

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Fremont County/Municipal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan is to promote sound public policy designed to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property and the environment from multi-hazard events. This can be achieved by increasing public awareness, documenting the resources for risk reduction and loss prevention, and identifying activities to guide Fremont County communities towards building a safer, more sustainable community. Fremont County is progressive and rich in history and productivity. It is a mixture of multi-jurisdictional governments.

Throughout history, the residents of Fremont County have dealt with the various natural hazards. Photos, journal entries, and newspaper accounts from the early 1900's show that the residents of the area dealt with high water, severe windstorms, harsh winter storms, forest fires and earthquakes. The natural hazards adversely affected the lives of those who depended on the land and climate conditions for food and welfare. As the population of Fremont County will surely increase in the future, the exposure to natural and technological hazards will create a higher risk than historically experienced.

Unfortunately, we now live in a changing world environment that includes the threat of violent acts upon the government and citizens in America. Intentional acts of violence and destruction using weapons of mass destruction pose an even greater risk to the daily lives of our citizens.

The people of Fremont County are unique as they always pull together in times of major emergencies to assure that family and neighbors will live in a safer environment. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That saying will be the basic foundation of the purpose of this comprehensive, all inclusive and multi-jurisdictional multi-hazard mitigation effort.

What is natural hazard mitigation?

Natural hazard mitigation is the development and implementation of activities designed to reduce or eliminate losses resulting from natural events.

Whom Does the Mitigation Plan Affect?

The Fremont County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan affects Riverton, Lander, Dubois, Shoshoni, Hudson, Pavillion and all the unincorporated areas within Fremont County (the Wind River Indian Reservation was provided the opportunity to review and comment on the Plan. The Wind River Indian Reservation is in the process of preparing their own Mitigation Plan.) This includes all unincorporated rural areas as well as urban and suburban areas in our cities and towns. This plan is a framework for defining and mitigating natural and technological hazards.

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”

That saying should be the bases of this county's hazards mitigation program. While we cannot prevent natural hazards from occurring, local government can and should certainly explore new concepts to reduce the effects these hazards can impose on local residents and those who visit Fremont County.

This plan is not intended to override existing initiatives, planning strategies and efforts by local boards and commissions' vision for the future. This planning initiative compliments, focuses and documents all of the strategies that have been developed in recent years in local government. This document is but a “toolbox” of appropriate strategies that can be used to identify, prioritize and implement sound hazard mitigation action items throughout the county.

Plan Organization

Chapter 1 - Introduction

The Introduction describes the background and purpose of developing the mitigation plan for Fremont County.

Chapter 2 - Multi-Hazard Goals

This section identifies the goals and action items for the hazards addressed in the multi-hazard mitigation action plan.

Chapter 3 - Community Profile

This section represents the history, geography, demographics and socio-economics of Fremont County. It serves as a tool to provide a historical perspective of natural hazards in Fremont County.

Chapter 4 - Planning Process

This section includes the documentation on how the projects were chosen and prioritized throughout the county.

Chapter 5 - Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment

This section identifies all hazards that have or could happen in Fremont County.

Chapters 6 to 11 - Hazard Information

Each of the hazard chapters, covering flood, landslide, severe winter storm, drought, wildland fire and earthquake, includes information on the history, causes and other characteristics of the hazard discussed. Also included is information about the potential impact of the hazard, proposed action items for preventing or lessening the impact, and resources available to assist with mitigation planning.

Chapter 12 - Proposed Action Items

This section provides information on projects that may be adopted for improvement of mitigation items in the county.

Chapter 13 - Plan Implementation and Maintenance

This section provides information on how the plan will be monitored and updated, and designates those responsible.

Appendices A to G

The appendices are designed to provide users of the Fremont County / Municipal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan with additional information to assist them in understanding the contents of the mitigation plan, and potential resources to assist them with implementation. Expansion of the resource listings is an ongoing project that is currently under revision through the National Response Plan. Potential resources will be added as they are located and identified. The following appendices are included:

Appendix A: List of acronyms

Appendix B: Provides historical information taken from various news media sources that depict the history of hazardous events in Fremont County Wyoming.

Appendix C: Town of Dubois Pre-Disaster Flood Mitigation Plan. This document is included for reference and review of planning efforts in the Town of Dubois.

Appendix D: Popo Agie Conservation District Long Range Plan. This document is included for reference and review of the conservation district's five-year plan.

Appendix E: Popo Agie Conservation District Long Range Plan 2008-2012. The following Long Range Plan was developed to guide the Popo Agie Conservation District's natural resource conservation programs over the next five years.

Appendix F: Mined-Out Areas of Fremont County. This document is a report on areas that have been mined out throughout our history.

Appendix G: Windblown Deposits. Windblown deposits are not considered to be a major problem in Fremont County. The documentation is included in case of changes in the future.