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* - Portions of this plan are not for public use and will be excluded from public release under the authority of ND Century Code.

PART 1. MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL, MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

Introduction: Cass County is confronted daily with the possibility of a serious incident of emergency proportions. Natural, technological, and man-made hazards pose a constant threat to the health, welfare, and security of our citizens. The cost of response to and recovery from disasters is so high and life is so precious that attention must turn to mitigating effects/impacts before they occur or re-occur.

Historically, mitigation activities have been the most neglected programs within emergency management. Since the priority to implement mitigation activities is generally low in comparison to the perceived threat, some essential mitigation measures are not seen as important. Mitigation success can be achieved, however, if accurate information is portrayed through complete hazard identification and impact studies, followed by effective mitigation salesmanship and strong governmental leadership.

Government leaders and other stakeholders must recognize that it is possible to break the cycle of recurring damage and loss. These individuals and organizations are responsible for developing and maintaining a high level of preparedness for all hazards, which include response and recovery plans, training, development, management of resources, and mitigative projects for hazards the jurisdiction can experience. The State Department of Emergency Services has identified 12 hazards to be analyzed by each county. These hazards include floods, winter storms, summer storms, hazardous materials incidents, urban and rural fires, drought, civil disorders/terrorism, mass casualty incidents, dam failures, shortages of critical materials, and national security emergencies.

The Cass County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan represents a coordinated effort and ongoing commitment to mitigate potential losses and damages caused by the hazards that are and potentially could be experienced in Cass County. This Plan establishes the county mitigation planning system, which is connected with a city or county disaster, emergency preparedness, and operational planning mission. The Plan consists of Basic Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning for each identified hazard, and Post-Disaster Mitigation Planning. Cass County agencies with an emergency assignment in the Cass County Emergency Operations Plan have specific responsibility for mitigation planning and implementation.

This plan identifies opportunities and suggestive actions, which have the potential to impact of future emergencies or disasters. The intricate implementation process can only be accomplished and coordinated by dedicated stakeholders responsible for all-hazards preparedness or emergency management. Also, mitigation planning must be incorporated into existing programs and plans in order to be most effective.

Purpose: To fulfill federal, state, and local hazard mitigation planning responsibilities; to promote pre and post disaster mitigation measures, short/long range strategies that minimize suffering, loss of life, and damage to property resulting from hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions to which citizens and institutions within the County are exposed; and to eliminate or minimize conditions which would have an undesirable impact on our citizens, the economy, environment, and well-being of the County.

Objective: To establish a methodical process to assist in hazard recognition, impact evaluation, and action plan development.

Scope: The scope of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is countywide. The Plan is not necessarily limited to Federal, State, or locally declared disasters or emergencies. Anytime situations occur that produce a requirement for mitigation actions, activities, and strategies, etc., they will be developed and incorporated into the Cass County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Specific site or facility mitigation recommendations will be incorporated into the post-disaster portion (Part Three) of this document. They are to be included in local mitigation plans, also.

AUTHORITY:

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Federal: Public Law 93-288 as amended, established the basis for federal hazard mitigation activity in 1974. A section of this Act requires the identification, evaluation, and mitigation of hazards as a prerequisite for state receipt of future disaster assistance outlays. Since 1974, many additional programs, regulations, and laws have expanded on the original legislation to establish hazard mitigation as a priority at all levels of government. When PL 93-288 was amended by the Stafford Act, several additional provisions were also added that provide for the availability of significant mitigation measures in the aftermath of Presidentially declared disasters. Civil Preparedness Guide 1-3, Chapter 6 – Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs places emphasis on hazard mitigation planning directed toward hazards with a high impact and threat potential.

Legislative: The North Dakota Century Code, Chapter 37-17.1, requires the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services to coordinate the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Other state laws require various state agencies to mitigate the effects or impacts of hazards in regard to public safety, environment, etc. The North Dakota State Water Commission is responsible for assisting in the flood insurance program and is the lead agency in flood hazard mitigation actions. The Water Commission is also responsible for identifying repetitive loss structures (see Appendix 6).

Executive: The Governor has the leadership role in the issuance of guidance to all state agencies to minimize the effects of hazards on the citizens of North Dakota. In state and federal recovery agreements following a Presidentially declared disaster, the Governor initiates updating of the state and local mitigation plans based on federal requirements or state and local needs. State DES administers mitigation guidance and funding to state and local applicants following a presidentially declared disaster (see State Administrative Recovery Handbook for Mitigation Assistance).

