

Niobrara County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Briefing Paper—April 2015

What is a multi-hazard mitigation plan (MHMP) and why do we need one?

The existing MHMP--adopted in 2009--is being updated to make Niobrara County, the City of Lusk, and the Towns of Manville and VanTassell more disaster-resistant and less vulnerable to property damage and loss of life from a natural disaster. The plan update is being funded through a grant from FEMA and Niobrara County. Updating the plan ensures the county will remain eligible to compete for funds to carry out the projects in the plan and will also be eligible for assistance after a disaster, if requested. Adoption of the updated plan is voluntary, but the town and county will need to adopt the updated plan to remain eligible for grant funds and post-disaster assistance.

What is in the plan?

Assessments of natural hazards that describe historical occurrences and vulnerability to each hazard are found in the original plan and will be updated with new information. The plan will estimate the potential losses and impacts should a disaster occur. Goals, objectives and projects will also be updated as part of the plan. Projects to help protect lives, property, or infrastructure can be identified by local governments, emergency responders, and/or members of the public.

How will the plan be prepared?

The update process has been initiated by retaining a contractor, Beck Consulting, to work with the Niobrara County Board of Commissioners, County Emergency Management, city and town elected officials, city and town, emergency responders, and the public. The contractor will hold public meetings, work with interested parties to gather project ideas, update existing information in the plan, and complete the plan update. The contract team will coordinate most closely with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC.) A draft of the plan will be prepared and made available for public review and comment in the early summer of 2015. Copies of the draft will be available at the town, city, and county offices, and through the county's website. Following the comment period, the contractor will finalize the plan update. The plan will be reviewed by the State of Wyoming and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA.) Following this review, Niobrara County, the Town of Manville and VanTassell, and City of Lusk may adopt the plan.

How do we offer input?

Input is encouraged at any time during the process until the updated plan is adopted by the governing bodies in the fall of 2015. Meetings during the planning process will be noticed and open to the public. Information announcing meeting times, dates, and locations, and the availability of the draft plan update will be submitted to Lusk Herald and be posted on the county's website www.niobrara.org. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Barb Beck at (406) 446-3628, barbbeck@bresnan.net.