

Section 4:

Mitigation Plan Mission, Goals and Action Items

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Introduction

This section provides information on the process used to develop the mission, goals and action items addressed in the mitigation plan. It also describes the framework that focuses the plan on developing successful mitigation strategies. The framework is made up of three parts— Mission, Goals and Action Items:

- *Mission*— The mission statement is a philosophical or value statement that answers the question “Why develop a plan?” The mission statement provides the overarching direction for the natural hazards mitigation plan. In short, the mission states the purpose and defines the primary function of the Yamhill County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The mission is an action-oriented statement of the plan’s reason to exist. It should be broad enough that it need not change unless the community environment changes.
- *Goals*—Goals are designed to drive actions and they are intended to represent the general end toward which the county effort is directed. Goals identify how the area intends to work toward mitigating risk from natural hazards. They should not specify how the community is to achieve the level of performance. The goals provide direction and a framework for the specific recommendations that are outlined in the action items.
- *Action Items*—The action items are detailed recommendations for activities that local departments, residents and others could engage in to reduce risk (See Section 5 for information on the plan’s action items).

Mission

The mission of the Yamhill County Natural Hazards Mitigation Action Plan is: *to reduce risk, prevent loss and protect life, property and the environment from natural hazard events through coordination and cooperation among public and private partners. This can be achieved by increasing public awareness, documenting the resources for risk reduction and loss-prevention, and identifying activities that will guide the county towards building a safer community.*

Mitigation Plan Goals

Mitigation plan goals are broad statements of direction that Yamhill County residents and public and private partners can take while working to reduce the county’s risk from natural hazards. These statements of direction form a bridge between the broad mission statement and particular action items.

Meetings with the project steering committee, stakeholder interviews, and an open house all served as methods to obtain input and priorities in developing goals for reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards in Yamhill County.

The plan goals addressed by each action item are a means for monitoring and evaluating how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals following implementation.

The plan goals help to guide the direction of future activities aimed at reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards. The goals listed here serve as checkpoints as agencies and organization begin implementing mitigation action items.

Goal #1: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Goal Statement: Coordinate natural hazard mitigation activities, where appropriate, with emergency operations plans and procedures and with various other agencies, as appropriate.

Goal #2: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Goal Statement: Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with natural hazards.

Goal #3: PARTNERSHIPS

Goal Statement: Develop effective partnerships with public and private sector organizations and significant agencies and businesses for future natural hazard mitigation efforts.

Goal #4: PREVENTIVE

Goal Statements:

- Develop and implement activities to protect human life, commerce, and property from natural hazards.
- Reduce losses and repetitive damage for chronic hazard events while promoting insurance coverage for catastrophic hazards.

Goal #5: NATURAL RESOURCES UTILIZATION

Goal Statement: Link natural resources management, land use planning, and watershed planning with natural hazard mitigation activities to protect natural systems and allow them to serve natural hazard mitigation functions.

Goal #6: IMPLEMENTATION

Goal Statement: Implement strategies to mitigate the effects of natural hazards.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Action Items

Action items are detailed recommendations for mitigation the impacts of natural hazard events in Yamhill County. Action items are measurable steps towards achieving the plan's mission. The action

items are both hazard specific (e.g., strategies for flood mitigation, wildfire mitigation, landslide mitigation, etc.) and multi-hazard (i.e., cuts across all specific hazards).

Steering committee meetings identified and refined natural hazards mitigation plan action items. Information from stakeholder interviews also identified and refined action items. The action items outline both short- and long-term strategies to reduce the risk to Yamhill County from natural hazards. The action items are both hazard specific (i.e., strategies only for floods, wildfires, landslides, etc.) and multi-hazard (i.e., cuts across all specified hazards).

To facilitate implementation, each action item includes information on timeframe during which the action should occur, coordinating and partner organizations, ideas for implementation, and plan goals addressed.

It is important to note that it is not a requirement to perform cost-benefit analyses on the action items defined in the plan. The “ideas for implementation” found below each action item primarily emphasizes incorporating the actions of the mitigation plan into existing programs and other planning mechanisms such as land use and capital improvement plans where appropriate.