Local: Local governments play an essential role in implementing effective mitigation strategies, both before and after disaster events. Each local government will review all damages, losses, and related impacts to determine the need or requirement for mitigation action and planning whenever seriously effected by a disaster, or when applying for state or federal recovery assistance. In Cass County the executive body responsible for carrying out plans and policies is the Board of Commissioners. The City of Fargo has an elected five member commission with the Mayor as the chief executive. The City of West Fargo also has an elected five member commission as their city government with the Mayor as the chief executive. The 24 remaining incorporated cities in Cass County have elected city council persons as their form of city government with either an appointed or elected mayor. Local governments must be prepared to participate in the post disaster Hazard Mitigation Team process and the pre-mitigation planning as outlined in this document.

Execution of Plans: The execution of pre or post disaster mitigation plans is the responsibility of various local government leaders and other elected and appointed officials that are in the position to make decisions capable of reducing or eliminating the threat or potential impact on life, property, and the environment. State and local emergency management officials are responsible to assist chief executives in initiating and carrying out plan initiatives. This plan does not replace existing preparedness and operational plans currently in use by state or local governments. Instead, this Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan provides valuable mitigation strategies, which can serve to strengthen or improve the effectiveness of state and local emergency operational plans. Cities throughout the county have been encouraged to incorporate mitigation planning and projects into current city plans for development and other areas where they see fit.

Planning Process: Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning is a continuous process. The stages of planning operate concurrently. At any given time, planning to plan, risk analysis, updating the situation assessment, research, coordinating, disaster response or other activities are occurring. Defining the process should help provide a clearer guide to successful planning.

Cass County and the cities within the County have a strong history of public involvement in planning. After the 1997 disastrous winter storms and spring flooding, Project Impact was at the forefront of the City of Fargo's planning efforts to mitigate the hazards faced by the area. A multi-jurisdictional team comprised of both private and public agency/organization was formed to identify and assess the hazards.

The City of Fargo has taken a very proactive effort in mitigation by way of projects under taken since the 1997 and spring 2000 flood disasters. Public input has been solicited on these projects and public discussion has

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taken place at the city commission meetings on these mitigation efforts. Fargo is also taking the lead in the identification and project completion for the south side city flood protection in an area identified at risk from overland flooding from outbreaks of the Red River and Wild Rice River in past flooding events. Extensive research is underway and public input hearings have taken place on this goal and project proposal.

The City of West Fargo, after a disastrous flooding event of the Sheyenne River embarked on a comprehensive effort to mitigate the wrath of this river. In 1988, a diversion project was embarked upon and public involvement was solicited by public hearings and multiple city commission regular agenda item placements/discussions. This diversion project has now proven to be one of the most successful mitigation projects in the area.

After the 1997 flood, Cass County started a Green Way mitigation project to purchase and reduce the development of property within the floodway and within the 100 year flood zones. This project has been supported by many due the intent of lessening the need of levees for residential protection and also the proactive effort of flood mitigation represented by such an effort within the borders of Cass County.

Cass County public and private entity officials participated in an extensive planning effort titled; Red River Valley Sub-Area Contingency Response Plan. This planning effort identified and brought together key officials, facilities, hazardous material (Tier II) facilities, rail road hazardous materials hauled, sensitive areas/wildlife, hospitals/nursing homes, schools, child care facilities, and highways. This plan also ranks by risk all hazardous material/facilities within Cass County. This plan is now connected to an extensive multi-county, state and provinces (Canada) planning effort for hazardous material response with an emphasis of up, down and along the Red River. The Red River Valley Sub-Area Contingency Response Plan should be viewed in it's entirety to fully understand this areas preparedness and understanding of the hazard involving hazardous materials and the shared waterway called the Red River. Design of such a comprehensive document was not done by public officials alone in Cass County which is another example of multi-jurisdictional planning in Cass County.

Cass County first adopted formally a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan on May 21, 2001. This plan was a step forward from the Project Impact work and was expanded to include goals and projects from all of Cass County. A public hearing was advertised for May 21, 2001 and announced on the commission agenda. The Cass County Commission was provided a briefing on the future project on May 14, 2001. In 2003 a formal Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was created with all 26 cities of Cass County formally recognizing this plan and adopting this plan by resolution. Cities first provided for public hearings by advertising and placing within agendas this solicitation of public input during the draft stage of this plan. A total of 28 public hearings have taken place within the cities of Cass during the months of June, July and August, 2003. (Two public hearings took place in the City of Fargo). The Cass County Commission allowed for public input again on this plan on August 4, 2003 prior to formal adoption of this Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. ([See Summary](#) of Formal Adoption of Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan below).

In 2007, a planning team was formed to update the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The planning team created a timeline for the update and set out a strategy for public involvement. The Cass County Emergency Manager sent letters to the incorporated cities informing them of the update taking place. The letter also asked the city's officials and citizens to start thinking about what mitigation projects would best serve their communities. Then appointments were made for the Cass County Emergency Manager to attend a public city council meeting to ask for any revisions or new projects to be added to the mitigation plan. After revisions to the Plan, cities were asked to formally adopt the plan and then finally the Cass county commission approved the plan in September.

