

Fire District Profile

Fire Districts Profile

**Hayes, Hitchcock, and Frontier Counties
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: District Planning Team Members

| Name | Title | Fire District | R1 Meeting | R2 Meeting |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Kyle Clapp | Firefighter | Culbertson Rural Fire District | Trenton | Trenton |
| Richard Sensel | Fire Chief | Culbertson Rural Fire District | - | Trenton |
| Mark Roblec | Fire Captain | Curtis Rural Fire District | Curtis | - |
| Tim Nicholson | Fire Chief | Curtis Rural Fire District | - | Curtis |
| Caleb Wall | Rescue Chief | Eustis Rural Fire District | - | Recording |
| Joseph Miller | Assistant Fire Chief | Hayes County Rural Fire District | Hayes Center | Hayes Center |
| Jeff Unger | Fire Chief | Hayes County Rural Fire District | Hayes Center | Hayes Center |
| Greg Blank | Fire Chief | Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District | Curtis | Curtis |
| Dennis Renfro | Firefighter | Stratton Rural Fire District | Trenton | Trenton |
| Shawn Terwilliger | Assistant Fire Chief | Stratton Rural Fire District | Trenton | Trenton |

Location and Geography

Landscapes within the planning area include farmland, riparian woodlands, rangeland, mixed grasses, lowland tallgrass prairie, and short grass prairies. Dense and unhealthy woodlands along the eastern redcedar encroachment on grasslands continue to create extreme wildfire risk in the area. Eastern redcedar has is also a concern near reservoirs. Other areas of concern include population centers adjacent to grassland, the Frenchman Wildlife Management Area north of Palisade, Medicine Creek Lake, and the Republican River from Stratton to Culbertson. Water sources for fighting fires include private wells, Hugh Butler Lake, Harry Strunk Lake, Krotter Canal, Meeker Canals, Blackwood lateral, Driftwood Canal, ponds, major creeks, and stock tanks.^{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 |
|--|---------------|
| Culbertson Rural Fire District | 153,000 |
| Curtis Rural Fire District | 195,200 |
| Eustis Rural Fire District | 110,880 |
| Hayes County Rural Fire District | 395,000 |
| Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District | 500,000 |
| Stratton Rural Fire District | 128,000 |

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.

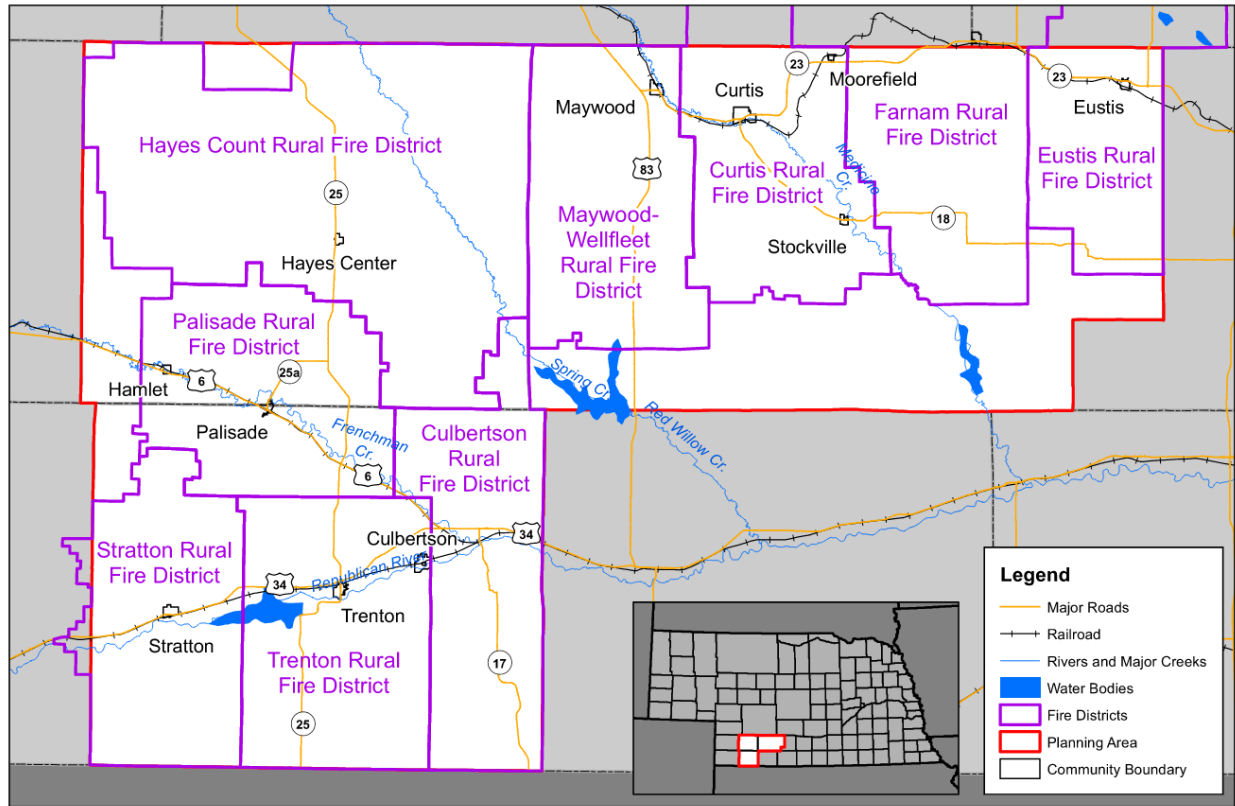
1 Nebraska Forest Service. 2019. "Southwest Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan". <https://nfs.unl.edu/community-wildfire-protection-plan>.

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

Table FD.3: Populations Served

| Participating Fire District | Population Served |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Culbertson Rural Fire District | 750 |
| Curtis Rural Fire District | 1,080 |
| Eustis Rural Fire District | 650 |
| Hayes County Rural Fire District | 900 |
| Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District | 1,000 |
| Stratton Rural Fire District | 450 |

Figure FD.1: Fire Districts in the Planning Area



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 Date: 10/10/2022
 Software: ArcGIS 10.7.1
 File Name: HHF_Fire Districts.mxd

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Fire Districts

Location Map



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 |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Culbertson Rural Fire District | 20-25 | Volunteer |
| Curtis Rural Fire District | 25 | Volunteer |
| Eustis Rural Fire District | EMS 15, Fire 23 | Volunteer |
| Hayes County Rural Fire District | 24 Firefighters, 4 EMTs | Volunteer |
| Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District | 26 | Volunteer |
| Stratton Rural Fire District | 15 Firefighters, 8 EMTs, 5 Board Members | 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 | Grass-Weed Truck | Utility Truck | Rescue Units | Special Teams | Special Equipment |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Culbertson Rural Fire District | - | - | 1 | 6 | 0 | 2 | - | Jaws of Life |
| Curtis Rural Fire District | - | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | Jaws of Life |
| Eustis Rural Fire District | - | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | - |
| Hayes County Rural Fire District | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | - | Jaws of Life |
| Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District | - | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 1 | - | UTV |
| Stratton Rural Fire District | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | Jaws of Life |

Table FD.6: Mutual Aid Agreements

| Participating Fire District | Mutual Aid Partnerships |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Culbertson Rural Fire District | Frenchman Valley Mutual Aid |
| Curtis Rural Fire District | Frenchman Valley Mutual Aid, Mid Plains Mutual Aid, South Central Mutual Aid |
| Eustis Rural Fire District | South Central Nebraska Mutual Aid, Thayer County Mutual Aid |
| Hayes County Rural Fire District | Frenchman Valley Mutual Aid, Southwest Mutual Aid |
| Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District | Frenchman Valley Mutual Aid, Mid Plains Mutual Aid |
| Stratton Rural Fire District | Frenchman Valley Mutual Aid |

Plans and Studies

All of the fire districts will either be a part of the 2021 Loess Canyons Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) or the 2019 Southwest 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 wherever possible. In addition, 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 below.

