

Sumner County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan



FINAL DRAFT

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Developed by Sumner County with professional planning assistance from
AMEC Earth and Environmental
Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management Program
Topeka, Kansas and Denver, Colorado



SPECIAL THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Susan Belt, AMEC Earth and Environmental



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Appendices

- Appendix A: References**
- Appendix B: Planning Process Documentation**
- Appendix C: Mitigation Action Alternatives**
- Appendix D: Completed STAPLEE Forms**
- Appendix E: Adoption Resolutions**
- Appendix F: Wildfire Assessment**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of natural hazards mitigation is to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards. Sumner County and participating jurisdictions developed this multi-hazard mitigation plan to reduce future losses to the County and its communities resulting from natural hazards. The plan was prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and to achieve eligibility for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Mitigation Assistance, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs.

The Sumner County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers the following local governments that participated in the planning process:

- Sumner County
- City of Argonia
- City of Belle Plaine
- City of Caldwell
- City of Conway Springs
- City of Geuda Springs
- City of Mulvane
- City of Oxford
- City of South Haven
- City of Wellington
- USD 356, Conway Springs
- USD 357, Belle Plaine
- USD 359, Argonia
- USD 509, South Haven

In addition to these jurisdictions that officially participated in the planning process and have adopted the plan, the following local organizations contributed to the planning effort:

- Belle Plaine Township
- Creek Township
- Gore Township
- London Township
- Palestine Township
- Wellington Township
- Caldwell Housing Authority
- Cowskin Drainage District
- Sumner County Hospital District #1

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- USD 353, Wellington
 - USD 360, Caldwell

The Cities of Hunnewell, Mayfield, and Milan as well as Unified School Districts 263, Mulvane, 358 Oxford, and the Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative did not respond to the invitations to participate in the meetings and planning process. During the plan maintenance and revision process, outlined in detail in Chapter 5, all jurisdictions will again be invited to officially participate in the planning process for future plan updates.

The County's planning process followed a methodology prescribed by FEMA, which began with the formation of a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) comprised of key stakeholders from Sumner County and participating jurisdictions. Although not in attendance at the planning meetings, representatives from state and federal agencies were also invited. Please see Appendix B for a complete list of invited agencies/organizations. The HMPC conducted a risk assessment that identified and profiled hazards that pose a risk to Sumner County, assessed the County's vulnerability to these hazards, and examined the capabilities in place to mitigate them. The County is vulnerable to several hazards that are identified, profiled, and analyzed in this plan. Tornadoes, floods, winter storm, and windstorm are among the hazards that can have a significant impact on the County.

Based upon the risk assessment, the HMPC identified goals for reducing risk from hazards. Goals Developed by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee including the preliminary list of objectives for each goal are listed below:

- Goal #1: Increase capabilities and develop strategies to assure that vulnerable populations, buildings, and critical facilities within Sumner County are protected from hazards and reduce the damaging effects of those hazards.
 - Reduce property losses due to flood, wildfire, winter storms, and other hazards.
 - Increase the level of protection for critical facilities, infrastructure, and utility systems.
 - Assure that vulnerable populations such as the elderly, homeless, low income or those with Limited English Proficiency are included in mitigation and response planning.
- Goal #2: Improve the level of responder, government, business, and citizen awareness and preparedness for disaster.
 - Strengthen outreach and partnerships with the private sector, nonprofit organizations and the public.
 - Improve public understanding of hazards and risk by providing public awareness, preparedness, and mitigation information through various channels of communication.
 - Educate property and business owners on affordable mitigation and preparedness measures that can be taken to reduce property loss.
- Goal #3: Promote a policy framework that assures effective hazard mitigation programs are implemented and promoted.
 - Assure continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System (CRS) Program.
 - Promote the adoption of ordinances that reduce damages from natural hazards.

To meet the identified goals, the plan recommends the mitigation actions detailed in Chapter 4. The HMPC developed an implementation plan for each action, which identifies priority level, background information, ideas for implementation, responsible agency, timeline, cost estimate, potential funding sources, and more. These additional details are also provided in Chapter 4.



PREREQUISITES

44 CFR requirement 201.6(c)(5): The local hazard mitigation plan shall include documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan. For multi-jurisdictional plans, each jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan must document that it has been formally adopted.

Note to Reviewers: When this plan has been reviewed and approved pending adoption by FEMA Region VII the adoption resolutions will be signed by the participating jurisdictions and added to Appendix E. A model resolution is provided.

The following jurisdictions participated in the development of this plan and have adopted the multi-jurisdictional plan. Resolutions of Adoptions are included in Appendix E.

- Sumner County
- City of Argonia
- City of Belle Plaine
- City of Caldwell
- City of Conway Springs
- City of Geuda Springs
- City of Mulvane
- City of Oxford
- City of South Haven
- City of Wellington
- USD 356, Conway Springs
- USD 357, Belle Plaine
- USD 359, Argonia
- USD 509, South Haven

Model Resolution

Resolution # _____ **Adopting the Sumner County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Whereas, the (Name of Government/District/Organization seeking FEMA approval of hazard mitigation plan) recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within our community; and

Whereas, undertaking hazard mitigation actions will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences; and

Whereas, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (“Disaster Mitigation Act”) emphasizing the need for pre-disaster mitigation of potential hazards;

Whereas, the Disaster Mitigation Act made available hazard mitigation grants to state and local governments; and

Whereas, an adopted Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is required as a condition of future funding for mitigation projects under multiple FEMA pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant programs; and

Whereas, the (Name of Government/District/Organization) fully participated in the FEMA-prescribed mitigation planning process to prepare this Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

Whereas, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII officials have reviewed the “Sumner County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan,” and approved it contingent upon this official adoption of the participating governing body; and

Whereas, the (Name of Government/District/Organization) desires to comply with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act and to augment its emergency planning efforts by formally adopting the Sumner County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

Whereas, adoption by the governing body for the (Name of Government/District/Organization) demonstrates the jurisdictions’ commitment to fulfilling the mitigation goals and objectives outlined in this Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Whereas, adoption of this legitimizes the plan and authorizes responsible agencies to carry out their responsibilities under the plan;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the (Name of Government/District/Organization) adopts the “Sumner County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan” as an official plan; and

Be it further resolved, the (Name of Government/District/Organization) will submit this Adoption Resolution to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII officials to enable the plan’s final approval.

Passed: _____

Certifying Official