

District Profile

Woodward Fire District

**Dallas County
Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023**

Local Planning Team

Table WFD.1: Woodward Fire District Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction
Matt Cavanaugh	Fire Chief	Woodward Fire District
Jessica Cavanaugh	EMS Captain	Woodward Fire District
Julie Hall	Secretary/Treasurer	Woodward Fire District
Bryan Beasley	Woodward Fire	Woodward Fire District
Kasey Morgan	Woodward Fire	Woodward Fire District

Location and Geography

The Woodward Fire District covers the City of Woodward and surrounding areas, totaling 26,880 acres across 42 square miles. The rural areas are most at risk to fire.

Demographics

See the City of Woodward and Dallas County profiles for regional demographic information. The Woodward Fire District serves approximately 1,700 residents.

Future Development Trends

The past five years have seen new housing developments within the fire district. More housing developments are planned for the next five years, including a new housing development southeast of town, new ballfields north of 3rd and Main, and a Dollar General. For these new buildings and developments, builders must pass town buildings and inspections codes.

Staffing

The Woodward Fire District is supervised by a fire chief and a five-member fire board who will oversee the implement of hazard mitigation projects. Other offices are listed below:

- Assistant Fire Chief
- Fire Captain
- EMS Captain
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Fire Marshal

Capabilities

Due to the unique structure of fire districts, the typical capability assessment table was not used. The following table summarizes the district's overall capabilities. The Woodward Fire District will continue to utilize existing relationships with local, county, state, and federal agencies in the implementation of mitigation projects. According to the local planning team, district funds are focused on maintaining current facilities and systems rather than pursuing new capital projects. The fire district has applied for and been granted the Myrna Mayfield Grant, the DNR Matching Wildland Grant, and the Pioneer Grant during the last five years.

Table WFD.2: Overall Capability

Overall Capability	Limited/Moderate/High
Financial resources needed to implement mitigation projects	High
Staff/expertise to implement projects	Limited
Community support to implement projects	Moderate
Time to devote to hazard mitigation	Limited

Plan Integration

Woodward Fire District has limited planning documents, which includes a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). SOGs outline the district's response to a variety of different calls that could be received. The district will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current HMP into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2014)

Woodward Fire District participated in the Saylorville Flood Plain Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), which was developed in 2014. The Saylorville floodplain is located along the Des Moines River. The purpose of the CWPP is to help effectively manage wildfires and increase collaboration and communication among organizations who manage fire. The CWPP discusses area-specific historical wildfire occurrences and impacts, identifies areas most at risk from wildfires, discusses protection capabilities, and identifies wildfire mitigation strategies.

Community Lifelines

Transportation

Major transportation corridors in the district include State Highway 210 and 2nd Street. The most traveled route is Highway 210, with an average of 3,400 vehicles daily, 126 of which are trucks.¹ Highway 141 is located within the district and is a route of concern for the local planning team. The nearest airport, Perry Municipal Airport, is located about 12 miles southwest of Woodward. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the community, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents. Chemicals such as gas, diesel, and anhydrous ammonia are regularly transported along local routes, but no spills have occurred within the district recently. If evacuations were required, the district has identified two difficult locations: Locust Avenue on the East side of Football Field where there is only one access point for entry and exit and the Resource Center and Academy where many mobile and non-mobile individuals would need to be evacuated.