Hayes County Rural Fire District

The Hayes County Rural Fire District has Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). The SOGs outline the district's response to different events they might get called out for. These SOGs are not likely to be further integrated with the hazard mitigation plan as they deal directly with response efforts.

Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District

The Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District has Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The SOPs outline the district's response to structure fires, wildland/brush fires, and vehicle fires. These SOPs are updated regularly as needed and are not likely to be further integrated with the hazard mitigation plan as they deal directly with district response.

Stratton Rural Fire District

The Stratton Rural Fire District has SOGs. The SOGs outline the district's response to a variety of different calls that could be received. These SOGs are updated regularly as needed and are not likely to be further integrated with the hazard mitigation plan as they deal directly with district response.

Future Development Trends

Culbertson Rural Fire District

No substantial changes for the fire district or within the fire district have occurred over the past five years. This likely keeps the district as vulnerable to hazards. However, if buildings, infrastructure, or buildings are not being properly maintain, then vulnerability may increase. In the next five years, no there are no planned changes. Development is typically very slow in the district.

Curtis Rural Fire District

Recent changes include a new fire hall in 2017, an additional grass rig in 2020, and an updated rural tanker in 2020. This likely made the district less vulnerable to hazards. In the next five years a new subdivision is planned in the district which will add potentially 38 new homes. The fire district is looking to update another rural pumper and upgrade the Type 6 Grass Rig to a Type 3 4x4 mini pumper.

Eustis Rural Fire District

No changes for the fire district or within the fire district area has occurred over the past five years. This likely keeps the district as vulnerable to hazards. However if buildings, infrastructure, and equipment are not being properly maintained, then vulnerability may increase. There are no planned changes for the district in the next five years.

Hayes County Rural Fire District

Over the past five years, the district has purchased one newer fire truck and one fire truck is currently being built. This likely made the district less vulnerable to hazards because response capabilities have increased. In the next five years, the district would like to continue to update trucks and equipment.

Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District

Over the past five years, the district has updated response equipment. This likely made the district less vulnerable to hazards. In the next five years, the district will continue to keep up to date with equipment as needed.

Stratton Rural Fire District

Over the past five years, the district has updated fire suppression equipment. This has made the district less vulnerable to hazards because the district is better able to respond and contain wildfires. In the next five years, the district plans to continue updating fire suppression equipment as funding is available.

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 subsections list those community lifelines by type, as identified by each local planning team.

Culbertson Rural Fire District

Table FD.7: Culbertson Rural Fire District Community Lifelines

| CL Number | Name | Community Lifeline Type | Generator (G) Shelter (S) | Floodplain (Y/N) |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Culbertson Rescue Station | Safety and Security | G | N |
| 2 | Culbertson RVFD Station | Safety and Security | - | N |
| 3 | Culbertson Village Hall | Safety and Security | - | N |
| 4 | Culbertson Water Tower / Communication Equipment | Food, Water, Shelter, Communications | - | |
| 5 | Culbertson Well Field | Food, Water, Shelter | G | N |
| 6 | Hitchcock County Elementary | Food Water, Shelter | S | N |
| 7 | SWPPD Substation | Energy | - | N |
| 8 | SWPPD Substation | Energy | - | N |
| 9 | SWPPD Substation | Energy | - | N |
| 10 | Warning Siren #1 | Communications | - | N |
| 11 | Warning Siren #2 | Communications | - | N |

Curtis Rural Fire District

Table FD.8: Curtis Rural Fire District Community Lifelines

| CL Number | Name | Community Lifeline Type | Generator (G) Shelter (S) | Floodplain (Y/N) |
|-----------|--|---|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 50,000-Gallon Water Tank | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 2 | Consolidated Telephone/Internet | Communications | G | N |
| 3 | Curtis Community Center / Curtis Light & Water | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 4 | Curtis Medical Center | Health and Medical | - | N |
| 5 | Fire Hall / Frontier County Ambulance | Safety and Security, Health and Medical | - | N |
| 6 | Frontier County Sheriff / 911 Dispatch / Warning Siren | Safety and Security, Communications | G | N |
| 7 | Medicine Valley Grade School | Other | - | N |
| 8 | Medicine Valley High School | Food, Water, Shelter | S | N |
| 9 | MPPD Substation – Moorefield | Energy | - | N |
| 10 | MPPD Substation - Stockville | Energy | - | N |
| 11 | MPPD Substation – 12 South | Energy | - | N |
| 12 | NCTA College Campus | Food, Water, Shelter | S | N |
| 13 | The Station | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 14 | Town & Country Market | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 15 | Well 1 / Warning Siren | Food, Water, Shelter, Communications | - | N |
| 16 | Well 2 | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 17 | Well 3 | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |

Eustis Rural Fire District

Table FD.9: Eustis Rural Fire District Community Lifelines

| CL Number | Name | Community Lifeline Type | Generator (G) Shelter (S) | Floodplain (Y/N) |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | All Points Coop | Energy | - | N |
| 2 | Dawson Power Substation | Energy | - | N |
| 3 | Eustis 66 / Siren | Energy, Communications | - | N |
| 4 | Eustis-Farnam School | Food, Water, Shelter | S | N |
| 5 | Eustis Fire Hall / Rescue Squad | Safety and Security, Health and Medical | G | N |
| 6 | Eustis Medical Clinic | Health and Medical | - | N |
| 7 | Eustis Pool Hall | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 8 | H & J Grocery | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 9 | Methodist Church | Food, Water, Shelter | S | N |
| 10 | Municipal Wastewater | Other | - | N |

Hayes County Rural Fire District

Table FD.10: Hayes County Rural Fire District Community Lifelines

| CL Number | Name | Community Lifeline Type | Generator (G) Shelter (S) | Floodplain (Y/N) |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Bella Petroleum | Energy | - | N |
| 2 | Co-op Fuel Station | Energy | - | N |
| 3 | Hayes County Courthouse | Safety and Security | - | N |
| 4 | Hayes County Firehall / EMS | Safety and Security, Health and Medical | - | N |
| 5 | Just 1 More Bar & Grill | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 6 | North Well | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 7 | Scotts Grocery | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 8 | Siren | Communications | G | N |
| 9 | Siren/Water Tower | Communications, Food, Water, Shelter | G (Siren) | N |
| 10 | South Well | Food, Water, Shelter | G | N |
| 11 | SWPPD Substation | Energy | - | N |
| 12 | Tower with Repeater | Communications | G | N |

Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District

Table FD.11: Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District Community Lifelines

| CL Number | Name | Community Lifeline Type | Generator (G) Shelter (S) | Floodplain (Y/N) |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Frontier County Sheriff / 911 Dispatch | Safety and Security, Communications | G | N |
| 2 | Great Plains Tire | Energy | - | N |
| 3 | Maywood Fire Station | Safety and Security | - | N |
| 4 | Maywood Public Schools | Safety and Security | S | N |
| 5 | Village Market | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |

Stratton Rural Fire District

Table FD.12: Stratton Rural Fire District Community Lifelines

| CL Number | Name | Community Lifeline Type | Generator (G) Shelter (S) | Floodplain (Y/N) |
|-----------|---|---|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | City Maintenance Shop | Safety and Security | - | N |
| 2 | City Office | Safety and Security | - | N |
| 3 | City Water Well | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 4 | Farmers Co-op | Energy | - | N |
| 5 | Fire Hall / EMS / Communication Equipment | Safety and Security, Health and Medical, Communications | - | N |
| 6 | Quality Healthcare Services | Health and Medical | G | N |
| 7 | Stratton City Substation | Energy | - | N |
| 8 | Stratton Country Market | Food, Water, Shelter | - | N |
| 9 | SWPP Substation | Energy | - | N |
| 10 | Warning Siren | Communications | - | N |
| 11 | Water Tower / Repeater | Food, Water, Shelter, Communications | - | N |

