

Appendix 1
Results of 2005 Community Survey
Community Questionnaire & Final Tallies

INSTRUCTIONS: The Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security is assessing the community's risk to the fire hazard. This assessment will be compiled into a "Fire Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan". Your participation as a resident of a Jefferson County community is crucial to adequately tailor this plan to the county's needs. Please take a few minutes to complete the questions below.

Simply fill out this questionnaire and hit "submit". Your answers will be emailed to R.D. Zande & Associates, Inc. and the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security. If you have any questions or comments regarding the completion of this questionnaire, call Jeff Harvey at (888) 830-1272.

GENERAL

1. On a scale of 1 through 5, how concerned are you about the structural fire and wildfire hazards in Jefferson County? (*1 is "Not at All" and 5 is "Very Concerned"*)
2. What do you think are the leading causes of fires in Jefferson County?
3. Is there at least one smoke detector in your home? If so, how many times per year do you change the battery and test it?
4. Do you know a member of the fire department serving your community?
5. How many times a year do you think Jefferson County firefighters respond to *fire* incidents?
6. How many hours a year do you think Jefferson County firefighters spend in training?
7. How many hours a year do you think Jefferson County firefighters spend fund raising?

GETTING HELP

1. Do you know how to properly operate a fire extinguisher – yes or no?
2. Does every member of your household know how to call for help in an emergency – yes or no?
3. Have you and your family have a meeting place outside of your home where you would meet to let each other know that everyone is out safely – yes or no?
4. Have you and your family identified two ways out of every room in your house in case of emergency?

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1. Have you ever received training about evacuations at your place of work – yes or no?
2. Other than when in school, have you ever participated in a fire drill – yes or no?
3. What kinds of fire safety education programs have you or your children attended in the community or through civic and social organizations or schools?

LESSENING THE RISK

1. Do you know of a particular fire risk to the community – yes or no? If yes, please explain.
2. How do you think fires can be lessened in our community?
3. How do you think local fire departments can recruit more volunteers?
4. What measures do you take in your home to lessen its risk to fire?

For example: installed smoke alarms or sprinklers, cut brush from around the outside of your home, checked for frayed electrical cords, checked for overloaded electrical outlets, etc.

5. What would you suggest to improve fire safety in Jefferson County?
6. Do you have any recommendations for improved fire safety for people with special needs?

COMMENTS

Please feel free to type any comments in the space below.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

GENERAL

1. On a scale of 1 through 5, how concerned are you about the structural fire and wildfire hazards in Jefferson County? (1 is "Not at All" and 5 is "Very Concerned")

104 respondents answered this question.

1	2.88%
2	3.85%
3	26.92%
4	16.35%
4.5	0.96%
5	49.04%

2. What do you think are the leading causes of fires in Jefferson County?

This question was structured in such a way as to allow multiple responses. 143 responses were received. The following percentages indicate the percentage those answers appeared within those 143 responses.

Electrical problems	13.29%
Carelessness (ignorance)	24.48%
Open fires (incl. trash/brush fires)	10.49%
Improper construction	2.80%
Arson	7.69%
Cigarette fires	9.10%
Lack of public safety	0.70%
Not taking reasonable precautions	1.40%
People (human error)	4.20%
Drought/lack of rain	2.10%
Burning leaves	2.80%
Property maintenance (junk lying around, etc.)	2.10%
Under-trained fire departments	0.70%
Candles	2.80%
Wood stoves and fireplace fires (other heaters)	4.20%
Lack of education	4.20%
Chimneys	1.40%
Fireworks	1.40%
Vehicle accidents	0.70%
Lightning	2.80%
Appliances	1.40%
Poor building codes & inspection	0.70%

3. Is there at least one smoke detector in your home? If so, how many times per year do you change the battery and test it?

Of the 105 respondents to the survey, 99% (104) of them answered this question.

Yes 99.03%
No 0.97%

Of the 104 persons who answered #3, 97 provided information on battery changes. The following percentages are calculated from those 97 responses.

0 5.15%
1 28.87%
2 52.58%
3-4 2.06%
5 1.03%
6 1.03%
12 2.06%
Electric detectors 5.15%
When prompted by detector 1.03%

4. Do you know a member of the fire department serving your community?

Of the 105 respondents to the survey, 93.33% (98) of them answered this question. The yes/no percentages are based on those 98 answers.

