

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

Authority

This Hazard Mitigation Plan was prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA), Section 322, Mitigation Planning. Accordingly, this Hazard Mitigation Plan will be referred to as the “Plan”.

Funding Source

This Plan was funded by the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) through a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant with soft match provided by the Town of Jaffrey.

Purpose

This Hazard Mitigation Plan is a planning tool to be used by the Town of Jaffrey, as well as other local, state and federal governments, in their effort to reduce the effects from natural and man-made hazards.

Introduction

On October 30, 2000 the President signed into law the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). The ultimate purpose of DMA 2000 was to establish a national disaster hazard mitigation program that reduces loss of life and property, human suffering, economic disruption, and disaster assistance costs resulting from disasters, and provide a source of pre-disaster hazard mitigation funding that will assist State and local governments in accomplishing that purpose.

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, amended in April 2013 places emphasis on local mitigation planning. **It requires local governments to prepare and adopt jurisdiction-wide hazard mitigation plans as a condition of receiving Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) mitigation project grants.** Local governments must review and if necessary, update the mitigation plan annually to continue program eligibility.

Why Develop a Mitigation Plan?

The full cost of the damage resulting from natural hazards – personal suffering, loss of lives, disruption of the economy, and loss of tax base – is difficult to measure. Our State is subject to many types of natural hazards: floods, hurricanes, severe winter weather, earthquakes, tornadoes, downbursts, and wildfires, all of which can have significant economic and social impacts. Some, such as hurricanes, are seasonal and strike in predictable locations. Others, such as floods, can occur anytime of the year and almost anywhere in the State.

Scope of the Plan

The scope of this Plan includes the identification of natural hazards affecting the Town, as identified by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee. The hazards reviewed under the scope of this plan include those that are outlined in the State of New Hampshire's Hazard Mitigation Plan 2013:

**Dam Failure
Drought
Earthquake
Extreme Heat**

**Flooding
Hail
Hurricane
Lightning**

**Severe Wind
Winter Weather
Wildfire**

Methodology

In 2000, the Jaffrey Hazard Mitigation Committee in conjunction with the Southwest Region Planning Commission, developed the original content of the *Jaffrey Hazard Mitigation Plan* by following the 10 step process as set forth in the *Hazard Mitigation Planning for NH Communities* handbook. The Committee held monthly meetings beginning in December 1999 and ending in June 2000. All meetings were posted at the Town Office and open to the general public. In 2009, Hubbard Consulting LLC was contracted to coordinate and develop the 2009 Update. During the 2009 Update, the Committee met on May 12, 2009 and May 26, 2009 to review and revise the Plan.

During the 2015 update, the Jaffrey Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee with the assistance of Hubbard Consulting LLC held a total of four meetings on September 25, 2014, October 20, 2014, December 16, 2014 and January 12, 2015. Public notices were posted at the Town Hall, Town Website, the Ledger Newspaper and Post office; inviting members of all town departments and boards, surrounding communities, businesses, academia, State agencies and non-profit agencies. In addition, email notifications were sent to adjacent communities, the Southwest Region Planning Commission, SAU 47 school personnel, the Keene Chamber of Commerce, the NFIP Coordinator at the NH Office of Energy and Planning, and the NH HSEM. Despite the public notification, no members of the public, or other agencies attended the committee meetings or commented on the Plan. The Emergency Management Directors from surrounding towns were notified of the Plan Update and asked to comment on the Plan (see Appendix B). The committee analyzed and revised the following sections of the Plan and provided input to update them: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. In addition, the committee reviewed the final draft before submittal to NH HSEM. After acceptance by the committee the Plan was submitted to the NH HSEM and FEMA Region 1 for 'Approval Pending Adoption'. The Board of Selectmen formally adopted the Plan on August 12, 2015 and resubmitted the final adopted Plan to FEMA for 'Formal Approval'.

The committee developed this Plan as a result of the above meetings and the following planning process.

Step 1: Form a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Prior to the first public information meeting the Town contacted town department heads and posted public notices to residents, business owners and neighboring towns, requesting that they consider serving on the Committee (See Appendix B). The Committee Members consisted of town personnel and school representatives.

Step 2: Set Hazard Mitigation Goals

In 2009, the Hazard Mitigation Goals were adapted from the State of New Hampshire's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2004). During the 2015 update, the committee reviewed the 2009 goals and made no significant changes. This first step is extremely important in helping the committee understand the purpose of the Plan and the direction it should go. (See the end of this chapter for the "Hazard Mitigation Goals of the Town of Jaffrey, NH".)

Step 3: Hazard Identification

The Committee members identified natural hazards and human-caused hazards that have or could potentially affect the Town of Jaffrey. The results of this step can be found in the Risk Matrix tables in Chapter 2 as well as Chapter 3.