Hazardous Materials

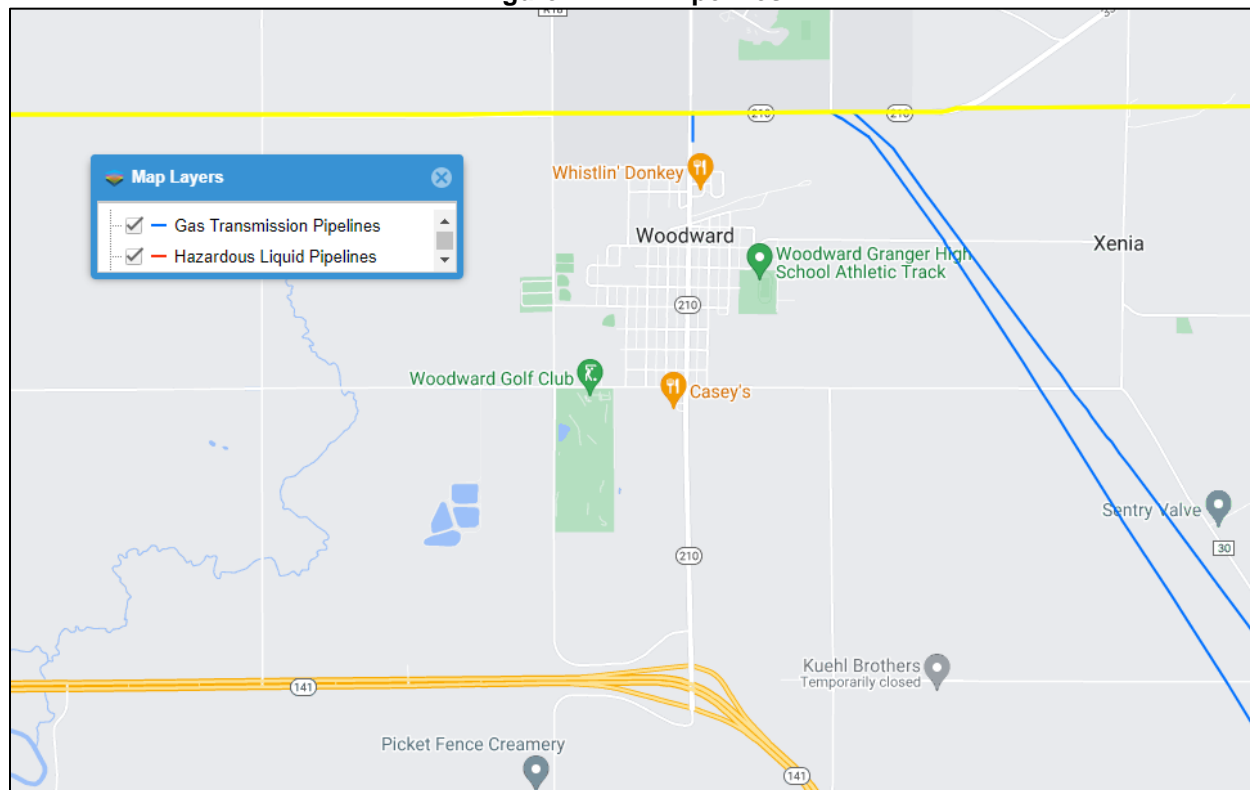
There are gas transmission pipelines that travel near Woodward and can be seen as blue lines in the figure below.

¹ Iowa Department of Transportation. 2020. "Iowa Traffic Data". Accessed May 2022.

<https://iowadot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=0cce99afb78e4d3b9b24f8263717f910>.

Section Seven: Woodward Fire District Profile

Figure WFD.1: Pipelines



Source: National Pipeline Mapping System²

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, there are two chemical storage sites in Woodward that contain hazardous chemicals. Additionally, the local planning team identified three locations, Heartland Cooperative, Bice Oil, and Casey's where chemicals are stored. The anhydrous chemicals located at the Heartland Coop are at highest risk if spills occur. If a spill occurs, the fire department has various response resources including an EMS unit, a fire engine, a hazmat trailer all equipped with peatmoss, and mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities. Training for chemical spill responses occurs once a year.

The first district has the following equipment: two fire engines, one ladder, one EMS truck, a mule truck, brush truck, tanker, hazmat trailer, and a command vehicle. The district provides public outreach and education efforts to the local school district for Fire Safety Week.

