

APPENDIX E

**PROBLEM STATEMENTS
& OVERALL GOALS**

PROBLEM STATEMENTS FOR ADAMS COUNTY ALL NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

FLOODING (Including 100-year flood zone, non-flood zone, and flash flooding)

The Core Group has decided to prioritize the natural hazard of flooding as their highest rated concern. Flooding occurs throughout the year in Adams County and has historically had severe affects on several communities within the County.

Core Group Developed Hazard Statements

Closed roads and/or washed out roads are a frequent occurrence during flash floods events throughout the County.

There are severe agricultural losses during and after a flood event within Adams County.

Basement flooding occurs within several communities (i.e. Manchester) during flood events.

There is a lack of community education on the hazards associated with flooding. (i.e. driving through standing water)

Roads blocked by floodwaters cause delay in emergency response.

Adams County lacks watercraft vehicles for emergency operations.

Many critical facilities throughout the County that need to maintain power at all times, are not equipped with back-up generators in the event of a power outage. A detailed assessment needs to be conducted to determine which critical facilities need back-up generators.

Many communities within Adams County may not be able to communicate with each other based on the type of communication used within a particular community (actual equipment used, radios, etc).

There needs to be better communication between the County, surrounding counties, and state and federal government agencies during and after severe storm events.

Because Adams County is so rural they rely on HAMM operators to communicate when all other communication fails. Unfortunately the pool have HAMM operators has shrunk dramatically and there needs to be a concerted effort to train HAMM operators within the County.

Severe storms and flooding can have drastic effects on public and critical utilities in Adams County due to downed power lines, tree limbs, etc.

The County lacks portable generators for sensitive populations who may need power for life support systems, in case of an extended power outage.

Older structures in the County may not be up to current building codes and are not equipped to handle flood events.

The County lacks resources and funding to restore historical sites, if they suffer severe damage.

There is a lack of public education for residences and businesses concerning the dangers of fuel tanks (e.g. securing them to a permanent structure, ensuring adequate tank structure strength).

Many bridges and culverts are susceptible to flood damage and need to be mapped for emergency response operations.

Many roads have been constructed below the 100-year floodplain elevation and are continually blocked by flood waters causing delays in emergency response due to finding alternate routes.

Many areas in the County are susceptible to excessive flooding when the ground is frozen or saturated by heavy rains.

There is a lack of NOAA weather warning radios in households throughout County, especially in areas that would receive the greatest impact of severe weather.

Adams County relies heavily on water supply that can be affected by flooding.

SEVERE STORMS

The Core Group has prioritized this hazard as their second highest concern. Severe storms occur throughout the year in Adams County, and historically have had a significant impact on the community as a whole and for the individual municipalities.

Core Group Developed Problem Statements

Historically, Adams County can experience loss in power for prolonged periods of time after severe storm events.

Roads blocked by deep snow causes delay in emergency response.

Debris in roadways, including downed utility lines, caused by ice storms roadways causing delays in emergency response.

Critical facilities, those facilities that need to maintain power at all times, are not equipped with back-up generators in the event of a power outage.

All communities located in Adams County may not be able to communicate with each other based on the type of communication used within a particular community (actual equipment used, radios, etc).

There are limited tree maintenance programs within the County and incorporated jurisdictions (e.g. pruning, tree trimming and removal).

Severe storms can have drastic effects on public and critical utilities in Adams County due to downed power lines, tree limbs, etc.

The County lacks portable generators for sensitive populations who may need power for life support systems, in case of an extended power outage.
There is a lack of NOAA weather warning radios in households throughout County, especially in areas that would receive the greatest impact of severe weather.

Lack of public water systems throughout the unincorporated areas of the County. Power failure is critical for these systems.

There are limited tree maintenance programs within the County and incorporated jurisdictions (e.g. pruning, tree trimming and removal).

There not enough shelters for the medically fragile, which are those people who do not have AC units or proper heat in their homes.

Lack of comprehensive education effort for the residents of the City/County regarding severe storm events.

There needs to be better communication between the County, surrounding counties, and state and federal government agencies during and after severe storm events.

DROUGHTS (SEVERE)

The Core Group has decided to prioritize the natural hazard of droughts and extreme temperatures as their third highest concern. Droughts have a devastating affect on Adams County mainly because the County has a heavy agricultural base and the potential for crop damage and property damage from associated fires can be high.

