. Canyons can make access difficult and flat fields can cause fires to spread rapidly. According to the South Central West CWPP, the greatest concerns for the district are manpower and water resources. To help fight wildfires, the district has preplanned water sources identified across the district. In addition, the district allows limited burn permits to keep fuel load lower.

Hazardous Materials Release

Fire districts are some of the first responders to a hazardous materials spill. Although many districts do not have or have minimal training for hazmat response, they will help in evacuation, containment, securing a perimeter around the spill, and give medical attention to any injured individuals.

Bertrand Fire Department

Three spills have been reported in the district, with the largest being 50 gallons of spilled oil. This hazard was selected by the local planning team because there is a bulk propane fill plant, a chemical fertilizer company, and a few pipelines that travel through the district. Volunteers have Hazmat Awareness training and that is sufficient for most spills. However, if a large chemical spill were to occur, the Red Willow Hazmat Team or Hastings Fire Department may be needed. Volunteers also take an annual pipeline safety class.

Funk Rural Fire Department

There are Anhydrous Ammonia storage tanks and trailers near the Village of Funk that could potentially leak and threaten the community. There are also two dry fertilizer dealers that have various chemicals stored with fire and smoke risks. Recently a semi tanker hauling hazardous herbicide had a tire failure which nearly caused the tank to rupture. While no material was released, it showed the potential for hazardous material issues. In addition to herbicides, ethanol, gasoline, Anhydrous Ammonia, Phosphoric Acid, and other farm chemicals are regularly transported along the highway and railroad. Every 2-3 years, volunteer firefighters will attend a chemical response training. This is sufficient for small spills but for larger spills outside help from a Hazmat team would be needed.

Holdrege Fire & Rescue

Natural gas leaks from meters and mains being struck is the most common event that has occurred in the past. There was also a fire at J-Hawk Storage Tanks which caused a chemical release. Chemicals in the district are primarily transported on Highway 6/34, Highway 183, pipelines, and the railroad. In addition, local routes leading to fixed chemical sites also carry chemicals. In the event of a spill, volunteer firefighters are trained to a Hazmat Awareness level and that is sufficient for most spill response. However, if a large Hazmat spill were to occur, the Red Willow Hazmat Team or Hastings Fire Department may be needed. To help reduce the number of natural gas leaks, Black Hills energy is in the process of performing mitigation on gas meters.

Public Health Emergency

Public health emergencies can severely impact staffing of fire districts and can cause resources to be stretched thin. Firefighters are at higher risk of contracting an illness as they may not be able to implement all health safety measures when performing their job. Many fire districts also include or serve as the local EMT. During a public health emergency there is likely to be more EMT calls, which may cause staffing and resource issues. Risk of contracting the illness also increases as staff may be around more infected individuals than normal.

Severe Thunderstorms

Lightning is a major cause of grass/wildfires in the planning area. Hail can cause damage to district owned buildings and vehicles. In addition, severe thunderstorms can cause power outages and can knockout communication. If needed fire districts will help with response and recovery efforts for a severe thunderstorm event. Many districts perform storm spotting to help with notification to the public.

Severe Winter Storms

Severe winter storms can negatively impact response times due to closed roads and hazardous travel conditions. In addition, ice and heavy snow can cause power and communication outages. Fires have also occurred due to downed power lines during ice storms. Fire districts will help in response and recovery efforts during and after a severe winter storm.

Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

In December 2006, the district experienced a large ice storm that caused power outages across the district. Axtell was without power for a week during this time. After the event, the village required all new subdivision to have buried power lines. In addition, when the new fire station was built it was equipped with a generator and is large enough to be used as a shelter.

Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District

In 2006 the district experienced a large ice storm that downed power lines and trees. Power was lost throughout the district for 30 days in rural areas and 20 days within Wilcox. This brought to light the lack of shelter for residents in Wilcox, which is still an issue today. In addition, communication capabilities were knocked out, which made it difficult to communicate with the public. A permanent generator is needed on the Wilcox alert siren and repeater antenna.