Cass County has always enjoyed the public participation received from the citizens at the well publicized city/count commission/council meetings throughout the years. Valuable input has been received from the public through this process in the past and will continue to be a valuable forum for public input. Over the years Cass County has had a significant number of federally funded projects primarily addressing the hazard of flooding. Public input was solicited concerning these projects and citizen input received. Records of these hearings can be obtained from Cass County Government, as well as the Fargo and West Fargo City Halls.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee will become the final authority for project prioritization. This representative body of county residents, private/non-profit organizations/businesses/ local government has been

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a clear leader in mitigation planning in the past and will be the best forum for this review and prioritization. Cass County has also had formal recognition and adoption of this plan and planning process by the Cass County Fire and Rescue Association, a very representative body of citizens from all areas of Cass County to include incorporated cities, unincorporated cities and rural residents. This planning effort was introduced and discussed with the Cass County Ambulance/Rescue Association, League of Cities, Township Association, city councils, city commissions and county commissions on more than one occasion each. Cass Fargo Emergency Management has utilized all existing forums for public education of this planning process and plan content. This effort includes television interviews, radio talk show discussions and news paper articles from interviews. View the Summary of the Cass Fargo Planning Team toward the end of this section of this plan.

Cass County and all cities are formally adopting or reviewing a new Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) which is a plan which identifies preparedness, response and recovery Functional Coordinators to address the hazards identified in the Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. This has proven to be another excellent planning forum for public involvement, hazard identification/review and discussion. Cass County adopted this new LEOP on July 7, 2003. The City of Fargo adopted this plan on June 9, 2003. This same LEOP format was adopted also by the cities off: Buffalo, Tower City, Page, and Frontier in May and June of 2003. All other cities have formally adopted the Cass County LEOP in the summer/fall of 2003. In addition, Fargo, West Fargo and Casselton have developed their own or are working on developing a plan based on the Cass County Plan.

Cass County's Plan Formation Process:

Planning To Plan: Successful planning starts with preparation. Cass County took time up front to clearly define the objectives and goals of this Plan. Stakeholders considered the tools needed, whether a team or individual approach was best, how to divide the project into steps and what those steps should be. A team approach was accepted as the best planning approach and this effort was first undertaken through Project Impact. On October 17, 2002 an extensive planning effort was undertaken in Cass County with the assistance of the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services. This planning effort was identified to many and some received this information for the first time. A very diverse and representative body of personnel from all jurisdictions within Cass County was present for this session. (Oct. 17, 2002 planning session participants kept on file with Cass Fargo Emergency Management). Over the course of the years 2002 and 2003 several sessions have taken place both formally and informally and over the airwaves of radio and TV with several groups and the public concerning the multi-hazard mitigation plan design, content, goals and projects. (See Planning Team Participant Summary below)

In 2007, a planning team was formed to update the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The planning team created a timeline for the update and set out a strategy for public involvement concerning the multi-hazard mitigation plan design, content, goals and projects.

Complete/Update Jurisdictional Profile: For initial plan development, completion of the Jurisdictional Profile in was accomplished. This information can now be viewed in Appendix 1 of this plan. This in-depth research covers all facets of the county, and gives us the information needed for effective local planning. This profile will be reviewed annually in Cass County with a thorough review at least every 5 years.

In 2007, the planning team updated the jurisdictional profile and incorporated other county and city plans into it. By combining other plans and working with other committees, there is a much better opportunity for incorporating the mitigation goals back into other area plans. The incorporation of different stakeholder organizations offers a dialogue that increases the knowledge of mitigation goals as determined by the LEPC.

Risk Analysis: The Cass County Emergency Manager will coordinate a Risk Analysis (utilizing Attachment 1) on the following items: floods, winter storms, summer storms, hazardous materials incidents, urban and rural fires, drought, civil disorders/terrorism, mass casualty incidents, dam failures, shortages of critical materials, and national security emergencies. These are the hazards the State Department of Emergency Management has determined pose the greatest threat to the State jurisdiction. All 12 hazards have been adopted formally as those that could affect all cities and areas within Cass County. If jurisdictions identify another pertinent hazard not

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included on this list, they have been asked to notify their Local Programs Coordinator (typically city auditors or city emergency managers) for possible addition to the county list and are required to conduct a Risk Analysis on the hazard. The risk analysis is a team effort. Members of the team will be, but are not limited to: County Emergency Manager, a representative from: County/city highway department, Sheriffs office/city police, medical community/ambulance service, fire department, county/city planning and other citizens of the cities or unincorporated areas of the county.