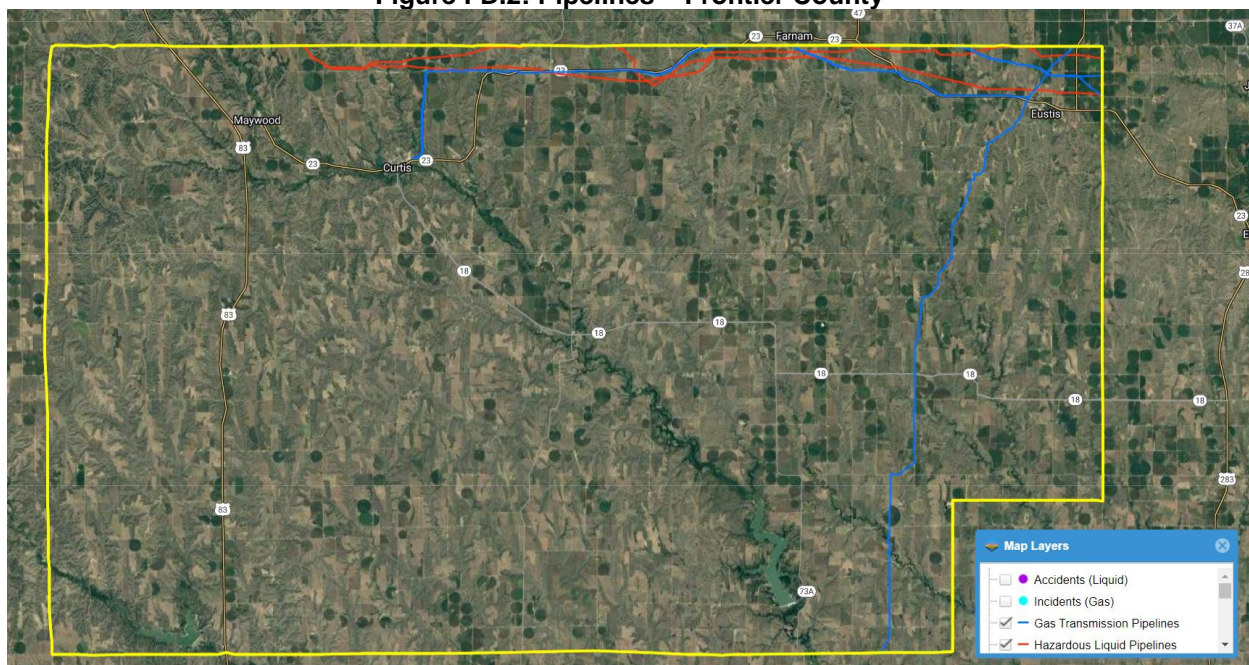
Transportation

Transportation Lifeline components include interstates, highways, major roadways, mass transit, railway, and aviation. US Highways 6, 34, and 83 and Nebraska State Highways 17, 18, 21, 23, 25, and 25a, all travel through the planning area. The most traveled route is Highway 6 with an average of 4,235 vehicles daily, 365 of which are trucks.³ Two Nebraska Kansas Colorado Railway lines and a Burlington Northern Santa Fe / Amtrak line travel through the planning area. There are five public and private airports in Hitchcock and Frontier Counties. There are no airports in Hayes County. 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. The Culbertson Rural Fire District identified Highways 6, 17, and 34 as lifelines in the district. The Curtis Rural Fire District identified rural roads that are not properly maintained as routes of most concern. The Hayes County Rural Fire District is most concerned with Highway 25 due to the amount of truck traffic. The Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District identified Highways 23 and 83 as a concern due to the amount of truck traffic. The Stratton Rural Fire District identified Highway 34 and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway as routes of concern because they are major through fares across the state. Fire districts indicated that fuel, ethanol, crude oil and agricultural chemicals are transported within the three-county region.

Hazardous Materials

The Hazardous Materials Lifeline includes chemical storage facilities, pipelines, and transported chemical tanks. There are several gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines that travel through the fire districts and can be seen on the figures below. There are no gas or hazardous liquid pipelines in Hayes County.

Figure FD.2: Pipelines – Frontier County



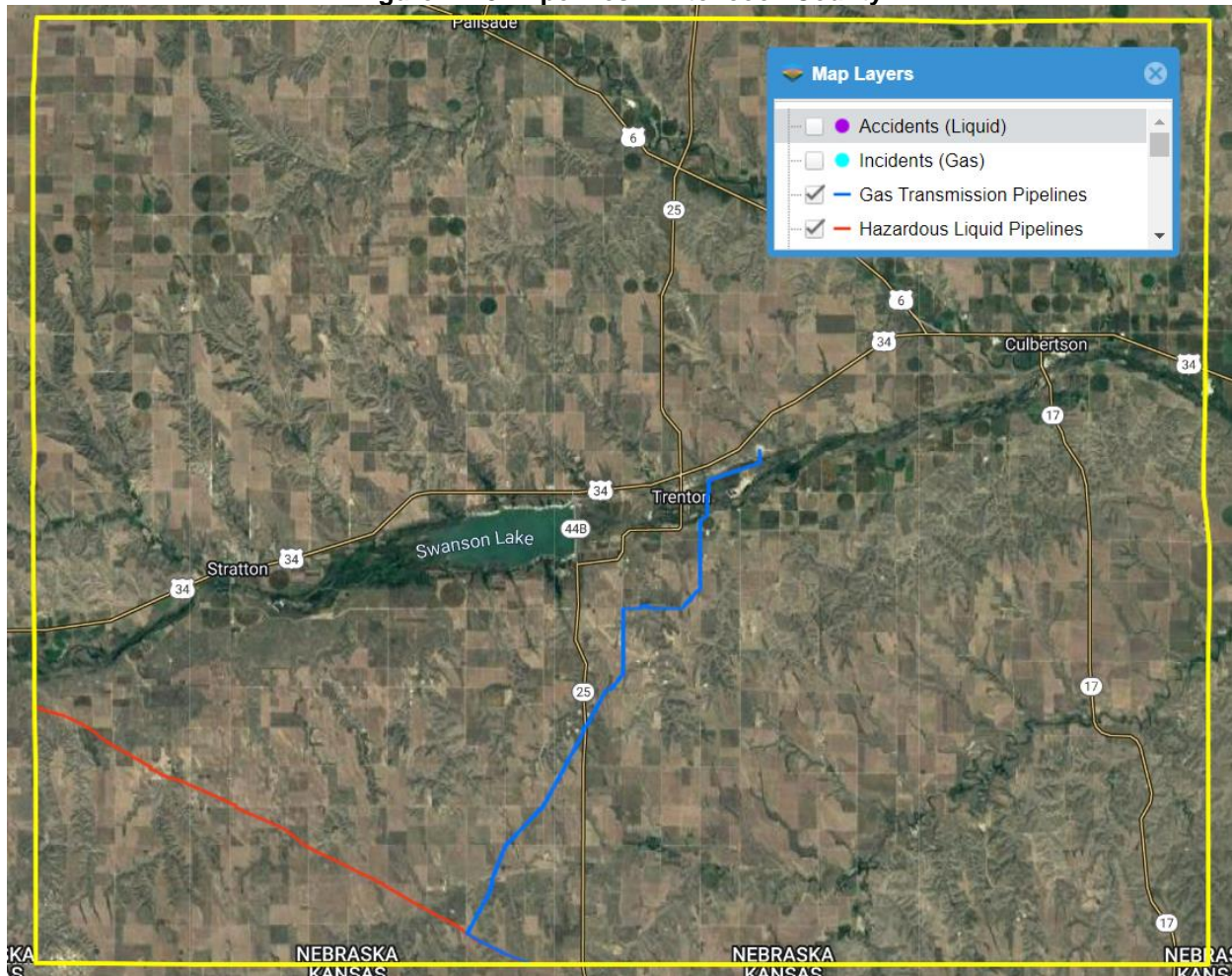
Source: National Pipeline Mapping System⁴

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

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

4 National Pipeline Mapping System. 2022. "Public Viewer." Accessed July 2022. <https://pvnpmns.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer/>.