The activities or action items may be considered for funding through federal and state grant programs, and through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program, as funds are made available. Each action item addresses the following five elements to help ensure implementation of the activities:

1. Coordinating Organization
2. Partner Organization(s)
3. Timeline
4. Notes and Implementation Ideas
5. Plan Goals Addressed

The sections of this plan that address the six chronic hazards and the one catastrophic hazard include the action items pertaining to that specific natural hazard.

Coordinating Organization

The coordinating organization is the public agency with regulatory responsibility to address natural hazards, or one willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, or oversee activity implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Coordinating organizations may include local, county or regional groups that are in relative proximity to the county to facilitate implementation of activities and programs.

Partner Organizations

Partner organizations are agencies or public/private sector organizations that will assist the coordinating organizations in implementing action items by providing relevant resources. Partner organizations may include regional, state and federal agencies, as well as local and county public and private sector organizations. Partner organizations are potential partners recommended by the project steering committee, but not necessarily contacted during plan development. Partner organizations should be contacted by the coordinating organization to establish commitment of time and resources to activities. This initial contact is also to gain a commitment of time and or resources towards completion of the action items.

Internal Partners:

Internal partner organizations are departments within the county that may be able to assist in the implementation of action items by providing relevant resources to the coordinating organization.

External Partners:

External partner organizations can assist the coordinating organization in implementing the action items in various functions and may include local, regional, state, or federal agencies, as well as local and regional public and private sector organizations.

Timeline

Action items include both short- and long-term activities. Each action item includes an estimate of the timeline for implementation. *Short-term action items* (ST) are activities that county agencies are capable of implementing with existing resources and authorities within one to two years. *Long-term action items* (LT) may require new or additional resources or authorities and may take between one and five years to implement.

Ideas for Implementation:

Almost all action items include ideas for implementation and potential resources. This information offers a transition from theory to practice. The ideas for implementation serve as a starting point for this plan. This component of the action items is dynamic as some ideas may be not feasible and new ideas can be added during the plan maintenance process. (For more information on how this plan will be implemented and evaluated, see Section 5).

The action items are suggestions for ways to implement the plan goals only. Some of these items may prove to be unrealistic and other, more refined ideas may be identified and added to the plan. Ideas for implementation include things such as collaboration with relevant organizations; grant programs, human resources, education and outreach, research, and physical manipulation of buildings and infrastructure. A list of potential resources outlines what organization or agency will be most qualified and capable to perform the

implementation strategy. Potential resources often include utility companies, non-profits, schools, and other community organizations.

Plan Goals Addressed:

Each action item includes a list of the plan goals that the activity will address. Action items should be fact based and tied directly to issues or needs identified throughout the planning process. Action items can be developed from a number of sources including participants of the planning process, noted deficiencies in local capability, or issues identified through the risk assessment.

Public Participation

In addition to the Steering Committee meetings, an open house was held on April 20, 2005, to inform the public on Yamhill County Natural Hazards. The purpose of the open house was to gather comments and ideas from the residents of Yamhill County about natural hazards mitigation planning, to inform the public about natural hazards that occur in Yamhill County, and identify community priorities, and potential strategies for achieving these priorities.

A complete listing of input methods and public comment is located in *Appendix B: Public Participation Process*.

Meetings with the project steering committee, stakeholder interviews and the public open house all served as methods to obtain input and priorities in developing goals for reducing risk and preventing loss for natural hazards in Yamhill County.

Multi-Hazard Action Items (MH)

Multi-hazard action items are those activities that pertain to all seven hazards in the mitigation plan: flood, landslide, wildfire, severe winter storm, windstorm, drought and earthquake.

Multi-Hazard Action Item 1: Provide assistance to incorporated communities and special districts in developing natural hazards mitigation plans.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Develop workshops and outreach materials with Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW), Yamhill County Emergency Management, and Yamhill County Planning Division to assist in developing Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans for incorporated communities in Yamhill County.
- Assist the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments in developing Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans for smaller cities in Yamhill County.
- Incorporate completed, approved mitigation plans with the Yamhill County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan as Addenda.