Other hazards have been reviewed and can be summarized in the following paragraph:

We have determined that the risk for an avalanche, coastal erosion, coastal storm, earthquake, hurricane, tsunami, and volcano to be significantly low enough to eliminate the need for a risk assessment in our county. We base this decision on several factors in Cass County: no past presidential disaster declarations on these hazards, no incident/situation reports on these hazards, no historical records of these hazards occurring, no existing reports or plans include them, and in talking to experts in the community no past incidents were experienced or recorded. In addition, the following websites were used to determine any risk:

<http://geohazards.cr.usgs.gov/eq/>
<http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/tsunami-hazard/>
http://landslides.usgs.gov/html_files/landslides/nationalmap/national.html <http://www.avalanche.org>
<http://www.nfpa.org>
<http://www.fema.gov/fima/planning.shtm>
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>

Risk Summary: The results of the risk analysis can be found in Appendix 3.

Hazard Mitigation Identification: Utilizing the information on the Risk Summary, we have identified areas where Hazard Mitigation (HAZMIT) projects could accomplish the role required for a project to be funded: significant hazard impact reduction for a significant number of people at a reasonable cost per person.

Cass County Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan encompasses 27 jurisdictions. Strategies, goals and projects have been identified to reduce overall damage to Cass County. Although the overall goal is to reduce damage countywide, each jurisdiction will be responsible for pursuing the actions that are relevant to that jurisdiction. Specific goals and projects identified to date can be viewed in Appendix 5 of this plan.

Funding Projects: Resources to fund hazard mitigation planning and to implement mitigation recommendations must be available through the state contingency fund and/or local funds. Pre-disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan implementation is the day-to-day responsibility of the organizations indicated in the plan. Following a Presidential Declaration, the State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program conducts an applicant briefing. At this time, the sub-grantee completes a Notice of Interest. Upon receipt of a project application, it is reviewed and determined whether or not to be cost-effective. The State Hazard Mitigation Team is available to provide technical assistance. The Department of Emergency Service's Disaster Recovery Administration Procedures Handbook for Mitigation covers the utilization of state funds for this program. In all cases, submit Hazard Mitigation projects to the State DES Hazard Mitigation Section, utilizing the HAZMIT Grant Program Pre-Application, Attachment 3.

Jurisdictional Actions Summary: Participating Jurisdictions were introduced to this plan concept on October 17, 2002. Jurisdictions were thereafter introduced to a draft plan. Jurisdictions assigned planning team members. Further review and input was solicited from planning teams. Public input was solicited through public hearings and discussions at open to public city council meetings. Recommendations, goals and projects have been identified through this process. Final plan design then occurred and formal adoption of this Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan took place by resolutions at well publicized city council/commission meetings and again at a well publicized Cass County Commission meeting. Dates of these meetings are cataloged in the MHMP Audit Binder retained at the Cass County Emergency Management office. In 2007, the same process was followed in order to update the plan.

Plan Maintenance: The Cass County Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan will have annual internal review by Cass Fargo Emergency Management and our diverse Local Emergency Planning Committee.

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Formal and comprehensive plan review and revisions will take place on a 5 year cycle or if a substantial addition or major action item is identified by annual review and following any Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Implementation of this plan: Implementation of this mitigation planning effort will occur also through existing programs. The County Emergency Manager has visited the participating cities and encouraged the cities to look at mitigation goals into their building, development, comprehensive or other city plans. Cass County has included mitigation goals in their comprehensive plan. Organizations that are implementing mitigation projects include the Cass County Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Cass County Comprehensive Plan. In addition, the county will measure mitigation projects and plans compared to existing zoning codes, building regulations and growth plans. Below are a few of the county's policies that were adopted as ordinance with the 2005 Comprehensive Plan.

Objective D. Ensure new development will protect the short and long term health, safety, and general welfare of county's citizens from flooding.

Policy 1. Prevent development from occurring in flood prone areas.

Policy 2. Prevent development with the potential need for flood buyouts, flood mitigation, and temporary flood protection.

Policy 3. Prevent development having limited access during times of high water.

Policy 4. Deter development which adversely impacts the flooding potential in the county.

Policy 5. Require new developments near potential flood areas to submit a flood protection plan outlining the risk of flooding and necessary solutions to protect the lives and investments of the county's citizens.

Objective E. Ensure new development will protect the short and long term health, safety, and general welfare of county's citizens from the soil stability problems prone to the county's soils.

Policy 1. Prevent development which will compound the naturally occurring problems with the county's soil stability.

Policy 2. Deter development with the potential to place financial strain on the county and its citizens as result of soil stability issues.