Figure FD.3: Pipelines – Hitchcock County

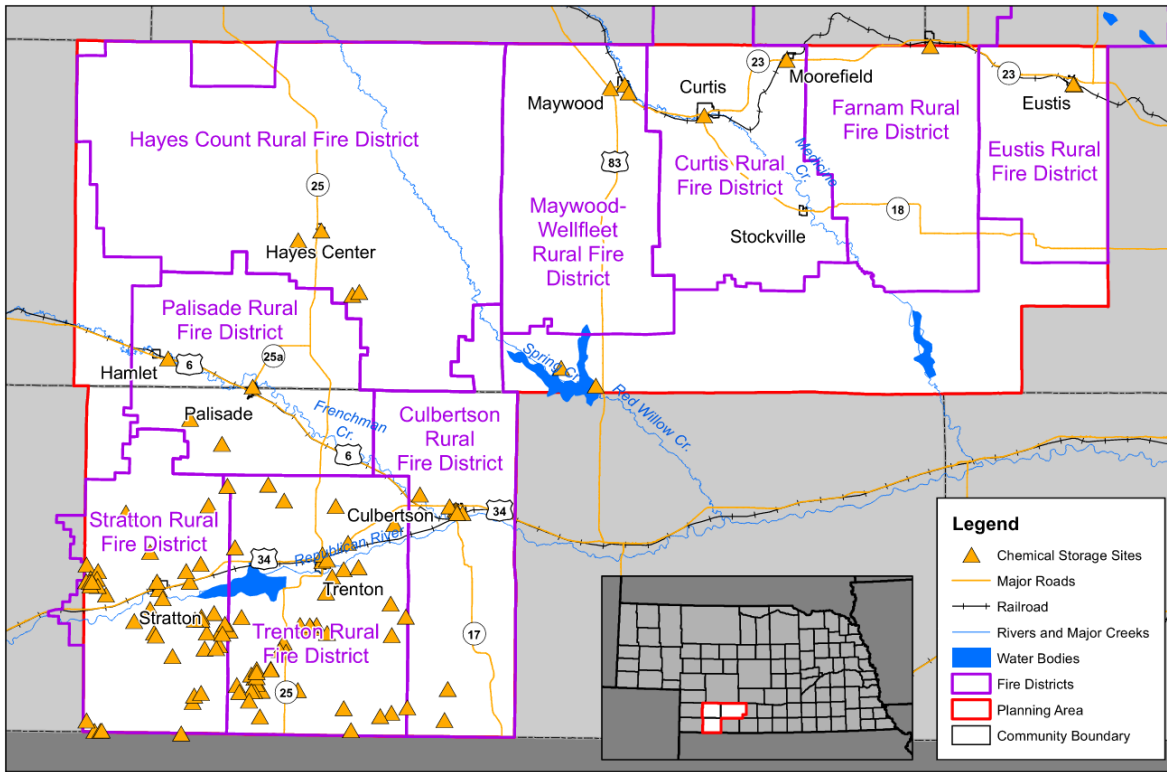


Source: National Pipeline Mapping System

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, there are 119 chemical sites within the planning which house hazardous materials.⁵ Figure FD.4 shows the location of all the chemical sites. The Culbertson Rural Fire District is primarily concerned with the Kugler Co. fertilizer plant because it stores anhydrous ammonia that may reach the Village of Culbertson if it were to be spilled or leak. The Stratton Rural Fire District identified large propane storage tanks on the north edge of the Village of Stratton as a chemical site of concern.

⁵ Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. "Search Tier II Data." Accessed May 2022.

Figure FD.4: Chemical Storage Sites



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 File Name: HHF_Fire Districts.mxd
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Fire Districts