Table WFD.3: Chemical Storage Sites

Facility Name	Address	Located in Floodplain?
Landus Cooperative - Woodward	110 Railway Street	No
Minburn Telecommunications Inc	108 W 2nd Street	No

Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources³

² National Pipeline Mapping System. 2022. "Public Viewer." Accessed April 2022. <https://pvnpmns.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer/>.

³ Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2022. "Emergency Response - Tier II Chemical Storage." Accessed April 2022. <https://facilityexplorer.iowadnr.gov/facilityexplorer/>.

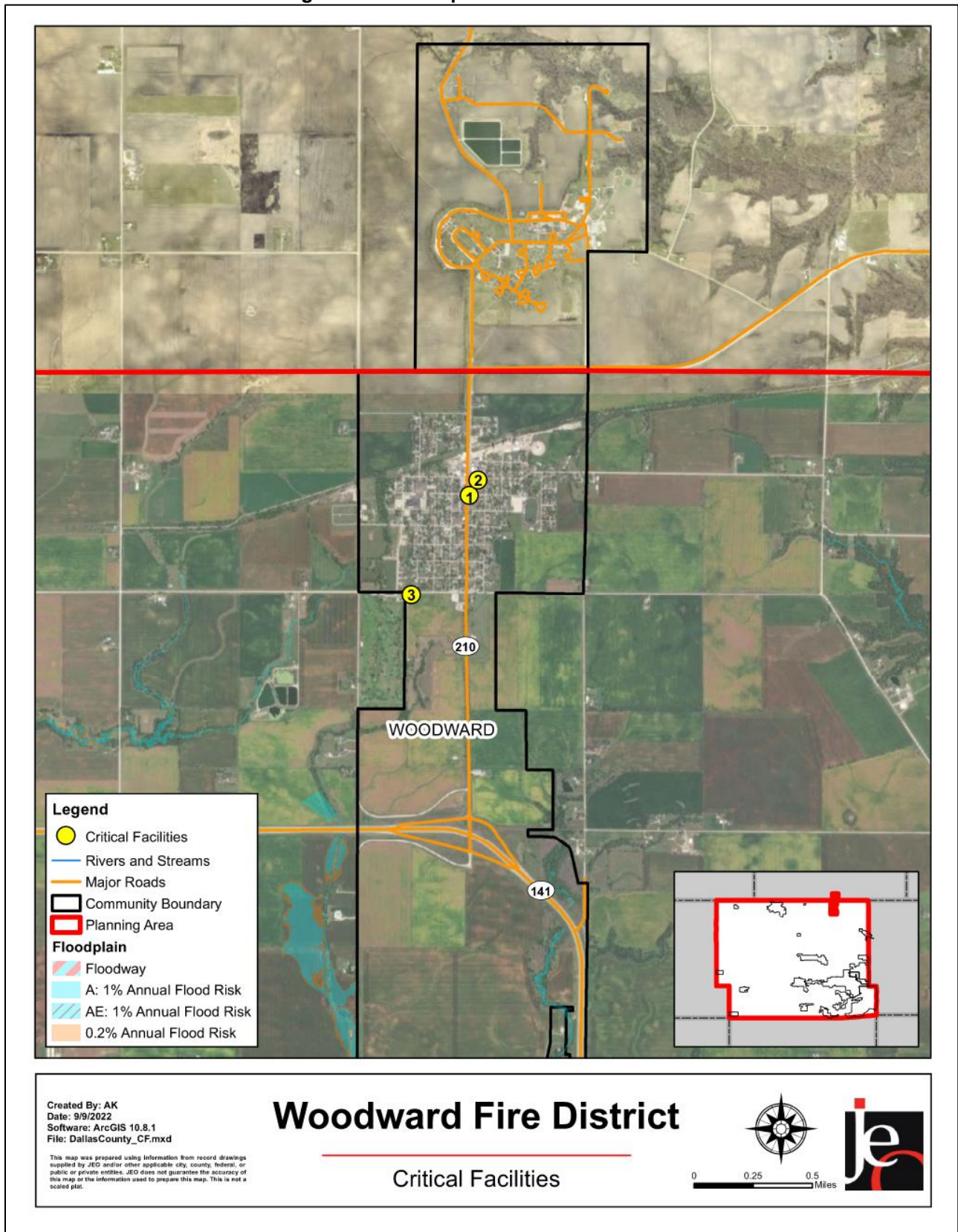
Critical Facilities

The local planning team identified critical facilities that are vital for disaster response, public shelter, and essential for returning the jurisdiction’s functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The following table and figure provide a summary of the critical facilities for the jurisdiction.

Table WFD.4: Critical Facilities

CF #	Name	Mass Care (Y/N)	Generator (Y/N)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Fire Station	Y	Y	N
2	City Hall	N	N	N
3	Legion Hall	Y	N	N

Figure WFD.2: Map of Critical Facilities



Historical Occurrences

See the community profile for the City of Woodward for historical hazard events.

Hazard Prioritization

The hazards discussed in detail below were selected by the local planning team from the county hazard list as the relevant hazards for the jurisdiction. The selected hazards were prioritized by the local planning team based on historical hazard occurrences, potential impacts, and the community's capabilities. For additional discussion regarding area-wide hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

Grass and Wildland Fire

Grass and Wildland Fires are a top hazard of concern for the fire district due to the frequency of farmland burn offs and the lack of wind breaks in the district. In the past, the fire district has experienced thousands of dollars of damage to farmlands and structural damages. The fire district does not have fire breaks around their critical facilities.

Severe Thunderstorms (Includes Hail and Lightning)

This hazard was identified as a top hazard of concern for the fire district due mainly to the possibility of power outages and downed powerlines. Past damages that have occurred within the district included multiple day power outages, numerous downed powerlines, and flooded streets and basements. The fire district experienced a significant hailstorm in July 2021 that damaged district infrastructure. To reduce the potential hazards from severe thunderstorms, the fire district needs backup power generators at the Fire Station, City Hall, Police Station, and the Legion Hall. The fire district uses the county text alerts to get notices for severe weather.

