

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Adams County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)/Office of Homeland Security spearheaded this effort to complete a comprehensive countywide Mitigation Plan. Their dedication to this mitigation planning effort is seen in the results of having full participation from the County as well as the incorporated jurisdictions.

Adams County is subject to natural hazards that threaten life and health and have caused extensive property damage. To better understand these natural hazards and their impacts on people and property and to identify ways to reduce those impacts, the County's EMA undertook this countywide Mitigation Plan.

Most mitigation activities need funding. Under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K, 42 USC 5165), a mitigation plan is a requirement for Federal mitigation funds. Therefore, a mitigation plan will both guide the best use of mitigation funding and meet the prerequisite for obtaining such funds from The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This mitigation plan meets the criteria as set forth by FEMA in the DMA2K and provides a community with a "comprehensive guide" for future mitigation efforts as they relate to the hazards that affect their community.

This Mitigation Plan was developed under the guidance of a Core Group of individuals from communities and agencies throughout Adams County. The Core Group met four separate times during the planning process to discuss the hazards that affect the county, the problems associated with these hazards, potential mitigation alternatives to minimize the effect of these hazards and goals that they would like to see achieved within the County.

Adams County has experienced many natural disasters in the past one hundred years. The Core Group evaluated these hazards and chose to address the following six hazards based on their impact on human health and property damage: floods, severe storms (thunderstorms, high winds, lightning, hail), droughts (extreme heat and extreme cold), tornadoes, landslides and earthquakes.

With the hazards identified, a vulnerability assessment was completed for Adams County. This assessment reviews how vulnerable the County is to property damage, threats to public health and safety, and adverse impact on the local economy. It also evaluated the location and likely damage to critical facilities and other structures from different scenarios of strikes by the different hazards. As part of this assessment, a multi-hazard map was produced to illustrate some of the hazard areas and locations of structures and critical facilities with respect to these hazard areas.

The culmination of Adams County's All Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was an Action Plan for the communities to track progress on the implementation of their mitigation alternatives.