Chemical Storage Sites

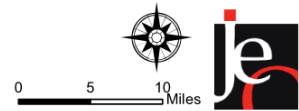


Figure FD.5: Community Lifelines – Culbertson Rural Fire District

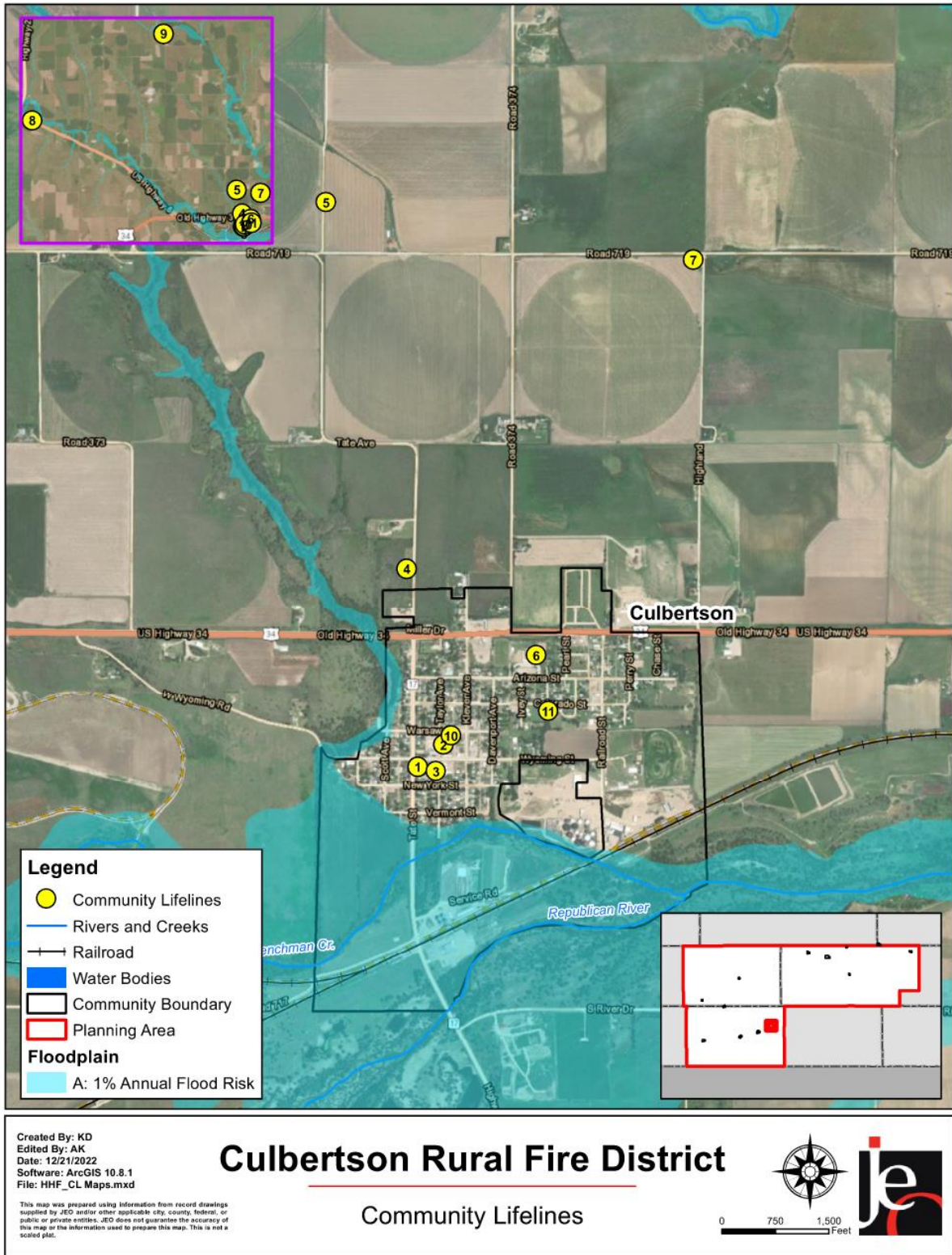


Figure FD.6: Community Lifelines – Curtis Rural Fire District

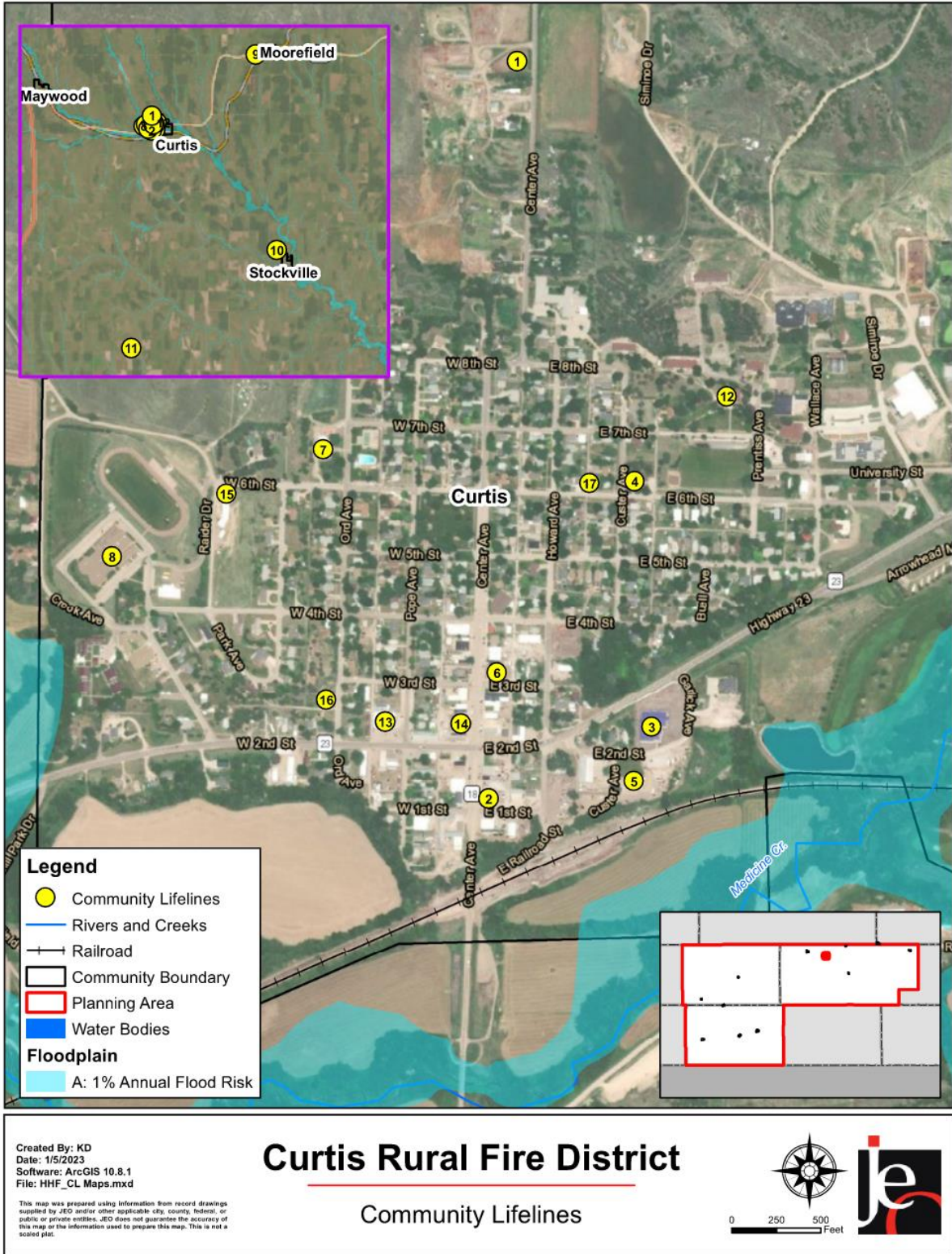


Figure FD.7: Community Lifelines – Eustis Rural Fire District