Yes 68.34%
No 31.63%

5. How many times a year do you think Jefferson County firefighters respond to fire incidents?

Of the 105 respondents to the survey, 79.05% (83) of them answered this question. The following percentages indicate the number of times these answers appeared within those 83 responses.

5,000:	2.41%	7,000:	1.20%
40:	1.20%	45:	1.20%
400:	6.02%	50:	3.61%
500:	9.64%	395:	1.20%
230:	1.20%	4,000:	2.41%
200:	7.23%	180:	1.20%
12-24:	1.20%	1,600:	1.20%
100:	4.82%	2,000:	2.41%
1,500:	3.61%	2,500:	2.41%
Daily:	1.20%	3,000:	2.41%
600:	1.20%	70:	1.20%
700:	1.20%	360:	1.20%
10:	1.20%	60:	1.20%
150:	4.82%	814:	1.20%

800:	1.20%	8,000:	1.20%
2 per day:	1.20%	10,000:	1.20%
170:	1.20%	15,000:	1.20%
300:	8.43%	900:	1.20%
1,000:	6.02%	156:	1.20%
1,700:	1.20%	5,000:	1.20%
1,200:	1.20%		

6. How many hours a year do you think Jefferson County firefighters spend in training?

Of the 105 respondents to the survey, 79.05% (83) of them answered this question. The following percentages indicate the number of times these answers appeared within those 83 responses.

2,000:	1.20%	120:	1.20%
40:	6.02%	2:	1.20%
50:	4.82%	60:	3.61%
8:	1.20%	10,000:	2.41%
500:	3.61%	30:	1.20%
24:	2.41%	70:	1.20%
100:	16.87%	600:	1.20%
80-120:	13.25%	100,000:	1.20%
160:	2.41%	150:	1.20%
10:	3.61%	5:	1.20%
20:	3.61%	1,000:	6.02%
15:	1.20%	300:	12.41%
50:	4.82%	4,000:	1.20%
25:	2.41%	5,000:	1.20%
200:	1.20%	240:	1.20%
3,000:	2.41%	6,000:	1.20%

7. How many hours a year do you think Jefferson County firefighters spend fund raising?

Of the 105 respondents to the survey, 73.33% (77) of them answered this question. The following percentages indicate the number of times these answers appeared within those 77 responses.

5,000:	2.60%	10:	2.60%
40:	11.69%	75:	2.60%
50:	9.10%	30:	2.60%
2:	2.60%	400:	3.90%
2,000:	2.60%	150:	2.60%
20:	2.60%	16:	2.60%
48:	2.60%	200:	6.50%
500:	5.19%	300:	3.90%
80-120:	7.80%	50,000:	1.30%
25:	2.60%	15:	1.30%
5:	1.30%	3,000:	1.30%
1,000:	6.50%	20,000:	1.30%
100:	12.99%	750:	1.30%

GETTING HELP

1. Do you know how to properly operate a fire extinguisher – yes or no?

All 105 respondents answered this question.

Yes 94.29%

No 5.71%

2. Does every member of your household know how to call for help in an emergency – yes or no?

All 105 respondents answered this question.

Yes 95.24%

No 4.76%

3. Have you and your family have a meeting place outside of your home where you would meet to let each other know that everyone is out safely – yes or no?

All 105 respondents answered this question.

Yes 76.19%

No 23.181%

4. Have you and your family identified two ways out of every room in your house in case of emergency?

All 105 respondents answered this question.

Yes 73.33%

No 26.67%

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1. Have you ever received training about evacuations at your place of work – yes or no?

Of the 105 respondents to the survey, 96.19% (101) of them answered this question. The following percentages are based on those 101 responses.

Yes 79.21%

No 20.79%

2. Other than when in school, have you ever participated in a fire drill – yes or no?

Of the 105 respondents to the survey, 97.14% (102) of them answered this question. The following percentages are based on those 102 responses.

Yes 81.37%

No 18.63%

3. What kinds of fire safety education programs have you or your children attended in the community or through civic and social organizations or schools?

This question was structured in such a way as to allow multiple responses. 57 responses were received. The following percentages indicate the percentage those answers appeared within those 57 responses.

