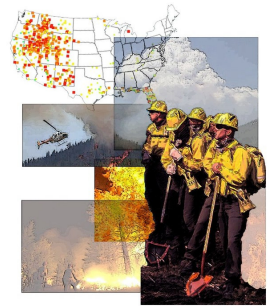


National Fire Plan

Hazard Mitigation at Clemson University

South Carolina

2003



The north side of this upscale community, which borders on Clemson University property, had a buildup of hazardous fuels including dead and down trees destroyed in a recent southern pine beetle epidemic, tree and yard trimmings from adjacent homeowners' yards, and an accumulation of pine needles and hardwood leaves. There are mature hardwood and pine trees in the area. The terrain has drains throughout, which could provide avenues for wildfire to travel.

The SC Forestry Commission worked with Clemson University and the Clemson University Fire Department to complete this project, which was funded by the National Fire Plan. Homeowners were contacted to make them aware of the proposed work.



In order to reduce hazardous fuels and allow safe passage of fire engines in the area adjacent to the subdivision, the SC Forestry Commission proposed removing vegetation for 10 feet on either side of the Catawba Road, which borders the backyards of homeowners in the subdivision. The cleared area, which totals 30 feet (including the width of the road and cleared areas), will allow ingress and egress of fire equipment as well as a firebreak in case of wildfire originating on Clemson property. This road was also widened as recommended and sown with grass and wildlife seed on either side. In the event of a wildfire, the grassy area can be easily extended into Catawba Road to anchor the firebreak.

Trees in the area between the road and homeowners' properties were chipped and chainsawed, then cleared with a leaf blower for sowing. Clemson University has agreed to keep the area cleared by disking as necessary and blowing dead leaves out of the break in the fall. A sign was placed in the area marking it as a cooperative hazard mitigation project.