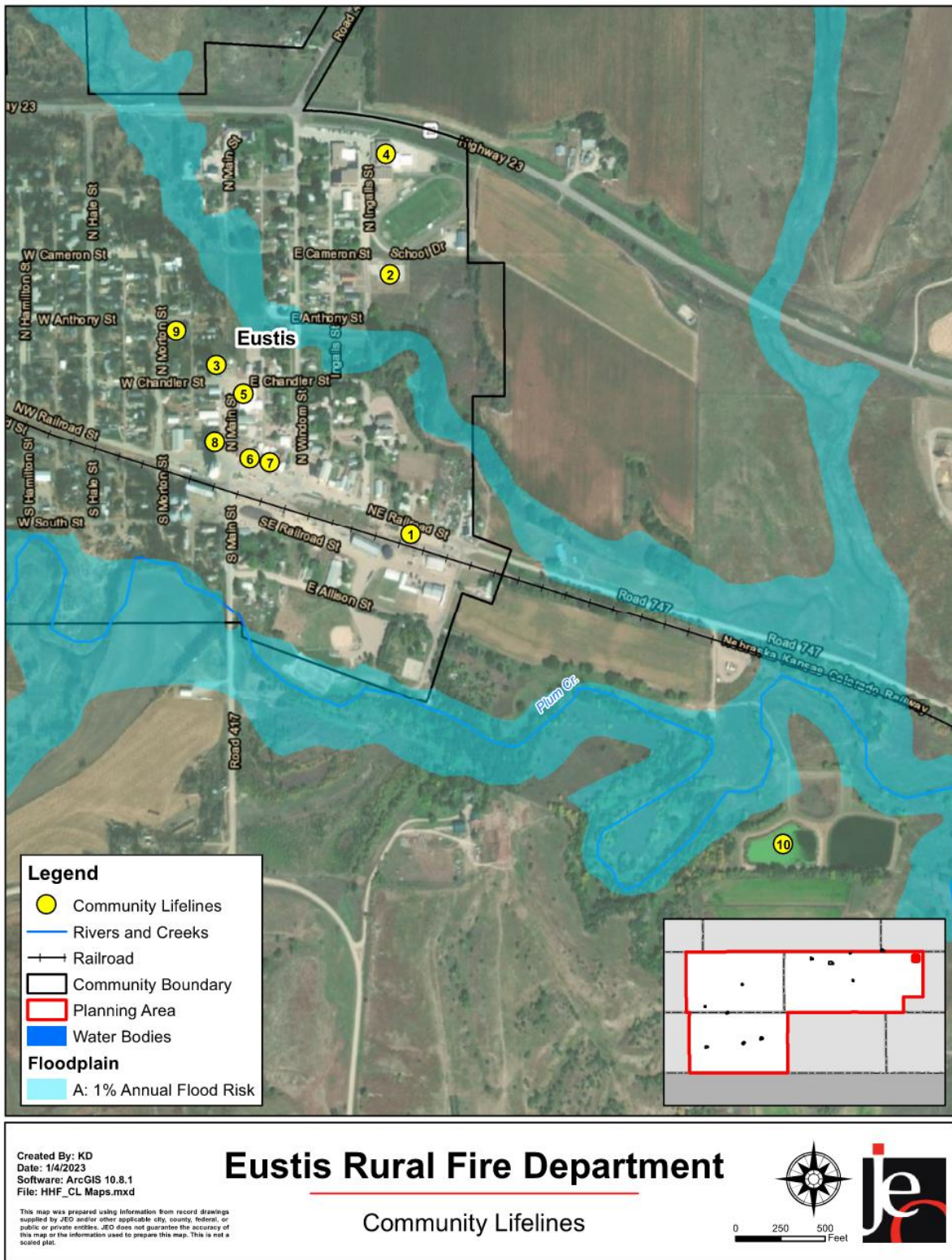


Figure FD.8: Community Lifelines – Hayes County Rural Fire District

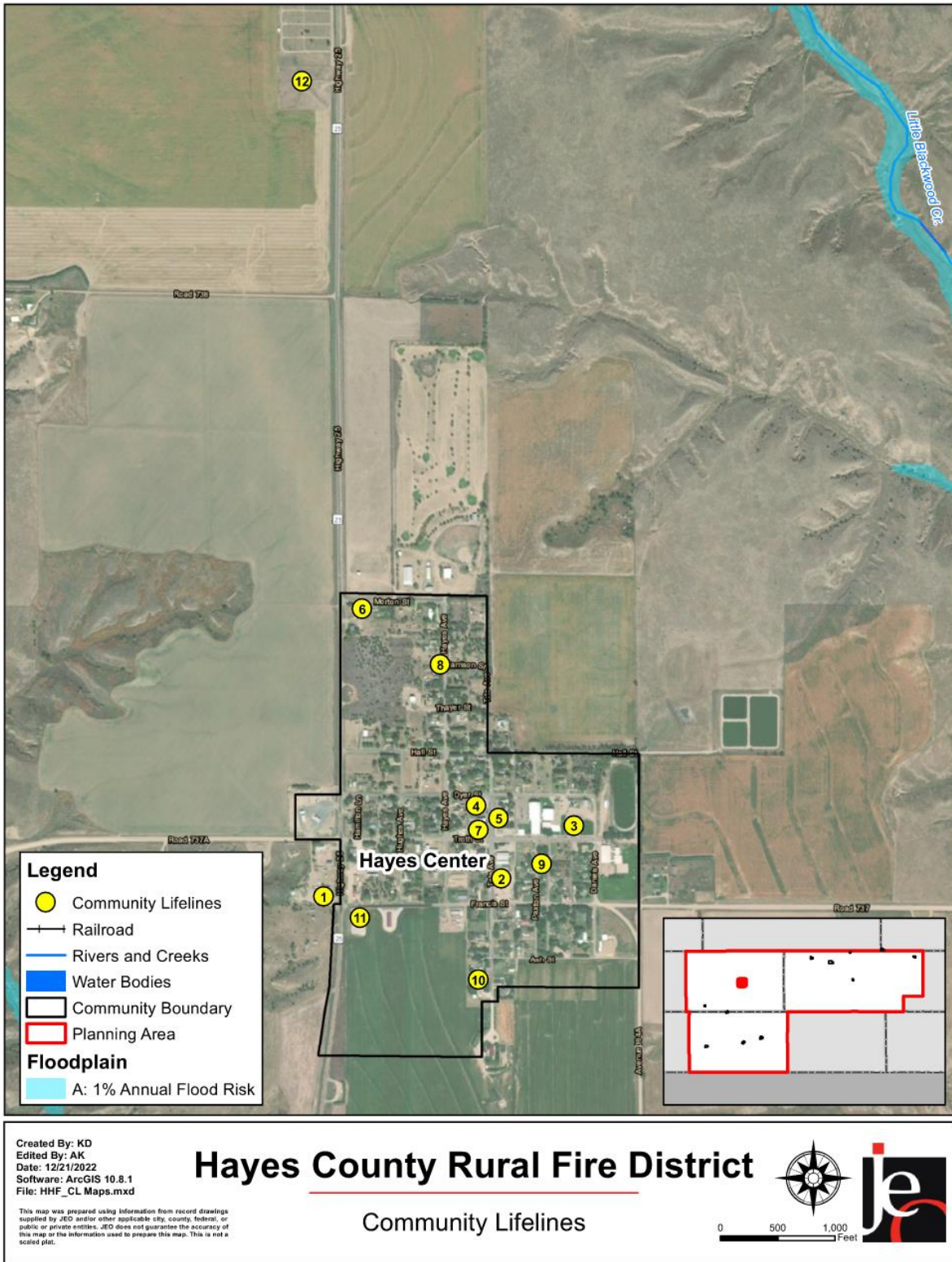


Figure FD.9: Community Lifelines – Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District

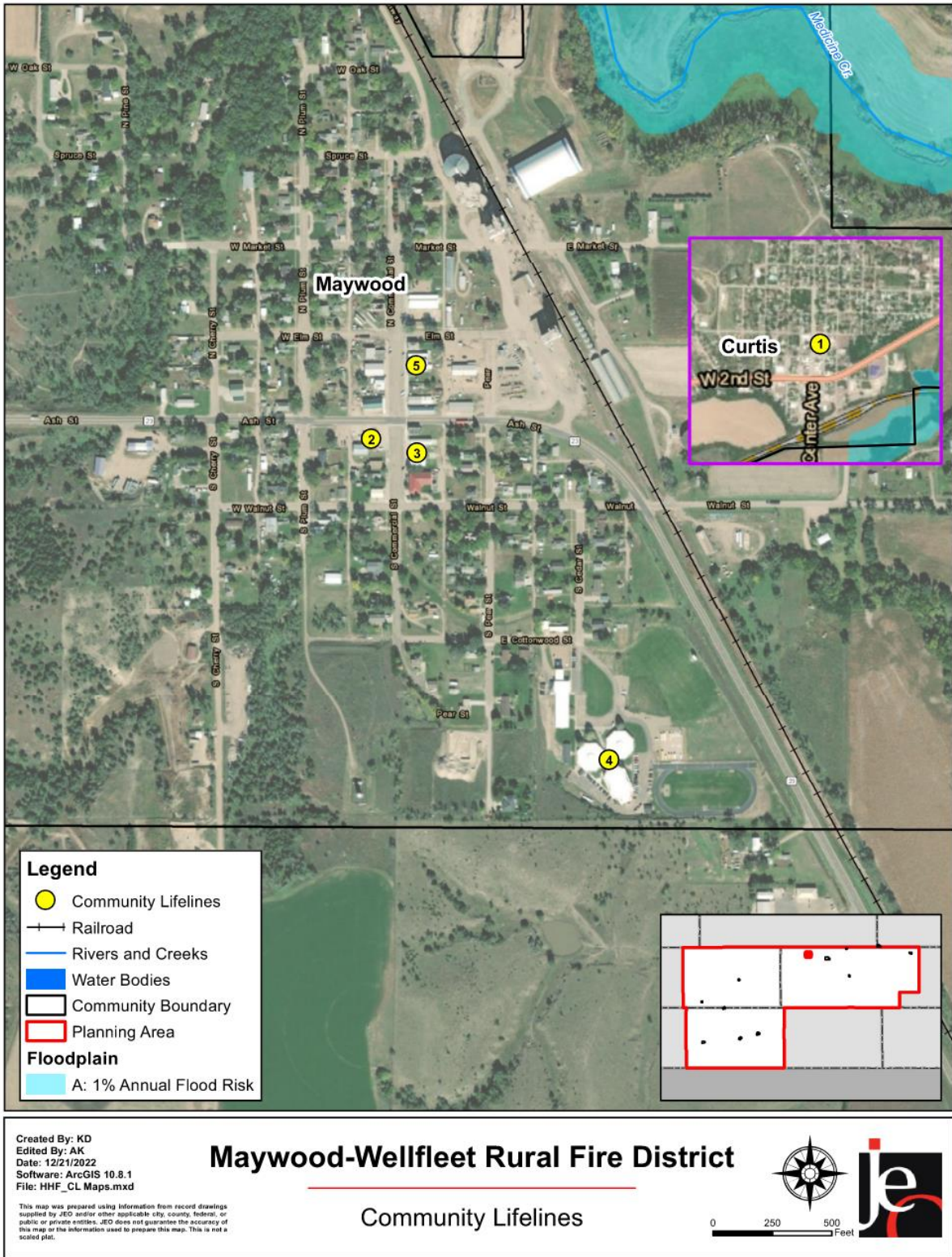
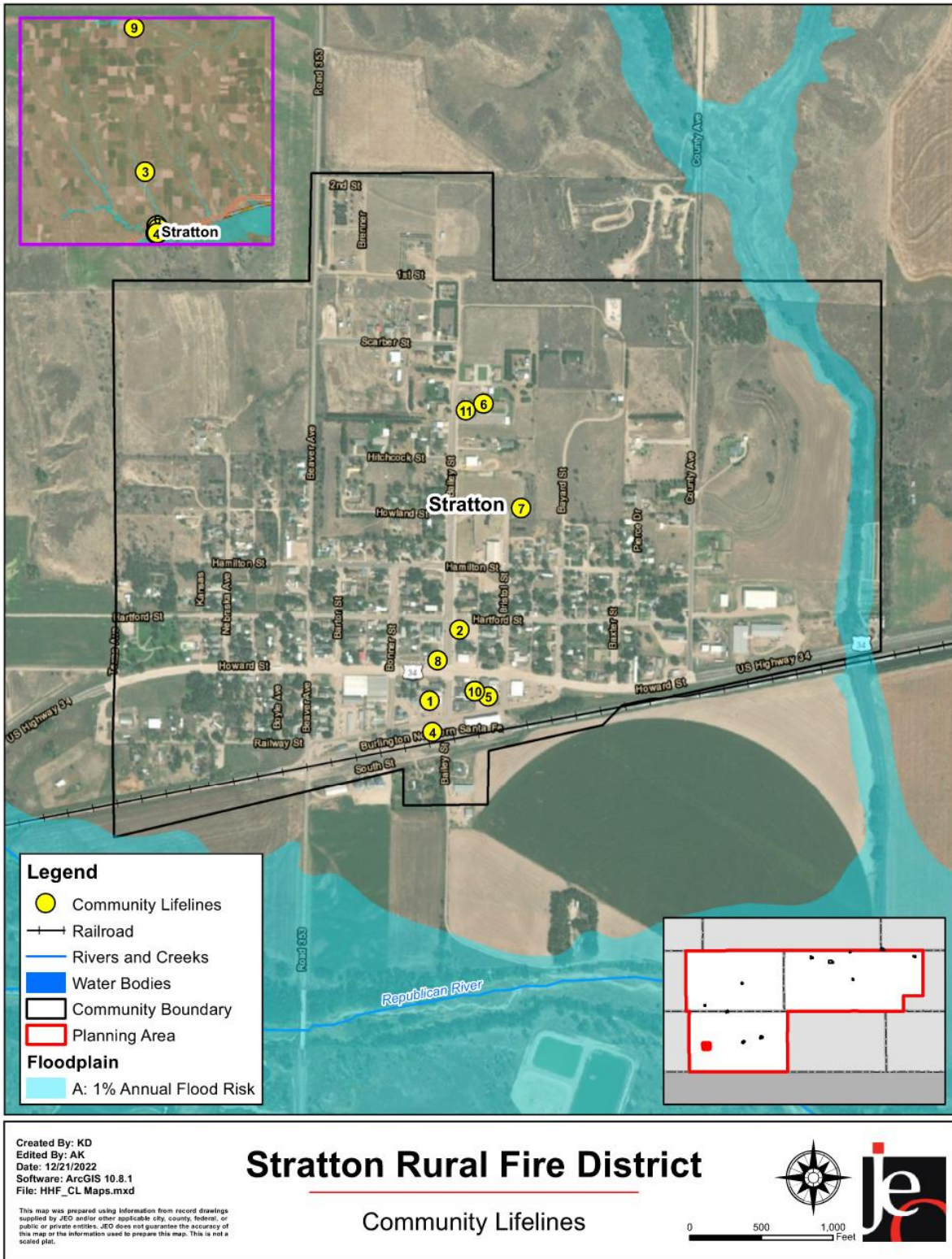