Core Group Developed Problem Statements

Adams County lacks a domestic water management/conservation program.

There is a lack of community education concerning hazards associated with droughts and water restrictions during drought conditions (i.e. heat stroke, wild fires).

Lack of dry hydrants throughout rural areas in the County.

Lack of a tool to identify high risk areas as it relates to the potential for fires caused by droughts.

There is a lack of public education for residences and businesses concerning the dangers of fuel tanks (e.g. securing them to a permanent structure, ensuring adequate tank structure strength).

There is a lack of NOAA weather warning radios in households throughout County, especially in areas that would receive the greatest impact of severe weather.

Adams County does not have any type of debris management program in place.

EARTHQUAKES

The Core Group has decided to prioritize the natural hazard of earthquakes as their sixth highest concern. Earthquakes have rarely occurred in Adams County, but the potential for damages from earthquakes could be significant.

Core Group Developed Problem Statements

There is a lack of public education concerning hazards associated with earthquakes.

Some infrastructure in Adams County, including utilities, roads and buildings are old and thus more susceptible to earthquake related damage.

The County lacks resources and funding to restore historical sites, if they suffer severe damage.

The County does not have enough emergency response resources in the event of an earthquake.

Critical facilities, those facilities that need to maintain power at all times, are not equipped with back-up generators in the event of a power outage.

All communities located in Adams County may not be able to communicate with each other based on the type of communication used within a particular community (actual equipment used, radios, etc).

There needs to be better communication between the County, surrounding counties, and state and federal government agencies during and after earthquake events.

Farmers may not have adequate feed and water for livestock during drought conditions.

The County lacks adequate emergency response personnel and equipment for firefighting due to wild land fires.

There not enough shelters for the medically fragile, which are those people who do not have AC units or proper heat in their homes.

Medical facilities are taxed during droughts and extreme temps due to increased emergencies for medical conditions.

Adams County has a problem with residential water wells going dry during extremely hot, dry conditions.

Commercial, residential/rural and natural interface exists in many areas of Adams County increasing the potential for wildfires to cause property damage.

TORNADOES

The Core Group has prioritized the natural hazard of tornadoes as their fourth highest concern. Tornadoes occur sporadically throughout the County.

Core Group Developed Problem Statements

There are no permanent structures for designated emergency shelters in any of the mobile home parks or campgrounds in Adams County.

Adams County does not have an adequate interoperable early warning system (i.e. sirens, Public Service Announcements) in most communities in the County.

Debris in roadways, including downed utility lines, caused by high winds block roadways causing delays in emergency response.

Critical facilities, those facilities that need to maintain power at all times, are not equipped with back-up generators in the event of a power outage.

All communities located in Adams County may not be able to communicate with each other based on the type of communication used within a particular community (actual equipment used, radios, etc).

There needs to be better communication between the County, surrounding counties, and state and federal government agencies during and after severe storm events.

Severe storms and tornadoes can have drastic effects on public and critical utilities in Adams County due to downed power lines, tree limbs, etc.

There are limited tree maintenance programs within the County and incorporated jurisdictions (e.g. pruning, tree trimming and removal).

OVERALL GOALS FOR ADAMS COUNTY NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

The Core Group discussed the following hazards and prioritized them as follows:

1. Flooding
2. Severe Storms
3. Droughts / Extreme Temperatures
4. Tornadoes
5. Landslides
6. Earthquakes

Flooding (100-year flood zone, non-flood zone, flash flooding)

Overall Goal: To save lives and property, reduce damage and to increase education (awareness) of community.

Severe Storms – Winter, Snow, Ice, Thunderstorms, High Winds, Hail, Lightning

Overall Goal: To increase awareness of severe storms and the reduce property damage.

Droughts (Extreme Heat, Extreme Cold)

Overall Goal: To reduce potential damage and to increase awareness of drought occurrences throughout Adams County by increased preparedness.

Tornadoes

Overall Goal: To save lives, reduce potential damage, and to increase awareness of the hazards of tornadoes.

Earthquakes

Overall Goal: To reduce potential loss of lives and damage of property and to increase awareness.