Policy 3. Deter development and land uses that will adversely impact or accelerate soil stability.

Policy 4. Deter the man-made land uses which intensify the naturally occurring soil stability problems.

Policy 5. Develop regulations preventing development from occurring in areas prone to stability problems, preventing the land uses accelerating the inherent problem.

Repetitive Losses and Estimated Values/Losses: Repetitive Losses and Estimated Values/Losses will be utilized during local mitigation planning efforts within all participating jurisdictions. View Repetitive Losses in Appendix 6.

Continued Public Involvement: Cass County and all participating jurisdictions will continue public involvement with this planning process through close interaction with townships, fire departments, rescue squads and ambulance services in the rural cities of Cass County. These organizations and groups have been found to be very well connected to the pulse of the cities that they are serving. Public awareness of the multi-hazard mitigation planning effort will be a highlighted item during annual winter and summer severe weather awareness campaigns. Public hearings soliciting further public input will occur during the comprehensive plan review process every 5 years.

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Summary: During discussion and briefings, the Cass Fargo planning team members are asked to: Remember, that while they are conducting a risk analysis on one hazard, they may be responding to a disaster for another one. While they are completing paperwork for Public Assistance, they may be planning and conducting an exercise. During all these events, they are asked to keep their planning process focused for each hazard. To take advantage of any situation that provides an opportunity for information, support or funding. Above all, to remember this entire planning process is designed to alleviate injury, reduce loss and prevent economic damage.

**SUMMARY OF THE FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE MULTI-
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:**

<u>City</u>	<u>First Adoption Date</u>	<u>Second Adoption Date</u>
Alice	July 7, 2003	
Amenia	July 7, 2003	
Argusville	July 7, 2003	
Arthur	July 7, 2003	
Ayr	July 10, 2003	
Briarwood	July 7, 2003	
Buffalo	July 7, 2003	
Casselton	July 7, 2003	
Davenport	July 7, 2003	
Fargo	July 21, 2003	
Frontier	August 18, 2003	
Gardner	July 14, 2003	
Grandin	July 14, 2003	
Harwood	July 7, 2003	
Horace	August 4, 2003	
Hunter	July 7, 2003	
Kindred	June 25, 2003	
Leonard	July 7, 2003	
Mapleton	July 14, 2003	
North River	July 8, 2003	
Oxbow	July 14, 2003	
Page	July 7, 2003	
Prairie Rose	July 7, 2003	
Reile's Acres	July 9, 2003	
Tower City	July 7, 2003	
West Fargo	July 21, 2003	

Cass County Commission August 20, 2007 and September 4, 2007

Record of public hearings (dates and times) and formal resolutions kept on file
with Cass County Emergency Management

PLANNING TEAM PARTICIPANT SUMMARY

Planning from multiple cities and the county consist of:

County Commission
City Mayors
City Commission and Council members
City/County Auditors
City Administrator
County Coordinator
City Assessors
City Public Works
City Fire
City/County Law Enforcement
City Forestry
City Finance
City/County Engineers
County Tax Director
County Treasurer
Hospital Representatives (MeritCare/Innovis)
Salvation Army
American Red Cross
FirstLink
VA Medical Center
Cass County Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Services
Fargo-Cass Public Health
Cass County Social Services
County Emergency Management
Emergency Vehicle Assistance and Communications
GIS Coordinators (city/county)
50 Cass County Township Officer's Board
Cass County Township Officer's Association
Cass County Rural Water Association
North Dakota Air National Guard
Red River Valley SWAT
Cass County Bomb Squad
Moorhead-Fargo Hazardous Materials Team
Red River Regional Dispatch Center
North Dakota State University

Fargo/West Fargo Park Districts
Cass County Emergency Services Unit

Other Private/Non-Profit Entities:

Community First Bank
Cass County Electric
Moore Engineering
Houston Engineering
Williams Pipeline
Cenex Pipeline
Kaneb (Amoco) Pipeline
Union Storage
Qwest Communications
AT&T Communications
Inter-Community Telephone
Xcel Energy
Ottetail Energy
Minn-Kota Power
702 Communications
Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance
West Acres Shopping Center

Outside Cass County Participants:

Moorhead Fire Department
Clay County Emergency Management
Clay County Sheriff's Office
Clay County Social Services
Clay County Public Health
Moorhead Police Department

UPDATE PLANNING TEAM PARTICIPANT SUMMARY

That which constitutes satisfactory participation in the mitigation planning process must be one of the following:

1. Attendance at meetings
2. Submission of requested data
3. Review of drafts
4. Hosting opportunities for public involvement

Planning from multiple cities and the county consist of:

Cass Fargo Emergency Management
Fargo Cass Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planner
Cass County Highway Department
Fargo-Cass Public Health
Cass County Sheriff's Department
Fargo City Police Department
West Fargo City Police Department
SWAT Team (Special Weapons and Tactics)
Bomb Squad
Fargo Fire Department
West Fargo Fire Department
Rural All Volunteer Fire Departments Include

1. Alice Fire Department
2. Argusville Fire Department
3. Arthur Fire Department
4. Buffalo Fire Department
5. Casselton Fire Department
6. Davenport Fire Department
7. Embden Fire Department
8. Erie Fire Department
9. Grandin/Gardner Fire Department
10. Harwood Fire Department
11. Horace/Hickson Fire Department
12. Hunter Fire Department
13. Kindred Fire Department
14. Leonard Fire Department
15. Mapleton Fire Department
16. Page Fire Department
17. Tower City Fire Department

18. The Enderlin Fire Department is located in Ransom County however some of their district is in Cass County.

Cass County Extension Service
Cass County Social Services
Casselton Ambulance
Kindred Ambulance
Hunter Ambulance Service
Page Ambulance
Cass County Electric Co-op Inc.
Army Corps of Engineers
North Dakota Highway Patrol
State Fire Marshal
North Dakota Forestry Service
North Dakota Game and Fish

Red River Dispatch
State Radio Communications
Department of Agriculture:
Job Service
Human Services
State Water Commission
NFIP Coordinator
State Division of Emergency Services
City Commissions or Mayors from the following cities

1. Alice
2. Amenia
3. Argusville
4. Arthur
5. Ayr
6. Briarwood
7. Buffalo
8. Casselton
9. Davenport
10. Fargo
11. Frontier
12. Gardner
13. Grandin
14. Harwood
15. Horace
16. Hunter

17. Kindred
18. Leonard
19. Mapleton
20. North River
21. Oxbow
22. Page
23. Prairie Rose
24. Reile's Acres
25. Tower City
26. West Fargo

County Commission
City/County Auditors
City Administrator
County Coordinator
City Assessors
City Public Works
City Fire
City/County Law Enforcement
City Forestry
City Finance
City/County Engineers
County Tax Director
County Treasurer
Hospital Representatives (MeritCare/Innovis)
Salvation Army
American Red Cross
FirstLink
VA Medical Center
Cass County Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Services
Cass County Social Services
Emergency Vehicle Assistance and Communications
GIS Coordinators (city/county)
50 Cass County Township Officer's Board
Cass County Township Officer's Association
Cass County Rural Water Association
North Dakota Air National Guard
Moorhead-Fargo Hazardous Materials Team
Red River Regional Dispatch Center
North Dakota State University
Fargo/West Fargo Park Districts

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Cass County Emergency Services Unit

National Weather Service

Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments or COG

PART 2. PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLANNING

Introduction: Pre-disaster Mitigation Planning uses knowledge and information accumulated by local people. This information can then be used to implement projects in a proactive manner to reduce damage or injury from the impact of hazards. This section of the Plan deals with hazard mitigation before disaster strikes. Once disaster occurs, where the hazard impacts lie is easily distinguishable because stakeholders are both responding to the hazard's effects and repairing the damage. Part 3 deals with mitigating hazards after a disaster, to reduce their impact in the future. Part 2 focuses creating mitigation projects that can lesson the effects of a hazard before an event occurs. Utilizing the history and institutional knowledge of the county, Pre-disaster mitigation provides the opportunity to take action now to reduce the impact of a future disaster.

Cass County has identified goals to address hazards and these can be viewed in Appendix 5.

Basic Mitigation Preparedness: The most cost-effective time to implement new recommendations or mitigation initiatives is prior to the occurrence of any significant loss of life and/or property. Mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation measures for smaller disasters will have an impact on day-to-day decisions of state and local governments, and should set the stage for significant post-disaster mitigation measures developed by the IHMT/HMST and state and local officials for more significant events.

The development and implementation of mitigation measures for every hazard identified in this plan may include activities in one or more of the following:

1. Zoning and/or land use construction.
2. Studies and research.
3. Capital improvements and construction.
4. Legislative action or ordinance adoption, etc.
5. Awareness, public information, and public education programs.
6. Training and exercise programs.
7. Fiscal policies.
8. Alerting and warning.
9. Develop and maintain state and local emergency funding for response and recovery operations.
10. Continue to computerize response, recovery, and mitigation activities/date.
11. Develop and implement the Incident Command System for response activities for all hazards.
12. Insure that Local Emergency Management Staffs are well trained and equipped.
13. Develop and maintain mutual aid agreements.