Figure FD.10: Community Lifelines – Stratton Rural Fire District



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.13: Hazard Prioritization

| Hazards | Culbertson Rural Fire District | Curtis Rural Fire District | Eustis Rural Fire District | Hayes County Rural Fire District | Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District | Stratton Rural Fire District |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Animal and Plant Disease | | | | | | |
| Dam Failure | | | | | | |
| Drought | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Extreme Heat | | X | | X | | X |
| Flooding | | X | | | | |
| Grass/Wildfire | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Hazardous Materials Release | X | X | | | X | |
| Public Health Emergency | | | | | | |
| Severe Thunderstorms | X | X | | | X | X |
| Severe Winter Storms | X | | | | | |
| Terrorism and Cyber Security | | | | | | |
| Tornadoes and High Winds | X | X | X | X | X | X |

Drought

Drought can affect fire districts in several ways. Dry conditions during a drought, vegetation can become extremely dry which increases the risk of wildfires starting. The dry conditions can also make it difficult to contain wildfires as they are more likely to spread quickly. Drought can also affect the water supply, making it harder for the fire districts to find water sources if needed during a response. The three-county region is currently experiencing a prolonged period of drought.

Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is often associated with drought and can have similar impacts. Prolong periods of extreme heat can cause vegetation to dry out which increases the risk of wildfires starting. Wildfires often spread quicker making them harder to contain during dry conditions. Extreme heat

also creates a very hard environment to fight fires. High temperatures are very taxing on both firefighters and equipment. Personnel are more likely to see health risks like heat stroke or heat exhaustion.

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*.

Culbertson Rural Fire District

The fire district is nearly exclusively rural and the climate in the region is arid. Fires are frequent in crop and livestock production areas and become large and damaging very quickly due to high winds. In addition, modern conservation farming practices have expanded areas of uninterrupted combustible fuels. One of the largest fires in the district occurred December 2004 when 200 acres of crop land burned. Areas of concern include where agricultural land is next to residential areas due to the risk of exposure. The local planning team noted that the creation of interruptions in vegetation such as fire breaks are needed and could be very beneficial in the WUI. Public education includes fire safety week at Hitchcock County Elementary and participation in the annual Independence Day parade and fireworks display activities.

Curtis Rural Fire District

There have been several large fires that the district has responded to over the past four years. The list includes the Cambridge Fire in 2022, Arapahoe Fire in 2022, Votaw Fire in 2022, Post Fire in 2021, the Hackbarry Fire in 2021, and the McCook Fire in 2018. The largest reported fire in the district occurred April 19th, 2000, when over 2,000 acres of grassland burned. The local planning team identified the WUI as an area with high fire risk. In addition, the northern part of the district has very rugged terrain and high fuel loads which make it a high-risk area. To help reduce the risk of wildfires, the district and Nebraska Forest Service has done brush removal, tree removal, and prescribed burns. Continual prescribed burns and red cedar reduction is necessary in the future.

Eustis Rural Fire District

Recently the district has experienced numerous wildfires within the district and the mutual aid area. Some of the larger recent fires are listed below.

- March 13, 2022, Road 747 Fire: Grass Rig 21 lost its running board, and a water tanker lost its pump and PTO.
- April 7, 2022, 739 Fire: Grass Rig 6x6 lost three short hoses and blew a brake line. Grass Rig 21 lost a 1-inch nozzle and had damage to its hose reel losing windup capabilities.
- April 19, 2022, Road 425 & 750 Fires: One handheld radio was irreparably damaged.
- April 22, 2022, Road 702 Fire
- April 22, 2022, Highway 18 and West Canyon Fire: Grass Rig 21 damage to bumper and Grass Rig 6x6 sustained body damage.

Areas of most concern for wildfires include canyonlands in pastures due to difficulty access them. In addition, after harvest, corn stalks are responsible for intense fires that spread quickly. A few years ago, a grass rig was updated but the district needs to continue updating the aging and inefficient fleet of firefighting vehicles. Throughout the year the fire department does fire safety and weather awareness education to the elementary school.

Hayes County Rural Fire District

Large fires have recently occurred within the district and in neighboring districts that required multiple agencies and days to put out. These fires have occurred May 2019, April 2020, and April 2022. The largest reported fire in the district occurred on March 20, 2002, when 10,000 acres of grassland burned. The local planning team's top concern for wildfires is large areas of rangeland and CRP with canyons that have little to no access areas. In addition, there is a bridge near the Hayes Center Wildlife Management Area that will not support the weight of a tanker. To better respond to wildfires, the district has updated trucks and equipment, as well as getting fire department members better trained. In addition, the district does fire safety education at the schools. In the future, additional cedar tree removal is needed.

Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District

The fire district has experienced multiple wildland fires over recent years. The largest reported event occurred on November 8, 2010, when 200 acres of grass, forest, and cropland burned. Concerns include the amount of rangeland with eastern red cedar trees and the rough terrain in the northern half of the district that limits access and makes control fires more difficult. Recently the district has seen private landowners better manage their land by clearing the cedar trees, but more should be done in the future.

