

Wildland and Structural Fire Prevention



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ALLEGHENY
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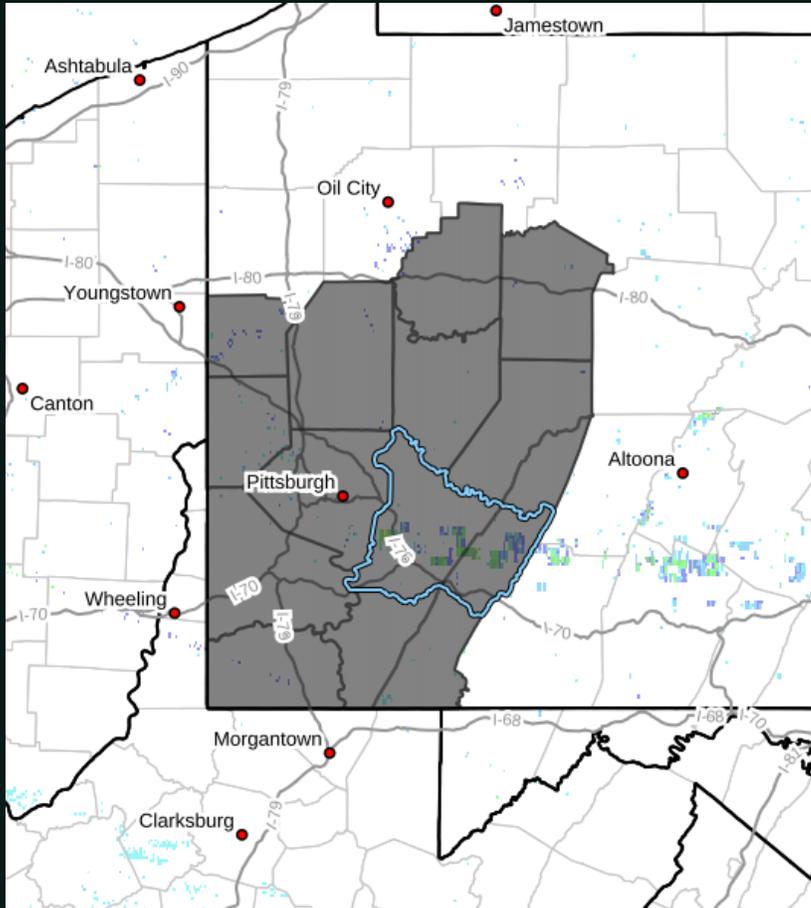


Introduction

With the assumption that there will be a wildland fire within Allegheny Township at some point, why not decrease the likelihood of the event, by requiring behavior modifications. The Goal is to mitigate out-of-control fires to an irreducible minimum but allow recreational enjoyment!



Last Year Notification



Radar valid at 843 am EDT, Mar 25th 2025

...ELEVATED RISK OF FIRE SPREAD THIS AFTERNOON...

A combination of dry and windy conditions this afternoon will create an elevated risk of wildfire spread along and south of I-80. Minimum relative humidity values will range from 20 to 30 percent accompanied by wind gusts between 20 and 30 mph.

Residents are urged to exercise caution if handling any potential ignition sources, such as machinery, cigarettes, or matches. Hold on to your cigarette butts! If dry grasses and tree litter begin to burn, the fire will have the potential to spread rapidly.

2025 Fire Related Events

- On 3-4-2025 - A small fire was set on a hillside directly adjacent to a house within 10-15 feet (open burning) to burn brush. The fire spread through the grass toward a dry field and around the side of the house. The homeowner was able to use a garden hose to keep the fire somewhat under control. The fire department hit hot spots with approximately 100 gallons of water from a brush truck.

2025 Fire Related Events

- On 3-11-2025 – A fire ring was used to burn some paper products and branches when a burning leaf fell outside the ring into the grass. The fire spread toward the shed but was extinguished without loss. The house and shed (combustible structures) were within 30 feet of the fire ring. The fire did extend to the shed but was extinguished prior to its loss.

