
Summary Report to TVHA Board

March 25, 2025

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Committee works to define potential risks from wildfire in Timberton Village.

We recognize that we will never be able to make Timberton fireproof. Our job is to research and advise residents on what the possible risks are to Timberton from wildfire, and to make available methods and information on mitigating these risks.

To that end, we would very much appreciate other Timberton residents joining us as members of the committee. As we work on the risk assessment, we need a member from at least each block to work on the identified risks for each block's area and to coordinate with residents of that area to ensure their concerns are addressed.

Our approach is to view wildfire issues and possible mitigation of risks as having two focus areas:

- risks to individual property, primarily home
- risks to common areas within the TVHA control

Of these two, we believe the most important factor in determining the severity of a risk is the first: protecting our individual homes. The closer to a home a risk is, or the more likely it is to ignite the home, the higher priority it should be given.

1. Risks to homes

We have been advised that the greatest wildfire danger to our homes by far comes from embers arising from a wildfire. Preventing ember entry into a home is at the top of the priority list of recommendations for individual homeowners. Preventing ember ignition of adjacent areas, including decks, wood chips in landscaping next to the home, and ignition of vegetation touching the home is next.

We plan to make available a list of additional recommendations for individual homeowners on how they can make their homes more resistant to possible wildfire damage. In addition, residents can request a free in-person visit from a fire department professional to assess their home's risks. Contact EJFR at info@ejfr.org to schedule a walkaround of your home:

<https://www.ejfr.org/information/fire-prevention/>

If the community feels this would be useful, we can develop a presentation about these dangers. We could also assist in organizing a volunteer group to assist individual owners in making these modifications to their properties if requested.

2. Risks to common areas

We consider mitigating risks in common areas to be a lower priority than mitigating risks to homes. However, a wildfire in a common area can still endanger homes, making the risk still important. We have learned that there are a number of factors to consider in evaluating a wildfire risk in wooded areas besides their proximity to homes. Among these are the likelihood of ignition of homes and the risks to the wooded environment and habitat itself. Any proposed mitigation efforts must also take into account the aesthetic effect on Timberton as a whole.

We have conducted a walk around Timberton with the fire department community outreach coordinator and a representative from the Jefferson County Conservation District, members of the Wildfire Safety Advisory committee, and members of the board to take an initial look at common areas and develop an idea of possible risks there. We will be working on publishing a preliminary report from that walkaround with photos for the board to review and publish for public comment and subsequent discussion by the Timberton residents with the board.

Having more members on the Wildfire Safety Advisory committee can reduce the time necessary to prepare this preliminary report, as well as ensure attention to the considerations mentioned earlier for evaluating a possible mitigation.

Once the preliminary report on risk assessment for common areas is ready, public review and participation will be invited. After this public review and comment, we anticipate preparing and presenting to the Board a final report that includes the results of these public discussions to assist the Board in determining what actions to take regarding mitigating wildfire risks in Timberton common areas.

As with mitigation of wildfire risks to individual homes, we can assist in coordinating volunteer efforts to perform some of the mitigation tasks chosen and approved by the board.

Thank you.