Stratton Rural Fire District

The Stratton Rural Fire District has experienced several recent wildfires in the district. These fires have caused a loss of crops and grassland. In addition, fences and wind breaks have been burned down. The local planning team estimates that 95% of the district is grass or crop land which increases vulnerability to grass/wildfires. To help reduce the risk of wildfires, the district has updated fire suppression equipment and continued training personnel. In the future more equipment needs to be updated and developing a better rural water supply is needed.

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 permitter around the spill, and give medical attention to any injured individuals.

Culbertson Rural Fire District

The local planning team is primarily concern with the Kugler Oil Fertilizer Plant. This site is partially located in the floodplain, which increases the risk of a spill or contamination. Chemicals stored at the plant include Anhydrous Ammonia, acids, and sulfur.

Curtis Rural Fire District

Fixed chemical sites of concern include Nutrien Farm Services, the Airport, and Metzler Oil Co. Firefighters are annually trained on Pipeline Safety and hazmat awareness. However, the district relies on mutual aid from the Red Willow Hazmat team or North Platte Hazmat team for any spill response and cleanup.

Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District

In 2019 a semi-truck that was carrying ammonium nitrate tipped over. No injuries or damages occurred from the event. The fire district is specifically concerned with the amount of fertilizers and other chemicals transported in the area. Maywood-Wellfleet Fire District does very little training on spill response and relies mostly on the Red Willow Hazmat Team when a chemical spill occurs.

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.

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. The Stratton Rural Fire District and Curtis Rural Fire District specifically noted that their districts are very rural and advanced warning systems in many areas are nonexistent or not uniform.

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.

New Mitigation Actions

Culbertson Rural Fire District

| Mitigation Action | Backup Generators |
|----------------------------|--|
| Description | Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power to redundant power supplies and other community lifelines. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Extreme Heat, Flooding, Grass/Wildfires, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds |
| Estimated Cost | \$20,000 - \$35,000 |
| Local Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief |
| Status | Not Started. The district does not 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 | General Budget |
| Timeline | Ongoing |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief |
| Status | Not Started. The district has the capability to implement some of the actions identified in the CWPP. |

| 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 | \$500+ |
| Local Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief |
| Status | Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement this project. |

Curtis Rural Fire District

| Mitigation Action | Communication Equipment |
|----------------------------|--|
| Description | Determine what communication equipment upgrades are needed. Purchase new communication equipment. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | \$5,000+ |
| Local Funding | General Funds |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board |
| Status | Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement this project due to a lack of funding. |

| Mitigation Action | Fuel Load Reduction |
|----------------------------|---|
| Description | Implement a Fuels Management Program that includes cutting firebreaks into public wooded areas in the wildland-urban interface. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Grass/Wildfire |
| Estimated Cost | \$150,000 |
| Local Funding | Property Owner Match |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board, Nebraska Forest Service |
| Status | Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement this project due to a lack of funding. |

| 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 | Property Owner Match |
| Timeline | Ongoing |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Rural Fire Board, Nebraska Forest Service |
| Status | Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement all of this project 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. An emphasis will be made to educating property owners about wildfire mitigation techniques. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | Staff Time - \$500 |
| Local Funding | Staff Time, Property Owner Match |
| Timeline | Ongoing |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Nebraska Forest Service |
| Status | This is an action the district does on an annual basis. The district would like to increase educational activities in the future. |

Eustis Rural Fire District

| 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 | Staff Time, General Budget |
| Timeline | Ongoing |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief |
| Status | Not Started. The department does not have the capability to implement all of this project 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 - \$500 |
| Local Funding | Staff Time, General Budget |
| Timeline | Ongoing |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief |
| Status | This is an action the department does on an annual basis. The department would like to increase educational activities. |

Hayes County Rural Fire District

| Mitigation Action | Backup Generators |
|---------------------|---|
| Description | Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power to redundant power supplies and other community lifelines. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Extreme Heat, Flooding, Grass/Wildfires, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds |
| Estimated Cost | \$20,000 - \$35,000 |
| Local Funding | Rural Fire Funds |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Board of Directors |
| Status | Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement this project due to a lack of funds. Because of this the project has been tabled. |

| Mitigation Action | Equipment Upgrades |
|---------------------|--|
| Description | Update equipment and gear to be better suited for extreme heat conditions. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Extreme Heat, Grass/Wildfires |
| Estimated Cost | \$10,000 - \$120,000 |
| Local Funding | Rural Fire Funds |
| Timeline | 1 Year |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Board of Directors |
| Status | Not Started. The district does not 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 | Rural Fire Funds |
| Timeline | Ongoing |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Board of Directors |
| Status | Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement this project due to a lack of funding. |

Section Seven | Fire Districts Profile

| 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 | \$500+ |
| Local Funding | Rural Fire Funds |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief |
| Status | Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement this project. |

| Mitigation Action | Rural Water Supplies |
|----------------------------|--|
| Description | Look for sustainable water resources in rural areas to be used by the fire department. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Grass/Wildfire, Drought |
| Estimated Cost | \$10,00 - \$15,000 |
| Local Funding | Rural Fire Funds |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Board of Directors |
| Status | In Progress. Currently looking for sustainable water source locations. The district does not have the capability to implement this project due to a lack of funds. |

Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District

| Mitigation Action | Communication Equipment |
|----------------------------|---|
| Description | Determine what communication equipment upgrades are needed. Purchase new communication equipment. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | \$5,000+ |
| Local Funding | General Funds |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Board of Directors |
| Status | In Progress. |

| 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 Funds |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Board of Directors |
| Status | Not Started. The district has 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 | \$500+ |
| Local Funding | General Fund |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Board of Directors |
| Status | Not Started. The district has the capability to implement this project. |

| Mitigation Action | Rural Water Supplies |
|---------------------|--|
| Description | Work with local NRD's and landowners to help increase water and allow access for use by the fire department. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Grass/Wildfire, Drought |
| Estimated Cost | \$5,000+ |
| Local Funding | General Funds |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Board of Directors, NRD |
| Status | Not Started. The district does not have the capability to implement this project until meetings with the NRD and landowners. |

Stratton Rural Fire District

| Mitigation Action | Backup Generators |
|---------------------|--|
| Description | Purchase a backup generator for the fire hall and other identified community lifelines. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Extreme Heat, Flooding, Grass Wildfires, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Terrorism and Cyber Security, Tornadoes and High Winds |
| Estimated Cost | \$10,000+ per Generator |
| Local Funding | Fund Raiser |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Board of Directors |
| Status | Planning Phase. The district is currently getting quotes to determine an accurate cost. The district has the capability to implement this project. |

Section Seven | Fire Districts Profile

| Mitigation Action | Emergency Operations Center |
|---------------------|--|
| Description | Construct a facility that can be a training center, communication center, and emergency management office. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | \$25,000+ |
| Local Funding | Fund Raiser, General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Board of Directors |
| Status | Planning Phase. The district is currently to get public and board buy-in. The district does not have the capability to implement this project due to a lack of buy-in and funding. |

| 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, Board of Directors |
| Status | Ongoing. The district regularly performs fuels mitigation and trainings. Addition CWPP actions are still needed. |

| 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 | \$500+ |
| Local Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Fire Chief, Board of Directors |
| Status | Not Started. The district has the capability to implement this project. |

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 |
|--|--|-------------|------------------------------|
| Culbertson Rural Fire District | Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, County Emergency Management | Annually | Board Meeting |
| Curtis Rural Fire District | Fire Department Officers | Annually | Board Meetings |
| Eustis Rural Fire District | Fire Chief, EMS Chief | Bi-Annually | Social Media |
| Hayes County Rural Fire District | Fire Chief, Ambulance Chief, Rural Board President | Annually | Board Meetings, Postings |
| Maywood-Wellfleet Rural Fire District | Fire Chief, Assistant Chief | Bi-Annually | Letters, Public Meetings |
| Stratton Rural Fire District | Board of Directors, Fire Chief, Mitigation Committee | Annually | Social Media, Board Meetings |