Tornado and Windstorm

Tornado and Windstorm was identified as a top hazard of concern for the fire district. This hazard may cause downed trees, damage to buildings, road blockages, or power outages. If damage to gas lines or cell towers were sustained district communication infrastructure could be impacted. The fire district has experienced a significant tornado in November 2005 and a derecho windstorm in August 2020. Both events caused infrastructure damage, blocked travel routes, and caused communication sources to be limited. The fire district does not have safe rooms or storm shelters within their facilities.

Transportation Incident

The Woodward Fire District includes Iowa Highway 141, a highly trafficked road. Highway 141 has a high volume of semi-truck traffic and experiences numerous accidents each year. The highway is also a popular carpooling route and school route. In 2011 the highway experienced a carpooling accident that shut down traffic in both directions for an extended period of time. No chemical spills or other hazardous material spills have occurred that required the fire district's response.

Mitigation Strategy

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Mitigation Action	Backup Generators
Description	The fire district needs a backup station generator.
Hazard(s)	All hazards
Estimated Cost	Unknown
Local Funding Source	Grants/Fundraisers
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief and Project Team Members
Status	Project has not started.

Mitigation Action	Roadside Safety Equipment
Description	Adding roadside safety equipment to the fire district's inventory will increase the district's ability to help the residents within their boundaries.
Hazard(s)	Grass/Wildland Fire, Transportation Incident
Estimated Cost	Unknown
Local Funding Source	Grants and Fundraisers
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief and Project Team Members
Status	Project has not started

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (e.g., annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), 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 fire department's planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this planning profile as changes can occur before or after a major event. The district's planning team includes the Fire Chief and the members of the mitigation planning team. The plan will be reviewed annually, and the public will be involved in the reviews and revisions via social media, website updates, and board member meetings.