Firefighters visit schools	15.79%
AAS Fire Science	1.75%
National Fire Academy	1.75%
RESA	1.75%
CERT	8.77%
Child was volunteer firefighter elsewhere	3.51%
NFPA Emergency Planning Workshop	1.75%
Cub scouts	1.75%
Various programs through work	7.02%
Programs through VA hospital	1.75%
CPR	3.51%
FEMA/ARC/other websites	5.26%
Evacuation plans for schools and buses	1.75%
Fire house	12.28%
Firefighter 1 and 2	15.79%
Hazmat training	3.51%
Military training	1.75%
Extrication training	1.75%
Disaster drills	3.51%
Fair booth	1.75%
Structural firefighting courses	1.75%
Fire drills	1.75%

LESSENING THE RISK

1. Do you know of a particular fire risk to the community – yes or no? If yes, please explain.

Of the 105 respondents to the survey, 95.19% (99) of them answered this question. The following percentages are based on those 99 responses.

Yes	71.72%
No	28.28%

Of the 71.72% who answered yes above, they generated 73 total explanations. The following percentages indicate the number of times these answers appeared in those 73 explanations.

Buildings connected or built too close together	8.22%
Lack of training in fire depts.	1.37%
Increased traffic patterns lengthen response time	1.37%
No dry hydrants in the county	4.11%
Burning trash and leaves	13.70%
Shannondale and Blue Ridge – plenty of woods and lack of water	9.59%
Too many trees/forested areas	5.48%
Carelessness with cigarettes	2.74%
Mulch pile at Potomac Farms	1.37%
Lack of laws preventing open burning	2.74%
Common area behind town homes on the bypass that is never cut	1.37%
Lack of access into and out of Shannondale and Blue Ridge	13.70%
Lack of water supply	8.22%
Lack of training	1.37%
Improper gas storage	4.11%
Hazardous materials transport	5.48%
Fireworks	1.37%
Outdated electrical system at Jefferson High School	1.37%
Amerigas	1.37%
Low income housing	1.37%
Need more fire department personnel	2.74%
Controlled burns that get out of control	1.37%
Use of fireplaces/heaters	1.37%
Old wiring	1.37%
Empty structures	1.37%
Byrd Science Center	1.37%

2. How do you think fires can be lessened in our community?

This question was structured in such a way as to allow multiple responses. 86 responses were received. The following percentages indicate the percentage those answers appeared within those 86 responses.

Sprinkling	1.16%
Property maintenance and upkeep	6.98%
Public knowledge of how to conduct an open burn	1.16%
Education	44.19%
Littering laws	1.16%
Cigarette carelessness	1.16%
More smoke detector reminders	1.16%
More access to affordable home inspections	1.16%
Community-based visibility	1.16%
Dry hydrants	3.50%
Enforce burning laws	17.44%
Mandatory inspections for smoke detectors	3.50%
Follow proper safety methods	1.16%
Free or discounted home inspections	1.16%
Encourage ADT use	1.16%
Slow population growth	1.16%
Special training and shopping inserts into packages	1.16%
Better quality of building (building codes)	2.33%
Adequately fund fire departments	2.33%
More education for maintenance of chimneys	1.16%
Immediate reporting	1.16%
Water tanks	1.16%
Training	2.33%

3. How do you think local fire departments can recruit more volunteers?

This question was structured in such a way as to allow multiple responses. 77 responses were received. The following percentages indicate the percentage those answers appeared within those 77 responses.

Change mindset of people in the community	1.30%
More advertisement	19.48%
Eliminate in-fighting	5.19%

Booth at fair	1.30%
Tax credits	9.10%
Living quarters in stations	1.30%
Increased training opportunities	2.60%
Offer free scanners	1.30%
Flexible schedules	1.30%
Supplies at low cost to personnel	1.30%
Emphasize camaraderie	5.19%
Target women	1.30%
Open houses at stations	3.90%
Pay them	11.69%
Ask for help	1.30%
Recruit at high schools	6.49%
Increased education as to actual job requirements	1.30%
Sponsor incentives	14.29%
Present volunteers need to recruit new members	1.30%
Through civic organizations	1.30%
Go door-to-door	2.60%
Separate fire and EMS companies	1.30%
Spend less time asking for money	1.30%
Focus on retention of members	1.30%
Recruiting drives	1.30%

4. What measures do you take in your home to lessen its risk to fire?

This question was structured in such a way as to allow multiple responses. 168 responses were received. The following percentages indicate the percentage those answers appeared within those 168 responses.