Responsibility:

1. FEMA, Region VIII will:
 - a. Provide guidance for the Mitigation Plan and procedures.
 - b. Approve State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans.
 - c. Provide formal training programs conducted at either the National Emergency Training Center or at the Regional office.
2. The North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (DES) supported appropriately by all State Functional/Task Coordinators (State departments and agencies with an emergency assignment) will:
 - a. Coordinate the development and improvement of current state mitigation plans, and assist local governments in developing Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans.
 - b. Approve Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans.
 - c. Prepare and submit, in accordance with Federal Regulations, a hazard mitigation plan(s), as appropriate.

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- d. Participate in the Hazard Mitigation Survey Team or Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team planning process.
 - e. DES will develop and maintain a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan based on significant recurring hazards affecting the state. DES staff will attempt to provide input annually based on accomplishments, state and local declared disasters or emergencies, and state and local exercises.
3. Local Government (emergency management organizations and all appointed/elected officials) will:
- a. Provide input to the State and County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans and programs.
 - b. Coordinate the development and improvements of Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans.
 - c. Participate in the process of evaluating hazards and adoption of appropriate hazard mitigation measures, including land use and construction standards.
 - d. Participate in the development and implementation of supplements or plan updates, as appropriate.
 - e. Participate in the Hazard Mitigation Team(s) planning process.
 - f. The local emergency management organization will encourage the implementation of mitigation activities for all hazards identified in the North Dakota Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan that may seriously affect their jurisdiction.

Risk Analysis: The results of the Risk Analysis have been documented for all cities and the County in Appendix 3. Some differences exist and categorization of multiple cities is possible given similarities in either size and local threats or proximity to the Red River or cities of Fargo and West Fargo.

Identified Hazard Mitigation Projects: Attachment 4 is the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Project Management list specific projects will be identified in Appendix 5. Each Project has been analyzed using the Staple+e Process:

Socially Acceptable
Technically Feasible
Administratively Possible
Politically Acceptable
Legal
Economic, Benefit/Cost and
Environmentally Sound

Evaluation: A Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan evaluation will be accomplished annually through an internal review process. The County Emergency Manager will make a performance review for each hazard within the plan for updating purposes. Additions to the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan will be added to the yearly work plan of the County Emergency Manager. All disaster or emergency incidents will be evaluated for general/specific mitigation recommendations to be added to the Plan. A comprehensive plan review by planning team members will occur every 5 years unless the need arises earlier through aforementioned reviews and actions.

PART 3. POST-DISASTER MITIGATION PLANNING

Introduction: After a disaster strikes, there are actions to be taken. Planning is one of those actions. A disaster is, unfortunately, a good time to evaluate weaknesses or vulnerabilities in the County. Document everything that is happening in the County, including location, severity, etc. Once the initial response activity has subsided, gather the Risk Analysis team to evaluate the current hazard impacts. Move rapidly into the HAZMIT Project Identification Phase and begin preparing the HAZMIT Grant Pre-Application. As soon as the information in the pre-application is compiled, it can be sent to the State DES Hazard Mitigation Section for evaluation.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Federal: Federal hazard mitigation responsibilities in the aftermath of a disaster include several steps, as outlined below. The key federal agency in the hazard mitigation area is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). At the time of a disaster, and in coordination with the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, FEMA has the following hazard mitigation responsibilities (The FEMA-State agreement ((In the Presidential Disaster Declaration)) for disaster assistance creates binding obligations on FEMA, state, and local governments in the form of conditions which are legally enforceable. A hazard mitigation section is included in the agreement, which obligates the state to assure that appropriate hazard mitigation actions are taken, mitigation plans are developed, and a review and update is made of necessary portions of the State Emergency Operations Plan. FEMA staff will provide guidance and technical assistance that states may request in order to meet these requirements, through consultations with state and federal personnel during the post-disaster mitigation planning process):

1. Participate in preliminary damage assessment activities to assess the magnitude and severity of the disaster, make an initial evaluation of hazard mitigation opportunities, and determine the make-up of the hazard mitigation team.
2. Assemble an Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (IHMT) or a Hazard Mitigation Survey Team (HMST). (These teams are essentially the same. The IHMT is used in flood disasters, while the HMST is used in all other types of disasters.) Membership includes federal, state, and local representatives. The goals of the team are as follows:
 - a. Identify areas of significant hazards.
 - b. Visit the disaster site and evaluate impacts.
 - c. Review existing programs, legislation, land use regulations, construction standards, and other hazard mitigation measures, which are in place.
 - d. Review existing warning and evacuation plans.
 - e. Identify and evaluate measures to mitigate the hazards;
 - f. Recommend appropriate hazard mitigation measures; and
 - g. Coordinate action to implement the recommendations.
3. The Federal Hazard Mitigation Officer (FHMO) prepares a report summarizing the team's activities within 15 days of the disaster declaration.
4. While the team activities are ongoing, FEMA hazard mitigation staff will work with the state and other FEMA disaster recovery staff to apply the funding mechanisms of the Stafford Act to the accomplishment of hazard mitigation activities identified by the team and by FEMA.
5. Upon completion of the team's report, FEMA hazard mitigation staff will work with the state to begin preparation of a supplement to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, referred to as the 409 Plan, after the section of PL 93-288, as amended, which requires the preparation of an all-hazard mitigation plan and appropriate supplements for each subsequent federally declared disaster. Section 409 requires states to develop and maintain a systematic program to identify hazards, monitor changes in hazard vulnerability, and develop and implement measures for reducing hazard vulnerability. This is a dynamic, ongoing process in which annual updates and disaster declarations become opportunities to revise and improve existing hazard mitigation plans.