Tornadoes and High Winds

Like severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and high winds can cause power outages, knockout communication, and cause damage to district owned buildings and vehicles. High winds are a primary factor in fire spread and can make it difficult for districts to contain a wildfire. As first responders, fire districts will be a part of the response and recovery efforts during any major tornado or high wind event. Many districts perform storm spotting to help with notification to the public. Travel after a tornado or high wind event can also be impacted due to downed power lines and tree limbs. To help respond to tornado and severe weather, Wilcox Rural Fire District firefighters take a National Weather Service training class on tornadoes annual. They also train on equipment used to extract people from houses and vehicles.

Mitigation Strategy

Most fire districts have limited financial resources with annual budgets limited to maintaining current facilities and equipment. As such, each district will continue to utilize existing relationships with local, county, state, and federal agencies in the implementation of mitigation projects.

Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

New Mitigation Actions

Mitigation Action	Communication Equipment
Description	Upgrade the communication equipment used by the fire department.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$10,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The district has the capability to implement this project.

Mitigation Action	Implement Actions Identified in the CWPP
Description	Implement actions identified in the CWPP. Actions identified include increasing emergency preparedness, training and education, and fuels mitigation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire, Drought
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$100,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	In Progress. Fuels mitigation is an ongoing action. The fire department has the capability to implement parts of the CWPP. Other parts it does not have the capability due to a lack of funding.

Mitigation Action	Public Awareness and Education
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from these hazards.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$5,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	This is an ongoing action with public education being performed throughout the year.

Bertrand Fire Department**New Mitigation Actions**

Mitigation Action	Acquire Updated Wildland Fire Gear
Description	To help protect firefighters, updated equipment, and protective gear is needed.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$30,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. Funding is not sufficient currently to acquire the gear.
Mitigation Action	Communication Equipment
Description	Upgrade the communication equipment used by the fire department.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$10,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement this project.
Mitigation Action	Emergency Exercise: Hazardous Materials Release
Description	Increase firefighter training for hazardous materials release.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Hazardous Materials Release
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$1,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	Not Started. The fire department has the capability to implement this project.
Mitigation Action	Implement Actions Identified in the CWPP
Description	Implement actions identified in the CWPP. Actions identified include increasing emergency preparedness, training and education, and fuels mitigation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire, Drought
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$100,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	5+ Years, Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	In Progress. Fuels mitigation is an ongoing action. The fire department has the capability to implement parts of the CWPP. Other parts it does not have the capability due to a lack of funding.

Section Seven | Fire Districts Profile

Mitigation Action	New Fire Hall
Description	Construct a new fire hall.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$1,000,000+
Local Funding	Bonds, Fire Department Funds, Fundraising
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Department, Village Board
Status	Planning Stage. The village and fire department have the capability to implement this project.

Mitigation Action	Public Awareness and Education
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from these hazards.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$5,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	This is an ongoing action with public education being performed throughout the year. The fire department would like to increase public education going forward.

Mitigation Action	Safety Equipment
Description	Purchase additional safety equipment that will be used by the fire department.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfires, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$10,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	Ongoing. Safety equipment is purchased when needed and funds are available.

Elwood Volunteer Fire Department**New Mitigation Actions**

Mitigation Action	Acquire Updated Wildland Fire Gear
Description	To help protect firefighters, updated equipment, and protective gear is needed.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$30,000
Local Funding	Taxes Collected
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. Funding is not sufficient currently to acquire the gear.

Mitigation Action	Backup Generators
Description	A backup generator is needed for the fire barn. This will ensure the fire station and ambulance will have power to sustain equipment needing electricity to operate (garage doors, chargers, etc.). The Village of Elwood has a well beside the fire station that would also be wired into the generator, so water would be available during power outages.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Extreme Heat, Flooding, Grass/Wildfire, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Terrorism and Cyber Security, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$25,000
Local Funding	Taxes Collected, Cost Share with the Village of Elwood
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board, Village of Elwood
Status	Not Started. The fire department does not currently have the capability to implement this project due to a lack of funds.

