




HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

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JOHN S. BUTLER, FIRE CHIEF • ALLAN H. KITTLEMAN, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Carl DeLorenzo
County Administration Office

From: Chief John S. Butler 
Department of Fire and Rescue Services

Date: January 12, 2016

Subject: Response to APFO Questions

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the questions posed by the APFO committee regarding fire statistics and demographics, as well as the status of water sources available for fire suppression activities in the western area of Howard County.

Questions raised during the last APFO meeting ..

- *How many homes in the western part of the county burn down per year?*
- *How many tanks are on publically owned land?*
- *What is the average density per square mile in the west.*

In order to address the statistical and demographic issues, analysis was conducted on available data for FY2013, FY2014, and FY2015. During this time frame, there were a total of 262 fire incidents, which includes 74 building fires, in the 143 square miles of western Howard County. The population density of this area is calculated to be 326 people per square mile. For additional statistics, please see the attached 4-page document.

Questions about fire suppression tanks and water sources ..

- *How many of the areas below are currently being utilized for fire suppression tanks in areas of the County where public water and fire hydrants do not exist?*

The requested information regarding the location of fire suppression tanks in areas of the County without public water and fire hydrants is as follows:

- 1) Commuter parking lots - None at this time
- 2) HCPSS property - Dayton Oaks Elementary School, Folly Quarter Middle School
- 3) HC Roads Dept. Facilities – There is an existing tank at Dayton Highway Shop. This is not part of Rural Tank Project, but is accessible by HCDFRS
- 4) State Roads Dept Facilities - Dayton Shop has existing tank, see above
- 5) HC Parks - Warfield Pond Park, Schooley Mill Park, Lisbon Park, Benson Branch Park, Howard Co Living Farm Museum

6) HC Library Facilities - Glenwood Complex

7) State Park Lands - None at this time

- *If the above listed sites are not currently being used, are they being considered for future usage?*

Short-term plans include the installation of fire suppression tanks at Poplar Springs Park (RT#36), Western Regional Park Maintenance Shed (RT#20), and Doughregan Manor (RT#106). In the past, DFRS has attempted use of State Park Lands (#7 above). This presented considerable challenges, to include land acquisition and requirements associated with Forest Conservation (River Road in the West friendship area for example).

- *How many points of access to Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge Reservoirs and Patuxent and Patapsco Rivers currently exist?*

There are a few points of access available for HCDFRS use. For the Triadelphia Reservoir there are two access points suitable for drafting activities. These access points are Triadelphia Mill Road at Greenbridge Road Boat Ramp at the Pig Tail Area Launch and on Triadelphia Mill Road at the Big Branch Launch. Rocky Gorge Reservoir is accessible on Harding Road at Scotts Cove.

cc: Grace Fielhauer

Western Howard County, MD¹ Department of Fire and Rescue Services

Quick Facts:

- 96% of residential homes were built prior to 2011
- 262² fire incidents occurred between FY2013 and FY2015
- \$7.9 billion assessed residential property³

Table 1: Fire Incidents

	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	Total Fire Incidents
Building Fires	22	25	27	74
All Other Fires⁴	69	67	52	188
Total Fires	91	92	79	262

Table 2: General Demographics

	Howard County	West
Square Miles	253 mi ²	143 mi ²
Population⁵	293,821	46,000
Population Density	1,161 per mi ²	326 per mi ²
Residential Properties	94,475	14,009
Residential Property Density	373 per mi ²	99 per mi ²

Table 3: Number of Residential Homes by Year Built⁶

Year Built	# of Residential Units	% of Total Residential Units
Prior to 1900	117	0.84%
1900-1910	107	0.76%
1911-1920	77	0.55%
1921-1930	96	0.69%
1931-1940	74	0.53%
1941-1950	151	1.08%
1951-1960	441	3.15%
1961-1970	972	6.94%
1971-1980	2,524	18.02%
1981-1990	2,533	18.08%
1991-2000	2,959	21.12%
2001-2011	2,058	14.69%
After 2011	493	3.52%
Unknown	1,407	10.04%
Total	14,009	100%

¹ Western is defined as the area where there is no planned service/development expected to occur. These residents do not have public water or sewer.