Coordinating Organization: Emergency Management

Internal Partner: Planning Division
External Partner: Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, city emergency management agencies, Red Cross, emergency response agencies, OEM, FEMA

Timeline: 1 to 2 years; on-going
Plan Goals Addressed: Emergency Operations; Education & Outreach; Partnerships; Preventive; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 2: Consider the goals and action items from the Yamhill County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for implementation in other county documents and programs, where appropriate.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Review the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for opportunities to update the County's Comprehensive Plan. Statewide Planning Goal 7 is designed to protect life and property from natural disasters and hazards through planning strategies;
- Consider how components of the County's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan might be used in updating current and future capital improvement plans.

Coordinating Organization: Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee
Timeline: Annually, on-going
Plan Goals Addressed: Emergency Operations; Education & Outreach; Partnerships; Preventive; Natural Resources Utilization; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 3: Evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs and identify shortcomings in natural hazard mitigation. Balance the objectives of program goals with natural hazards mitigation.

Coordinating Organization: Steering Committee
Internal Partners: Planning Division; Public Works Department
Timeline: 1 to 3 years; on-going
Plan Goals Addressed: Preventive; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 4: Identify funding opportunities for developing and implementing local and county mitigation activities.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Develop incentives that encourage local governments, residents, and businesses to consider hazard mitigation projects;
- Consider funding sources that assist in completing mitigation projects when possible;
- Develop partnerships amongst organizations and agencies in Yamhill County, which identify grant programs and foundations that support mitigation activities.

Coordinating Organization: Steering Committee
 Internal Partner: Planning Department
 External Partners: OEM, FEMA, IISOI
 Timeline: 1 to 2 years
 Plan Goals Addressed: Emergency Operations; Education & Outreach; Partnerships; Preventive; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 5: Develop a process for the Yamhill County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Steering Committee to assist in implementing, monitoring, and evaluating county-wide mitigation activities.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Oversee implementation of the mitigation plan;
- Provide a mechanism to update and revise the mitigation plan;
- Monitor hazard mitigation implementation;
- Update the Natural Hazard Mitigation Action Plan with new information in accordance with Section 1.
- Conduct a review of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan at least every 5 years, evaluating mitigation successes, and area that were not addressed.

Coordinating Organization: Steering Committee
 Timeline: 1 year – upon adoption of the plan
 Plan Goals Addressed: Education & Outreach; Partnerships; Preventive; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 6: Determine the impact that each natural hazard could have on the priority transportation routes to and from emergency facilities and first responder sites.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Establish action measures to ensure that priority routes are given priority in resource utilization to ensure open access during hazard events.

Coordinating Organization: Emergency Management
Internal Partner: Sheriff's Office
External Partners: Fire and police departments, and other first responders
Timeline: On-going (every 5 years)
Plan Goals Addressed: Emergency Operations; Partnerships; Preventive; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 7: Identify collaborative programs that recognize ways to decrease the risks of natural hazards.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Distribute information about flood, fire, earthquake, and other forms of natural hazards to property owners in areas identified as high risk through hazard mapping.
- Educate individuals and businesses on the benefit of mitigation activities.
- Encourage communication and dissemination of natural hazard mitigation information.

Coordinating Organization: Emergency Management
Internal Partner: Planning Division
External Partner: Chambers of Commerce
Timeline: 1 to 2 years
Plan Goals Addressed: Emergency Operations; Education & Outreach; Partnerships; Preventive; Natural Resources Utilization; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 8: Develop public and private partnerships to foster natural hazard mitigation program coordination and collaboration in Yamhill County.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Coordinate with cities in Yamhill County and the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments on development of Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans that are consistent with the goals and framework of the county plan.
- Identify all organizations within Yamhill County that have programs or interests in natural hazards mitigation planning.

- Involve private businesses throughout the county in mitigation planning.