Fire extinguishers	0.60%
Proper maintenance	1.19%
Smoke alarms	27.38%
Sprinkler	1.19%
Cut brush from around homes	9.52%
Electrical maintenance	18.45%
Inspections	3.00%
Don't leave candles unattended	4.20%
Chimney and fireplace inspections	1.79%
Stand pipe w/ 50-ft. hose for fire suppression	7.73%
Fire extinguishers	0.60%

Central station monitored fire system	1.19%
Surge protectors	1.19%
Keep flammable objects away from heat-producing objects	2.38%
Increased awareness of appliances in use	0.60%
Use of fire retardant insulation	1.19%
Escape ladders	1.19%
Precaution with heaters	2.38%
Safe zone around homes	1.19%
Keep trash picked up	0.60%
Cut-off switch on furnace	1.19%
Make sure cigarettes are out	1.19%
Fire pits for outdoor burning	0.60%
CO ₂ detectors	2.38%
No fireworks	0.60%
Be conscious of safety efforts	2.38%
Organize all rooms in homes, including basements	0.60%
Education	1.19%
Continually check gas items in house	0.60%

5. What would you suggest to improve fire safety in Jefferson County?

This question was structured in such a way as to allow multiple responses. 94 responses were received. The following percentages indicate the percentage those answers appeared within those 94 responses.

Require all new construction to be sprinkled and alarmed, better zoning	3.19%
Refresher training for firefighters	1.06%
Hydrants in Shannondale	1.06%
Better road maintenance	1.06%
More marked house numbers	1.06%
Best equipment for firefighters	2.13%
Alternate route from the mountain	6.38%
More fire/EMS stations	5.32%
Make public service elective for high school seniors	1.06%
Install dry hydrants	3.19%
Education regarding wildfires	2.13%
Year-round education	29.79%

Training	4.26%
Educate residents in Shannondale	1.06%
Give out batteries as part of smoke detector campaign	1.06%
Slow population/subdivision growth	1.06%
Open burning laws	8.51%
Fines for throwing out cigarettes (lit or unlit)	1.06%
Regulations for property maintenance	3.19%
Paid firefighters	8.51%
Use GIS	1.06%
Add reservoirs throughout county	1.06%
Stop knee-jerk planning and zoning	1.06%
Increase public water service	1.06%
More volunteers	2.13%
More safety programs in schools	1.06%
Offer free home inspections	3.19%
Full time person to teach at schools, social gatherings, etc.	1.06%
Create a local fire marshal	1.06%
Require better infrastructure in new subdivisions (roads and utilities)	1.06%

6. Do you have any recommendations for improved fire safety for people with special needs?

This question was structured in such a way as to allow multiple responses. 55 responses were received. The following percentages indicate the percentage those answers appeared within those 55 responses.

Education	14.55%
Provide special needs populations with direct access to fire/EMS	1.82%
Get to know neighbors	1.82%
Training for responders and special needs persons	16.36%
Identification stickers on houses	7.27%
On-Star devices for those with special needs	3.64%
Make sure responders know they're there	14.55%
Educate neighbors on how to help them	7.27%

Escape routes in special needs facilities	3.64%
Inspect special needs facilities	5.45%
Develop a group of volunteers to help these individuals in their homes	3.64%
Mapping of special needs locations on GIS with GPS tie-ins	3.64%
Make sure special needs facilities have a plan	5.45%
Find funding to retrofit sprinklers in special needs facilities	1.82%
Housing specs designed for special needs	3.64%
Sensors and extinguishers in special needs facilities	1.82%
Help them identify access points in and out of their home (w/ responders)	1.82%
Require habitation on first floor	1.82%

COMMENTS

Please feel free to type any comments in the space below.

Have never heard of fire departments recruiting volunteer's ✓
 There is only one way out of the "mountain" area which could be cut off ✓✓
 Complete Mission Road into Virginia ✓✓✓✓✓✓
 People need local jobs so they have time to think of fire safety in the home and work local to have time to volunteer rather than commute
 Maybe the time to supplement volunteer staffs in all departments with paid staff has come
 Increase the salary scale for Jefferson County employees
 Seriously consider wildfires in the mountain area ✓
 Educate, educate, educate
 Properly fund police and fire protection
 Thank you for caring about your community
 Response time for police and EMS is poor ✓
 Worried of fires in Shannondale from dried trees and branches
 Local fire department need to be adjusted to the influx of people and call growth
 Delayed responses are an issue if you listen to the scanner
 CERT is the best
 Good survey, hope my comments help
 We need paid firefighters/EMTs in the county...county is too big to rely on volunteers
 Water supply on "the mountain"

Total responses: 105