

## **Chapter 13:**

### **Plan Implementation and Maintenance**

The Fremont County Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for submitting the Fremont County/Municipal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) at the Wyoming Homeland Security/Emergency Management Agency. The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security (WOHS) will then submit the plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review. This review will address the federal criteria outlined in FEMA Interim Final Rule 44 CFR Part 201. Upon acceptance by FEMA, Fremont County Government and the incorporated cities and towns in Fremont County will gain eligibility for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds.

It must be considered that events and priorities can, and will change and that priorities will be re-set as to areas where taxpayer dollars will be spent. It is believed because of the low tax base (Fremont County does not benefit from the same tax base that Campbell County does) that mitigation projects have failed to be addressed in part, or whole, by the multiple jurisdictions. The Fremont County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is still a viable document, and projects listed will still be given consideration as funding becomes more readily available.

This section of this document details the process that will ensure that the Fremont County/Municipal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan remains an active and relevant document. The plan maintenance process includes scheduling evaluations of the mitigation plan regularly and producing a revision every five (5) years. Participation from the public and each jurisdiction is required.

Fremont County Emergency Management Agency must rethink the methods previously used to obtain compliance from the municipalities. This could include future visits to the individual municipalities for face-to-face meetings, reviewing flood costs for the years 2010 and 2011, which may enlighten elected officials to the fact it is less costly to prepare than to rebuild, or repeat scenarios of costly flood fighting efforts.

### **Updated Plan Adoption**

The Board of Fremont County Commissioners and the Mayors of the incorporated cities and towns in Fremont County, acting as the Fremont County Association of Governments, will be responsible for adopting the Fremont County/Municipal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan after it has been accepted by FEMA. Municipalities have accepted the Plan in its current form (see "Acknowledgement and Acceptance Form" located in the Update Information section, pgs. 1.4 thru 1.10.) After FEMA has accepted the updated plan, Fremont County Emergency Management Agency will present a "Resolution" to the Fremont County Commissioners and municipalities for acceptance of the updated version. This updated version, once accepted by FEMA, will be posted to the Fremont County Government web site, under the Fremont County Emergency Management Agency's section.

## Coordinating Body

A Fremont County/Municipal Hazard Mitigation Working Group (working through the Fremont County Association of Governments) will be responsible for implementing and reviewing the plan action items. Representation could be selected from the following agencies:

- County/Municipal Department Heads
- GIS Mapping
- Emergency Management
- Engineer
- Public Utilities
- Planning
- Fire Department
- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Medical Services
- Finance

In order to make this Working Group as broad and useful as possible, the Fremont County Emergency Management Coordinator may engage other relevant organizations and agencies into hazard mitigation. Other recommendations for adding to the Hazard Mitigation Working Group may include:

- An elected official
- A representative from the Chamber of Commerce
- An insurance representative
- A realtor
- Representation from local advocacy groups and associations such as a home builder association or multiple land use group

The Working Group will meet no less than semi-annually, or as time permits. All meetings are advertised, allowing notification to the public, and inviting their input. These public meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss the progress of the action items and maintain the partnerships that are essential for the sustainability of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Lack of participation on the local municipalities part constricted meetings being scheduled during the time constraint of the revision of the Fremont County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Municipalities were contacted by phone and in writing. Again, lack of interest may stem from lack of funds to invest in mitigation efforts as the coffers of these communities are stretched thin simply by "paying the bills". Fremont County Emergency Management Agency personnel were also restricted by valuable time spent on emergency response to, and aftermath of, paperwork on the 2010 Flood. This was valuable time intended to be used for revision of the plan. The lesson learned in this will provide Fremont County Emergency Management Agency the tools for improved time management in ensuring the next five years are divided proportionately towards mitigation planning and updating. The fact that flooding in 2010 and 2011 have presented costly damages to the communities of Lander, Hudson, Dubois and Fremont County in general, may

enlighten these municipalities as to the value and importance of meeting, planning, participating and preparing for disasters.

## **Convener**

The Fremont County Commissioners and the Mayor of all cities and towns in Fremont County will adopt the Fremont County/Municipal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan and each jurisdiction will take responsibility for plan implementation of mitigation issues arising in their jurisdictions, with Fremont County Government providing assistance. Plan implementation and evaluation will be a shared responsibility among all of Hazard Mitigation Working Group Members. The Fremont County Emergency Management Coordinator will serve as a convener to facilitate the Working Group meetings, and will assign tasks such as updating and presenting the Plan to the members of the group.