Fire Related Event- 3-11-25



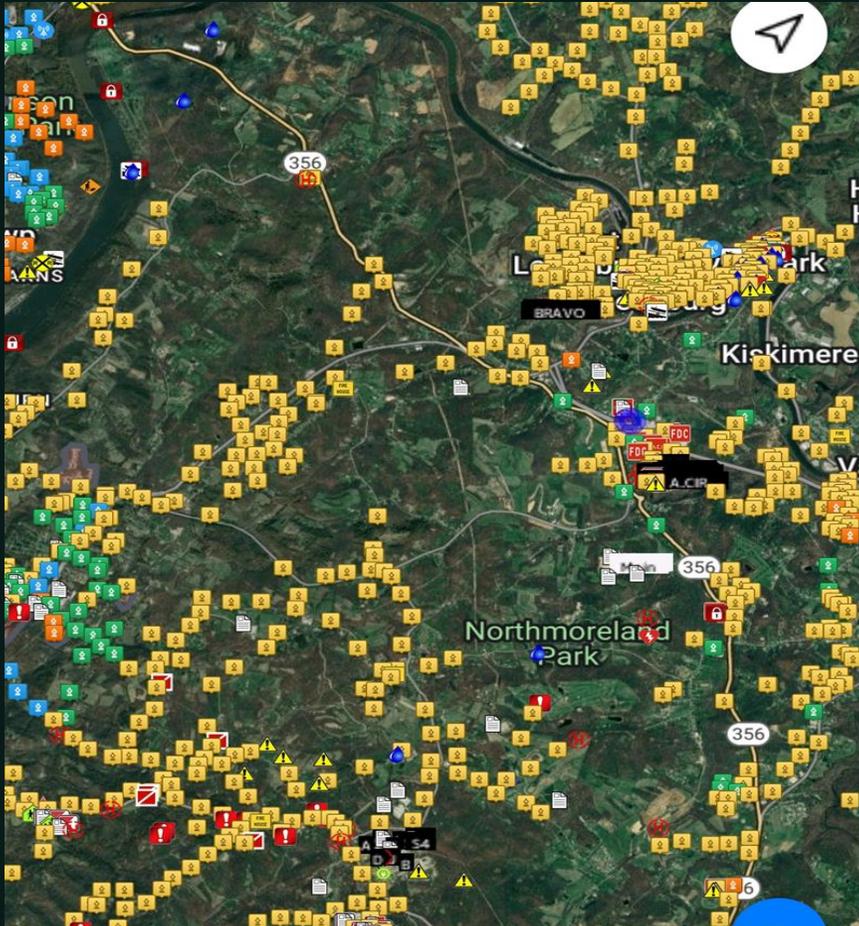
2025 Fire Related Events

- On 3-13-2025 – Landscapers cleaning debris started a fire within a fire ring in the River Forest part of the township. The fire was left un-attended by landscapers. The fire spread to the adjacent logs and then to 2 - 250 gallon propane tanks. One of the tanks was superheated and caused its pressure relief valve to release. Flames were sent into the air approximately 30-40 feet.

Fire Related Event- 3-13-25



Water Availability



- Don't we have fire hydrants?
 - Yes, however, we can see with the adjacent photo that hydrants are spaced out in outlying areas.
 - Pumping water from the river or ponds is labor and equipment intensive. This becomes problematic when fires occur during the day given the availability of volunteers.
 - Moving water by using mutual aid companies and tankers removes water from their districts.

Westmoreland County Hazard Mitigation Plan

westmorelandcountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20270/Merged-Plan-Document-for-Web

Merged-Plan-Document-for-Web 334 / 1689 175%

- Hazard Oct20
 - 28 Section 4.3.17 - Illicit Drug Use Oct20
 - 29 Section 4.3.18 - Nuclear Incident Oct20
 - 30 Section 4.3.19 - Structural Fire Oct20
 - 31 Section 4.3.20 - Terrorism Oct20
 - 32 Section 4.3.21 - Trans. Accidents Oct20
 - 33 Section 4.3.22 - Utility Interruption Oct20
 - 34 Section 4.4 - Hazard Vuln Summary Oct20
 - 35 Section 5 - Capability Assessment Oct20
 - 36 Section 6 - Mitigation Strategy Oct20
 - 37 Section 7 - Plan Maintenance Oct20
 - 38 Section 8 - Plan Adoption Oct20
 - 39 Acronyms and Abbreviations Oct20
 - 40 Appendix A - Authorities and References Oct20
 - 41 Appendix B - Local Plan Review Tool Oct20
 - 42 Appendix C - Meeting Documentation Oct20
 - 43 Appendix D - Muni Partic Doc Oct20
 - 44 Appendix E - Pub SH Outreach Documentation Oct20

Impact on Life, Health, and Safety

As demonstrated by historical wildfire events, potential losses include human health and life of residents and responders. The most vulnerable populations include emergency responders and those within a short distance of the interface between the built environment and the wildland environment. In addition, the population living within and along the WUI may only have one ingress/egress to their communities, making them highly vulnerable in the event of an evacuation. The County land within the WUI was overlaid on the 2010 U.S. Census population data to estimate the Westmoreland County population vulnerable to the wildfire hazard (U.S. Census 2010). In addition to being available at the census block level, the 2010 U.S. Census data is the default demographic data in HAZUS-MH v4.2. The census block level provides a higher resolution of population distribution than American Community Survey spatial data, which is only available at the census tract level. The 2010 U.S. Census data is also used to maintain consistency in data throughout vulnerability assessments throughout this hazard mitigation plan. Table 4.3.13-5 summarizes the estimated population exposed by municipality.

Table 4.3.13-5. Estimated Population Located within the WUI in Westmoreland County

Municipalities	Total Population (2010 U.S. Census)	Population Located in the Hazard Area			Percent Total
		Estimated Population Located in WUI - Interface	Estimated Population Located in WUI - Intermix	Estimated Population Located in WUI (Interface + Intermix)	
Adamsburg Borough	172	85	87	172	100.0%
Allegheny Township	8,164	2,376	5,099	7,475	91.6%
Arnold, City of	5,157	5,157	0	5,157	100.0%
Arona Borough	370	186	184	370	100.0%
Avonmore Borough	1,011	663	338	1,001	99.0%
Bell Township	2,348	824	1,490	2,314	98.6%
Delaware Township	1,165	410	500	910	78.1%

11:14 AM 3/25/2025



Summary

By thinking outside the fire ring, we can ignite forward thinking by instituting a boundary to recreationally enjoy fires but prevent unnecessary loss.



Thank you