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6. To comply with Section 409, FEMA and the State Hazard Mitigation Officer will use the information developed by the IHMT/HMST, and with the continuing support of the team members, will prepare an update to its existing hazard mitigation plan. The plan supplement must be submitted to FEMA within 180 days from the disaster declaration. The Plan will:

- a. Analyze the hazard susceptibility.
- b. Analyze existing state and local laws, regulations, and programs that pertain to hazard mitigation.
- c. Identify the strengths and weaknesses in existing state and local programs; and
- d. Propose mitigation measures.

7. The final element in the Section 409 process is to track and monitor the implementation of the state hazard mitigation plan. FEMA requires annual updates to the 409 Plan to ensure that its analyses and recommendations remain up to date over time.

State: Mitigation planning is expanded significantly following presidentially declared events. Additional staff is added to the DEM staff for mitigation project administration and planning.

The Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) will designate a State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO). The SHMO will coordinate the activities of the State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT) and serve as project manager to insure completion of hazard mitigation programs and administrative requirements.

The State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT) is composed of members from state agencies with hazard mitigation expertise and areas of responsibility in accordance with the North Dakota Emergency Operations Plan. The State Hazard Mitigation Team will:

- a. Coordinate all state and local responsibilities regarding hazard mitigation.
- b. Prepare and submit in accordance with the requirements of federal regulations, a hazard mitigation plan(s) or update to existing plan(s), as appropriate;
- c. Participate in the Hazard Mitigation Survey Team (HMST) or Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (IHMT) activities.
- d. Arrange for appropriate local participation on the HMST or IHMT and in the Section 409 planning process.
- e. Request local governments to implement appropriate hazard mitigation actions and to assure that they are not in conflict with each other or state plans; and
- f. Ensure that activities, programs, and policies of all state agencies related to hazard vulnerability and management are coordinated and contribute to the overall lessening of vulnerability or avoiding natural hazards.

Local: The county emergency manager and other elected or appointed officials will coordinate local mitigation actions. County government will coordinate the gathering of the local applicant's hazard mitigation information needed by the state (see State Disaster Recovery Mitigation Administrative Procedures). The local mitigation representative will also assist the IHMT/HMST and the SHMT as required to develop the fifteen-day report, the Section 409 Plan, and assist local applicants to obtain mitigation funding. The county emergency manager will form and activate a Local Hazard Mitigation Team (LHMT) to provide input, determine, and prioritize mitigation initiatives in a post-disaster environment. All local governments requesting state or federal disaster recovery assistance will:

- a. Participate in the process of evaluating hazards and adoption of appropriate hazard mitigation measures, including land use and construction standards.
- b. Appoint a Local Hazard Mitigation Officer, if appropriate.
- c. Participate on Hazard Mitigation Survey Teams and Interagency Hazard Mitigation Teams, as necessary.
- d. Update the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan annually.
- e. Coordinate and monitor the implementation of local hazard mitigation measures; and
- f. Participate in mitigation funding activities and progress reporting.

Identified Hazard Mitigation Projects: Attachment 5 is the Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Project Management list. Each Project has been analyzed using the Staple+e Process:

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Socially Acceptable
Technically Feasible
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Economic, Benefit/Cost and
Environmentally Sound

Mitigation Measures, Recommendations, and Strategies: Post-disaster recommendations and strategies will be developed through the inputs from County agencies with an emergency assignment in the County Emergency Operations Plan, and any other agency deemed appropriate by the Cass Fargo Emergency Manager or County Commissioners. Mitigation recommendations and strategies will be developed and implemented following each significant incident or disaster. Appendix 5 will be expanded to include the Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Project Management list.

Evaluation: Post-disaster Mitigation Plan evaluation will be accomplished quarterly for the first year after the close date of the incident and annually thereafter. All disaster or emergency incidents will be evaluated for general/specific mitigation recommendations to be added to the Plan.