## **Implementation through Existing Programs**

Fremont County Government addresses statewide planning goals and legislative requirements through the County Land Use Plan. The Fremont County/Municipal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan provides a series of recommendations, many of which are closely related to the goals and objectives of existing planning programs. Fremont County Government and the incorporated cities and towns in Fremont County will have the opportunity to implement recommended mitigation action items through existing programs and procedures - as financial resources allow.

Upon adoption of the mitigation plan, county and municipal officials will assist each other in continuing to develop their respective hazard mitigation goals and actions by utilizing the Fremont County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan as a baseline of information on all hazards that could impact all jurisdictions within Fremont County. These goals and action items in turn can assist local governments addressing statewide planning goals and legislative requirements. Specifically, county and city planning offices, the LEPC and FCAG will incorporate elements of the Fremont County Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan into future and existing mitigation and planning efforts. Mitigation actions are also integrated into ongoing efforts including FIREWISE, Lander Greenways and County Road/Bridge projects.

## **Formal Review Process**

The Fremont County/Municipal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan will be evaluated on a regular basis to determine the effectiveness of programs, and to reflect changes in land development or programs that may affect mitigation priorities. The Fremont County/Municipal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan will be formally reviewed at least every five (5) years.

## **Continued Public Involvement**

The Board of Fremont County Commissioners and the Mayors of all cities and towns in Fremont County are dedicated to involving the public directly in the continued review and updates of the Fremont County/Municipal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan.

The citizens of Fremont County will continue to be invited to provide input regarding mitigation issues within the county. This will be accomplished by having the plan on the Fremont County Government web site, as well as having it on the agenda for meetings of agencies involved in the planning and implementation of the mitigation plan. The LEPC meets approximately twice a year and is advertised two weeks prior to the meeting date. This will allow notification to the public in time for them to schedule attendance to these meetings. Revision of the mitigation plan for the year 2016 will include setting up a schedule of meetings with agencies such as the Fremont County Planning Commission, zoning boards and elected officials of municipalities to review the value of mitigation projects being implemented, rather than facing costly repairs from damages after an emergency (i.e., flooding.)

Critical infrastructures are identified and mapped through the Fremont County Mapping Department. These maps are located in Chapter 5, Hazard Identification. Values of the structure replacement of buildings have been included. Only the value of the building is in this cost. No equipment or land costs are addressed in these values.

Through multiple agencies and departments, Fremont County Government provides education to all on hazard exposure factors for consideration when locating and planning construction of public structures, including critical facilities. Through this plan, the continued improvement of the safety of the population and critical infrastructure is improved and maintained.

## **AUTHORITIES FOR FREMONT COUNTY/MUNICIPAL MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION ACTION PLAN**

This planning document is developed and prepared in accordance with:

- ❑ Section 322 of Public Law 106-390 “The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000”
- ❑ Public Law 100-707 “The Robert T. Stafford Relief and Assistance Act” of 1988 as amended
- ❑ Wyoming State Statute 19-13-101 “Wyoming Emergency Management Act”
- ❑ Wyoming State Statute 18-2-101, 18-3-105, 18-3-504 (Powers of Co. Commissioners)
- ❑ Wyoming State Statute 18-5-101 through 18-5-315 (Counties to establish planning commissions)
- ❑ Wyoming State Statute 9-8-101 through 9-8-302 “State Land Use Planning Act”
- ❑ Wyoming State Statute 18-3-606, 18-3-609 (Powers of Co. Sheriffs)
- ❑ Wyoming State Statute 15-1-109 (Powers of Mayors)
- ❑ Wyoming State Statute 35-9-201 (Powers of Fire Protection Districts)
- ❑ Fremont County Commissioner Emergency Management Resolution
- Local City and Town Emergency Management Resolution

## **Use of Future Planning Mechanisms**

If at a future time documents become available to be included into the mitigation plan, these will be added and made available to all those involved. These may include master planning documents for the county or any of the municipalities. These documents may also include regulations such as zoning ordinances, sub-division regulations or any other documents that could influence the construction of new building or massive remodeling of present construction.

Each section of the mitigation plan provides information and resources to assist people in understanding the county and the hazard-related issues facing citizens, businesses and the environment. Combined, the sections of the plan work together to create a document that guides the mission to reduce risk and prevent loss from future hazard events.

The structure of the plan enables people to use a section of interest to them. It also allows county government to review and update sections when new data becomes available. The ability to update individual sections of the mitigation plan places less of a financial burden on the county. Decision-makers can allocate funding and staff resources to selected pieces in need of review, thereby avoiding a full update, which can be costly and time-consuming. New data can be easily incorporated, resulting in a natural hazards mitigation plan that remains current and relevant to Fremont County.