

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pre-disaster mitigation or hazard mitigation is the actions taken to reduce or eliminate the cause, impact and consequences of natural hazards on property and people. Mitigation is one of four phases of emergency management, including preparedness, response, and recovery. This plan focuses on mitigation by identify the potential risk and vulnerabilities caused by natural hazards, and by developing long-term strategies to protect people and property from future hazard events.

This is the FEMA-approved Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDMP) for Tooele County of Utah. By participating and adopting this plan, communities in the region meet the requirements of the 2000 Disaster Mitigation Act and are eligible for federal assistance through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), HMGP Post Fire Grant, Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), program. These grant programs help provide funding for

communities to implement their long-term strategies developed in this plan. For more information about hazard mitigation, the Disaster Mitigation Act or changes from the last update see Section 1: Introduction.

PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS

Tooele County PDMP was first developed, approved and adopted in 2005 with subsequent revisions in 2016 and 2021. Because natural hazards do not follow jurisdictional boundaries, the historic and exposure analyses used to identify risk and vulnerabilities was completed at the County level, as opposed to each jurisdiction duplicating similar efforts. Jurisdictions participating in the process provided information unique to their local geography, capabilities and mitigation strategies.

The following jurisdictions participated in the 2020 PDMP update process:

[Tooele County, Grantsville City, Rush Valley City, Stockton City, Tooele City,](#)

[Vernon City, and Wendover City.](#)

Local Native American tribes and unincorporated communities were invited to participate in all meetings and to give input throughout the entire process. The community of Stansbury was involved in the planning process, but others were generally represented by Tooele County.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The review, revision and update of Tooele County PDMP was coordinated by Tooele County with technical assistance from the Bear River Association of Governments. Together the two entities worked closely with residents, elected officials, administrators, planners, emergency managers, emergency responders, health departments, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders from across the region to develop this plan.

The 18-month plan update began in the spring of 2020 and included a series of county-level

meetings, public surveys, and data collection and analyses. Following a 30-day public review in September and October of 2021, the plan was delivered to the Utah Department of Emergency Management and FEMA for review and received an *Approved Pending Adoption* status in the fall of 2020. Due to COVID-19, planning efforts stalled during the spring and summer of 2020 as staff and communities responded to the pandemic. As such, the original plan completion date was delayed from July 2020 to September 2020. For more information about how the plan was completed and who participated see [Section 2 Planning Process](#).

TOOELE COUNTY NATURAL HAZARDS

The plan identified the following natural hazards as impacting the region:

- Alluvial Fans
- Avalanche Terrain
- Climate Change
- Dam Inundation
- Debris Flow
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Erosion
- Flood
- Landslide

- Problem Soils
- Radon
- Severe Weather
- Steep Slope
- Wildfire
- Wildlife/Auto

Natural hazards were identified by reviewing existing plans and studies, and consulting natural hazard experts and local authorities. Using historic hazard data and computer models of hazard locations, natural hazard were analyzed for their impacts on community assets, such as hospitals, police stations, roads, power lines, parks, and homes. This data was used to inform the mitigation strategies developed by each jurisdiction. Once analyzed, natural hazards were ranked based on their probability of occurrence, impacts to people, property, economy and future development. See Section 4: County Natural Hazards, Goals and Capabilities for a description of each natural hazard and Community Section 5 for jurisdiction specific natural hazard information, maps and loss tables.

COUNTYWIDE NATURAL HAZARD RESULTS

Climate change, drought, radon, and severe

weather were analyzed using historic data at the county level. All of these hazards had large extents throughout the county, and potentially severe impacts, based on the resource and many different factors. Overall, climate change, drought, and severe weather are closely tied together, and mitigation strategies should address those collectively. Likewise, these hazards could impact the entire county at some point in time. Radon, however, is site dependent and can not be accurately modeled or understood without site-specific testing. As such, there is a substantial risk countywide, but an unknown risk to specific structures and communities.

JURISDICTION NATURAL HAZARD RESULTS

Please see individual risk assessment sections in Section 5 of this document for details regarding potential losses for each jurisdiction including the unincorporated county. Risk profiles for each community show relative risk per hazard, and potential loss tables show detailed figures per each infrastructure, natural systems and building type

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Each participating jurisdiction developed mitigation strategies designed to reduce their community's long-term risk to natural hazards. The strategies reflect the county's mitigation strategy goals and local capabilities. For more information about County goals and capabilities see [Section 3: County Natural Hazards, Goals and Capabilities](#). Strategies were developed to protect current and future residents and property through local planning and regulation, education and awareness, structure and infrastructure projects and natural systems protection policies and projects. For more information on each jurisdiction's mitigation strategies see [Section 5: Community Sections](#) organized alphabetically by community.

STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTED SINCE 2016

No strategies were implemented in Tooele County or local municipalities between 2016 and 2021. However, several entities plan to apply for funds in 2021 and 2022 to implement strategies from this plan.

Strategies from the 2016 plan were not implemented due to several factors, including:

- Lack of staffing (related to applying for the grants).
- Lack of local funding (no local match to put towards projects).
- Lack of community support.
- Elected/appointed official and staff turnover (no institutional knowledge in some communities).

IMPLEMENTING FUTURE STRATEGIES

Upon approval from FEMA, each participating jurisdiction will adopt the 2021 Tooele County Region Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan by resolution. Local governments are encouraged to incorporate mitigation strategies into local plans, including General Plans, Capital Improvement Plans, and other documents. Strategies may be implemented at the discretion of the jurisdiction, and opportunities for cross-jurisdictional collaboration are encouraged.

Funding will be the critical factor impacting the implementation of mitigation strategies. Communities with existing funding, local Capital Improvement Program grants or other funding sources will likely make more significant progress towards reducing their risk. Projects requiring significant funding or additional planning, may be accomplished through strong local and County support. The various FEMA hazard mitigation programs

along with other funding sources, such as the Community Impact Board (CIB), can be leveraged together to complete any level of mitigation actions. Jurisdictions are encouraged to coordinate with Tooele County, Utah Department of Emergency Management, and FEMA to develop grant projects.

CHANGING PRIORITIES

No priorities changed during this plan update, with the exception of having goals to apply for pre-disaster mitigation projects in the coming years. This is a big step forward for Tooele County Communities.

MAINTAINING THE PLAN

The plan is considered a living document, and will be continuously monitored, evaluated and updated throughout the next 5 years on an annual basis by the Emergency Management office at Tooele County. For more information on how the plan will be monitored, evaluated and updated see [Section 3: Implementation and Maintenance](#). If a jurisdiction wants to update their strategies or any other information in their section of the plan they will have to submit changes to Tooele County Emergency Management. Upon their approval, the jurisdiction can then re-adopt the amended plan.