Coordinating Organization: Emergency Management
 Internal Partner: Planning Division
 Timeline: On-going
 Plan Goals Addressed: Education & Outreach; Partnerships; Preventive; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 9: Develop GIS inventories of essential facilities, at-risk buildings and infrastructure and prioritize mitigation projects.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Identify critical facilities at risk from natural hazards events.
- Develop strategies to mitigate risk to these facilities, or to utilize alternative facilities should natural hazard events cause damage to the facilities in question.
- Identify bridges at risk from flood or earthquake hazards.
- Enhance evacuation route system capacities.

Coordinating Organization: Emergency Management
 Internal Partner: GIS, Planning and Public Works
 External Partner: ODOT, city planning and public works departments, utility companies, emergency response agencies, MWVCOG, ODF, BLM, USFS
 Timeline: 1 to 2 years; on-going
 Plan Goals Addressed: Education and Outreach, Partnerships, Preventive, Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 10: Strengthen emergency services' preparedness and response by linking emergency services with natural hazard mitigation programs, and enhance public education on a regional scale.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Educate private property owners on limitations of infrastructure in an emergency.
- Encourage private property owners to upgrade private roadways to support weight of fire trucks and emergency vehicles and provide clearance for emergency vehicles.
- Encourage individual and family preparedness through public education projects.
- Encourage coordination of emergency transportation routes between the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, Yamhill County Public Works, city jurisdictions, and the ODOT.

- Identify partnership opportunities amongst citizens, residents, private contractors, and other jurisdictions, which increase availability of equipment and staffing for response efforts.
- Continue coordination with public officials on requirements for disaster assistance.

Coordinating Organization: Emergency Management
 Internal Partners: Planning and Public Works
 External Partners: Cities, ODOT
 Timeline: 3 to 5 years
 Plan Goals Addressed: Emergency Operations; Education & Outreach; Preventive

Multi-Hazard Action Item 11: Develop, enhance, and implement education programs aimed at mitigating natural hazards, and reducing the risk to citizens, public agencies, private property owners, businesses, and schools.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Develop a web page to facilitate information sharing.
- Develop outreach programs to Yamhill County business organizations emphasizing the need to prepare for natural hazard events.
- Develop adult and child Public Service Announcements geared for the community to be used by local radio and cable stations.

Education

- Coordinate with school programs and adult education on reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards through education.
- Conduct natural hazard awareness program outreach in schools and community centers.
- Conduct workshops for public and private sector organizations to raise awareness of mitigation activities and programs.
- Develop outreach materials for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Coordinating Organization: School Districts, facility safety personnel
 Internal Partners: Emergency Management, Planning and Building, Health Department
 External Partners: Emergency response agencies, Red Cross, MWVCOG, OEM, FEMA, media
 Timeline: On-going
 Plan Goals Addressed: Education & Outreach; Partnerships; Preventive; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 12: Sustain a public awareness campaign about natural hazards.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Inform and educate the public about potential natural hazards in Yamhill County, personal preparedness, mitigation activities and opportunities, and options available when natural hazard events occur. The public awareness campaign may take many forms, including, but not limited to the following:
 - Present hazard-specific information at public workshops;
 - Distribute preparedness and mitigation information at community fairs and events;
 - Maintain a natural hazard display at the County Historical Museum;
 - Use public service announcements to educate people about emergency procedures;
 - Survey the public to determine their level of preparedness and find out what deters them from taking preventive actions; and
 - Include in the county’s hazard information website scientific facts about natural hazards, information on building codes, lists of companies that provide insurance for specific hazards, and educational information on damage prevention.