Mitigation Action	Communication Equipment
Description	Upgrade the communication equipment used by the fire department.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$10,000+
Local Funding	Taxes Collected
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement this project.

Mitigation Action	Controlled Burns
Description	Perform additional controlled burns within the district to reduce potential fuel loads during a wildfire.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is an ongoing action as locations are identified and time allows.

Section Seven | Fire Districts Profile

Mitigation Action	Implement Actions Identified in the CWPP
Description	Implement actions identified in the CWPP. Actions identified include increasing emergency preparedness, training and education, and fuels mitigation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire, Drought
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$100,000+
Local Funding	Taxes Collected
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board, Region 17 Emergency Management
Status	In Progress. Fuels mitigation is an ongoing action. The fire department has the capability to implement parts of the CWPP. Other parts it does not have the capability due to a lack of funding.

Mitigation Action	Public Awareness and Education
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from these hazards.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$5,000
Local Funding	Taxes Collected
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	This is an ongoing action with public education being performed throughout the year. The fire department would like to increase public education going forward.

Funk Rural Fire Department

New Mitigation Actions

Mitigation Action	Acquire Updated Wildland Fire Gear
Description	To help protect firefighters, updated equipment, and protective gear is needed.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$30,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The fire department is looking to acquire 20 sets of gear. Funding is not sufficient currently to acquire the gear.

Mitigation Action	Communication Equipment
Description	Upgrade the communication equipment used by the fire department.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$10,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The district has the capability to implement this project.

Mitigation Action	Implement Actions Identified in the CWPP
Description	Implement actions identified in the CWPP. Actions identified include increasing emergency preparedness, training and education, and fuels mitigation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire, Drought
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$100,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	5+ Years, Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	In Progress. Fuels mitigation is an ongoing action. The fire department has the capability to implement parts of the CWPP. Other parts it does not have the capability due to a lack of funding.

Mitigation Action	Public Awareness and Education
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from these hazards.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$5,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	This is an ongoing action with public education being performed throughout the year. The fire department would like to increase public education going forward.

Mitigation Action	Safety Equipment
Description	Purchase additional safety equipment that will be used by the fire department.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfires, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$10,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	Ongoing. Safety equipment is purchased when needed and funds are available.

Holdrege Fire & Rescue

New Mitigation Actions

Mitigation Action	Acquire Updated Wildland Fire Gear
Description	To help protect firefighters, updated equipment, and protective gear is needed.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$30,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. Funding is not sufficient currently to acquire the gear.

Mitigation Action	Communication Equipment
Description	Upgrade the communication equipment used by the fire department.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$10,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement this project.

Mitigation Action	Implement Actions Identified in the CWPP
Description	Implement actions identified in the CWPP. Actions identified include increasing emergency preparedness, training and education, and fuels mitigation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire, Drought
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$100,000+
Local Funding	General Budget, Fund Raising
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	In Progress. A small amount of money has been raised for new wildland firefighting gear. A remote water monitor has been added to the front of one grass truck.

Mitigation Action	Public Awareness and Education
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from these hazards.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$5,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is an ongoing action as the department has a fire prevention public outreach and education program. More public education and caution is needed with outdoor activities when weather conditions create optimal burning conditions.

Mitigation Action	Safety Equipment
Description	Purchase additional safety equipment that will be used by the fire department.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfires, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$10,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	Ongoing. Safety equipment is purchased when needed and funds are available.

Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue

New Mitigation Actions

Mitigation Action	Acquire Updated Wildland Fire Gear
Description	To help protect firefighters, updated equipment, and protective gear is needed.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$30,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. Funding is not sufficient currently to acquire the gear.