² Estimated based on Boundaries

³ 2014 SDAT

⁴ Includes structure fires, auto fires, brush fires, outside equipment fires, trash or waste fires, and other

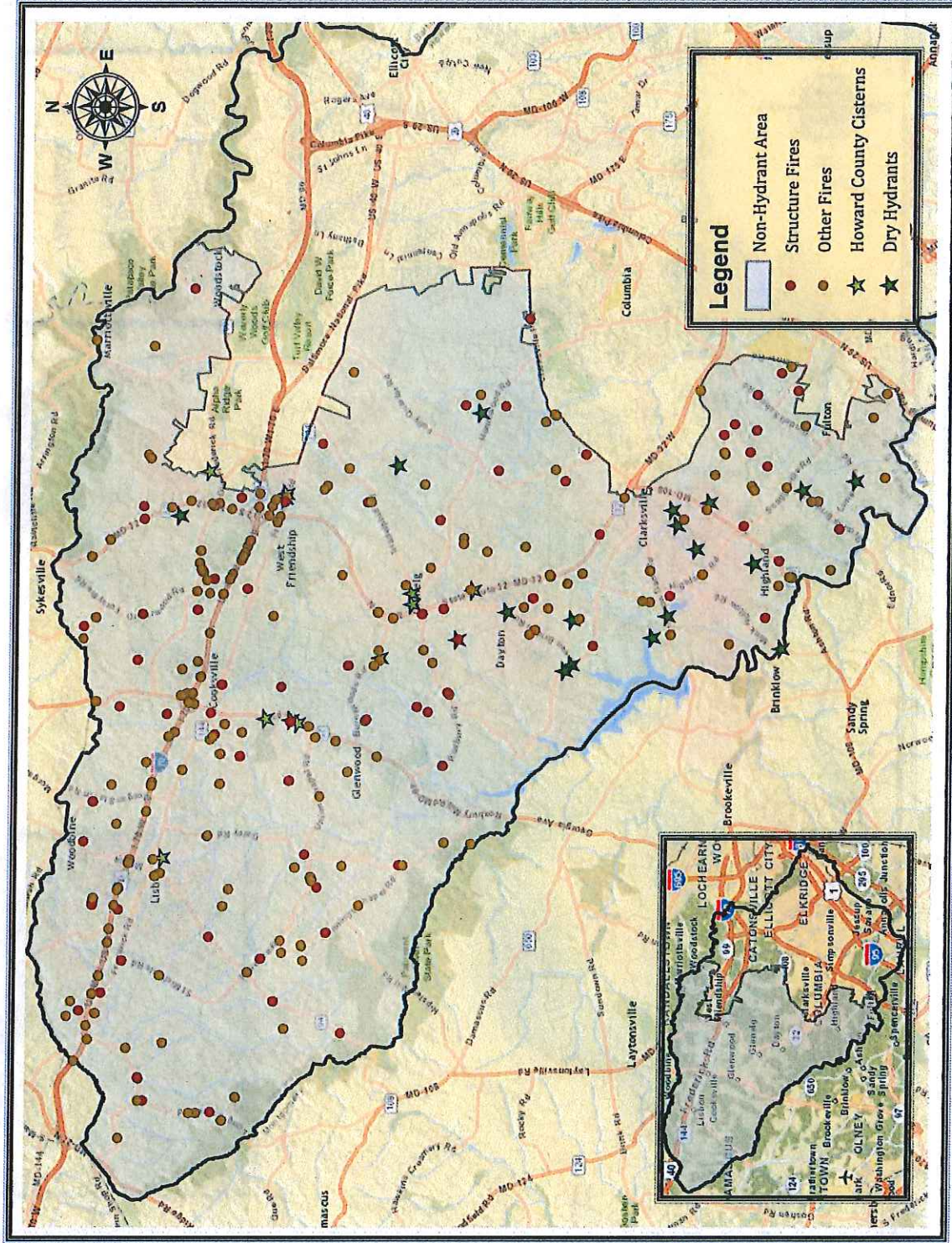
⁵ 2009-2013 American Community Survey

⁶ 2014 SDAT

Table 4: Property Assessment

Land Use	Number of Properties	Lowest Assessed Property	Highest Assessed Property	Average Assessed Property	Total Value of Assessed Property
Total	16,159	\$0	\$93,702,400	N/A	\$9,179,005,700
Residential	14,009	\$0	\$5,539,200	\$567,066	\$7,944,023,600
Agricultural	1,062	\$100	\$4,096,900	\$362,235	\$384,694,000
Unknown	371	\$0	0	0	0
Exempt	350	\$0	\$16,549,600	\$608,106	\$212,837,200
Commercial	136	\$0	\$9,449,500	\$957,445	\$130,212,500
Residential Condominium	92	\$364,300	\$521,200	\$426,030	\$39,194,800
Exempt Commercial	85	\$17,200	\$93,702,400	\$5,316,252	\$451,881,400
Commercial Residential	31	\$139,900	\$916,600	\$288,968	\$8,958,000
Commercial Condominium	14	\$0	\$941,400	\$424,021	\$5,936,300
Industrial	9	\$0	\$1,218,100	\$140,878	\$1,267,900

Western Howard County, MD FY2013-2015 Fire Incident Data



Western Howard County, MD FY2013-2015 Hot Spot Fire Incident Data