Coordinating Organization: Emergency Management
Internal Partners: Public Works, Planning
External Partners: Cities, ODOT, emergency response agencies, CERT, MWVCOG, school districts, utility companies, media, FEMA, OEM
Timeline: On-going
Plan Goals Addressed: Education & Outreach; Partnerships; Preventive; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 13: Sustain an education and outreach program for local jurisdictions and assist them in developing emergency operations, public information and hazard mitigation plans.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Train local jurisdictions on regional emergency management policies and procedures;
- Help coordinate countywide emergency management training and exercises;
- Help local jurisdictions develop resources and establish emergency facilities;
- Inform local jurisdictions about available resources, grant opportunities and other assistance;
- Disseminate information from Oregon Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Coordinating Organization: Emergency Management
Internal Partner: Planning Division
External Partners: City emergency management agencies, Red Cross, emergency response agencies, MWVCOG, OEM, FEMA
Timeline: 1 to 2 years; on-going
Plan Goals Addressed: Emergency Operations; Education & Outreach; Partnerships; Preventive; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 14: Review and update the Yamhill County Emergency Operations Plan and the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan on an annual basis. Conduct a complete review of the plans and have them officially promulgated by the Board of Commissioners every five years.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Coordinate plan updates annually and complete reviews at least every five years.
- During complete reviews, the plans will be evaluated with respect to the county's zoning ordinance and Comprehensive Plan, mutual aid agreements, and any new statutory requirements.

Coordinating Organization: Emergency Management
Internal Partner: Steering Committee, County Departments
External Partner: City emergency management agencies, law enforcement agencies, NWS, utility companies, OSP, ODOT, ARES, emergency response agencies, MWVCOG
Timeline: 1 to 5 years, on-going
Plan Goals Addressed: Emergency Operations; Education & Outreach; Partnerships; Preventive; Natural Resources Utilization; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 15: Make the Yamhill County Emergency Operations Plan and the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, and other resources on hazard planning/mitigation available to the public electronically.

Note: The World Wide Web makes electronic publication and distribution of information simple. Electronic publishing can foster dissemination of hazards-related information and raise public awareness of natural hazards.

Coordinating Organizations: Emergency Management & Planning
Internal Partner: County Webmaster
Timeline: 1 to 2 years
Plan Goals Addressed: Emergency Operations; Education & Outreach

Multi-Hazard Action Item 16: Promote hazard-resistant utility construction and maintenance methods.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Support/encourage utility and telecommunications companies to use construction and maintenance methods that reduce power outages from various natural hazards.
- Maintenance plans that take age, construction and placement of poles into account may help alleviate risk of power outage during natural hazard events.

Coordinating Organization: MWVCOG
Internal Partner: Emergency Management
External Partner: City emergency management agencies, ARES, utility companies
Timeline: 3 to 5 years
Plan Goals Addressed: Education & Outreach; Preventive; Natural Resources Utilization; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 17: Develop a system for data collection for non-declared natural hazard events.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Collect and store the damage information locally, and report to the National Climate Data Center.
- Include with this information countywide damage totals for each event. Over time, this data will show the geographic patterns of occurrence and vulnerability.

Coordinating Organization: Emergency Management
Internal Partner: GIS, Building
External Partner: IISOI, farm services, insurance companies
Timeline: 3 to 5 years

Plan Goals Addressed: Emergency Operations, Education & Outreach, Partnerships, Preventive; Implementation

Multi-Hazard Action Item 18: Improve coordination and evaluate technical and engineering gaps in response service for natural hazard events, and develop a long-term recovery plan for Yamhill County from the effects of natural hazards.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Identify how Yamhill County can coordinate with other entities after a seismic event, and identify what limitations exist that prevents coordinated event response.
- Where possible, develop mutual aid agreements for assistance after catastrophic natural hazard events.
- Within the long-term recovery plan, identify how and where Yamhill County communities would rebuild after a catastrophic event.
- Identify likely scenarios for rebuilding structures, transportation routes, and infrastructure conduits.

Coordinating Organization: Emergency Management
External Partners: Neighboring counties' emergency management, USGS, DOGAMI, hospitals, Red Cross, Army National Guard
Timeline: 1 to 5 years
Plan Goals Addressed: Emergency Operations, Partnerships

Natural systems are in a constant state of flux, which creates unpredictability where unforeseen and unplanned natural hazard events happen. The Yamhill County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, through the use of the above multi-hazard action items, would like to address any natural hazard outside of the seven identified hazards in this document as a *force majeure* ("Act of God").

It is Yamhill County's belief that all of the action items contained in this document, both hazard specific and multi-hazard, complement each other making our communities more prepared to cope with Natural Hazard events.