Section Seven | Fire Districts Profile

Mitigation Action	Backup Generators
Description	Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power to the fire hall.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Extreme Heat, Flooding, Grass/Wildfires, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$80,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The fire department does not currently have the capability to implement this project due to funding.

Mitigation Action	Communication Equipment
Description	Upgrade the communication equipment used by the fire department.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$10,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement this project.

Mitigation Action	Implement Actions Identified in the CWPP
Description	Implement actions identified in the CWPP. Actions identified include increasing emergency preparedness, training and education, and fuels mitigation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire, Drought
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$100,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	5+ Years, Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	In Progress. Fuels mitigation is an ongoing action. The fire department has the capability to implement parts of the CWPP. Other parts it does not have the capability due to a lack of funding.

Mitigation Action	New Rescue Unit
Description	Acquire a new rescue unit.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$350,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not started.

Mitigation Action	Public Awareness and Education
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from these hazards.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$5,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	This is an ongoing action with public education being performed throughout the year. The fire department would like to increase public education going forward.

Mitigation Action	Safety Equipment
Description	Purchase additional safety equipment that will be used by the fire department.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfires, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$10,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	Ongoing. Safety equipment is purchased when needed and funds are available.

Minden Volunteer Fire Department

New Mitigation Actions

Mitigation Action	Additional Equipment
Description	Purchase additional fire fighting equipment for wildland fires in the wildland urban interface.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$10,000+
Local Funding	District Funds
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The fire department currently lacks the funds to implement this project.

Section Seven | Fire Districts Profile

Mitigation Action	Implement Actions Identified in the CWPP
Description	Implement actions identified in the CWPP. Actions identified include increasing emergency preparedness, training and education, and fuels mitigation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire, Drought
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$100,000+
Local Funding	District Funds
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The fire department has the capability to implement parts of the CWPP. Other parts it does not have the capability due to a lack of funding.

Mitigation Action	Public Awareness and Education
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from these hazards.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$5,000
Local Funding	District Funds
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The fire department has the ability to implement this project.

Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District

New Mitigation Actions

Mitigation Action	Backup Generators
Description	Install a backup generator and electrical panels to provide communication during power outages.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Extreme Heat, Flooding, Grass/Wildfire, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Terrorism and Cyber Security, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$50,000
Local Funding	District Funds
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Rural Fire Board
Status	Not Started. The fire district does not currently have the capability to implement this project due to a lack of funds.

Mitigation Action	Implement Actions Identified in the CWPP
Description	Implement actions identified in the CWPP. Actions identified include increasing emergency preparedness, training and education, and fuels mitigation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Grass/Wildfire, Drought
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$100,000+
Local Funding	District Funds
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Rural Fire Board
Status	In Progress. Fuels mitigation is an ongoing action. The fire department has the capability to implement parts of the CWPP. Other parts it does not have the capability due to a lack of funding.

Mitigation Action	Public Awareness and Education
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from these hazards.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	Staff Time - \$5,000
Local Funding	District Funds
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board
Status	This is an ongoing action with public education being performed throughout the year. The fire department would like to increase public education going forward.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to ensure effectiveness and reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside planning documents (e.g., annual budget), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms. The table below shows who will be responsible for reviewing the profile, the frequency of review, and how the public will be involved.

Table FD.15: Plan Maintenance

Participating Fire District	Reviewers	Frequency	Public Involvement
Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department	Fire Chief	Annually	Rural Fire Board Meetings
Bertrand Fire Department	Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Rural Board President	Bi-Annually	Rural Board Meetings, Social Media
Elwood Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board	Annually	Rural Board Meetings, Social Media
Funk Rural Fire Department	Fire Chief	Bi-Annually	Rural Board Meetings
Holdrege Fire & Rescue	Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Prevention Committee	Bi-Annually	Local Newspaper, Website
Loomis Volunteer Fire & Rescue	Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, 2 nd Assistant Fire Chief	Annually	Board Meetings
Minden Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Chief	Bi-Annually	Rural Board Meetings
Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District	Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board	Annually	Rural Board Meetings