Step 4: Critical Facilities Analysis

The Committee members updated the Critical Facilities List for the Town. The Critical Facilities List is divided into 3 sections: Facilities needed for Emergency Response; Facilities not necessary for emergency response; and places and populations to protect in the event of a disaster. These were then evaluated for their vulnerability to the hazards identified in Step 3.

Step 5: Capability Assessment

The Committee members identified and updated what plans and policies are already in place to reduce the effects of hazards. The results of this step can be found in Chapter 5. Many of these plans and technical reports were reviewed and incorporated during the planning process.

Step 6: Develop Objectives

The Committee identified "Problem Statements" for each of the hazards identified earlier in the planning process. All of the hazards have at least one problem statement associated with them (See Problem Statement in Appendix B). These problem statements were then utilized as objectives in developing mitigation projects, as described in the next step.

Step 7: Develop Specific Mitigation Measures

As a result of the problem statements identified in step 6, the committee brainstormed specific projects or mitigation measures to address each hazard. The Committee Members used the "*Mitigation Project Identification Worksheet*", as shown in Appendix B, to identify mitigation projects that directly address the hazards affecting the community. Finally, the committee prioritized the top priority projects and listed them in the Mitigation Action Plan found at the end of Chapter 6.

Step 8: Adopt and Implement the Plan

After acceptance by the committee the Plan was submitted to the NH HSEM and FEMA Region 1 for “Approvable Pending Adoption”. The Board of Selectmen formally adopted the Plan on August 12, 2015. The “Formal Approval” letter from FEMA Region 1 can be found in Appendix C.

With respect to any ongoing mitigation projects, the lead and support agencies/people for such activity will be tasked with implementing the Plan’s mitigation projects. The Committee approved the “Mitigation Action Plan”, which identifies responsibility, funding/support and a timeframe for each of the prioritized projects. The Emergency Management Director is tasked with requesting annual reports as to the progress of each project.

Step 9: Monitor and Update the Plan

It is important that this plan be monitored and updated annually or after a presidentially declared disaster. Chapter 7 specifically addresses this issue.

Hazard Mitigation Goals Town of Jaffrey, NH

During the 2015 update, the Committee reviewed these goals but made no changes in priorities or goals, as there have been no substantial changes in development. The overall Goals of the Town of Jaffrey with respect to Hazard Mitigation are as follows:

1. To improve upon the protection of the general population, the citizens of the Town of Jaffrey and guests, from all natural and man-made hazards.
2. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Jaffrey’s Critical Support Services.
3. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Critical Facilities in Jaffrey.
4. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Jaffrey’s infrastructure.
5. To improve Emergency Preparedness.
6. Improve Jaffrey’s Disaster Response and Recovery Capability.
7. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on private property.
8. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Jaffrey’s economy.

9. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Jaffrey's natural environment.
10. To reduce Jaffrey's liability with respect to natural and man-made hazards generally.
11. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Jaffrey's specific historic and cultural resources and interests as well as other tangible and intangible characteristics which add to the quality of life of the citizens and guests of the Jaffrey.
12. To identify, introduce and implement cost effective Hazard Mitigation measures so as to accomplish Jaffrey's Goals and Objectives and to raise the awareness of, and acceptance of Hazard Mitigation generally.

Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Name	Title/Affiliation
2009 Committee	
Kathy Batchelder	Jaffrey Selectmen
Mike Hartman	Jaffrey Town Manager
JoAnne Carr	Jaffrey Planning & Economic Development
Randy Heglin	Jaffrey DPW Director
Joan Knight	Jaffrey Public Library
Bill Oswalt	Jaffrey Police Chief
David Chamberlain	Jaffrey Fire Chief
Walt Pryor	Jaffrey Recreation Director
Doug Starr	Jaffrey DPW
2015 Committee	
Bill Oswalt	Jaffrey Police Chief
Cush Moore	Jaffrey Citizen
David Caron	Jaffrey Town Manager
David Chamberlain	Jaffrey Fire Chief
Clay Hollister	Jaffrey Emergency Management Director
Doug Starr	Jaffrey DPW
James O'Neill	Superintendent, SAU 47
JoAnne Carr	Jaffrey Planning & Economic Development
Randy Heglin	Jaffrey DPW Director
Walt Pryor	Jaffrey Recreation Director
William Sudsbury	Facilities Manager, SAU 47
Derek L. Melanson	Member, Trinity EMS
Rob Stephenson	Jaffrey Historical Society
Don MacIsaac	Jaffrey Selectman
Scott Stevens	Sgt, Jaffrey Police Department
Liz Lufkin	Field Representative, NH HSEM
Jane Hubbard	Consultant, Hubbard Consulting LLC
Bonnie Lockwood	Consultant, McGrew Management Services

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee members listed above participated in committee meetings, provided departmental information, contributed in their field of expertise, reviewed and commented on committee meeting minutes, reviewed drafts of the Plan and worked together to identify and prioritize mitigation projects. *Many thanks to all the hard work and effort from each and every one of you. This plan would not exist without your knowledge and experience. Thank you!*