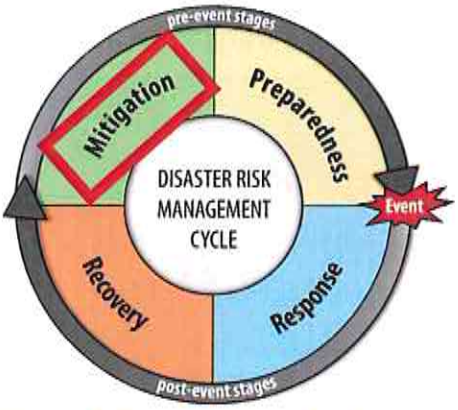
Harney County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

February 2026

Natural hazard mitigation is any action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. Unlike preparedness which focuses on being able to respond when a disaster hits and improving immediate readiness, mitigation focuses on the long-term reduction of risk.



Why mitigation planning?

- ***To avoid disasters*** by reducing or eliminating risk to people, property, and the environment.
- ***To maintain eligibility*** for hazard related funding.
- ***To increase safety and resiliency*** by integrating hazard mitigation into local government planning and operations.

EVERY $1 SPENT ON MITIGATION

SAVES $6 ON FUTURE RECOVERY

What is the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan?

The **Harney County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP)** identifies and examines the hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks that people and property in the county could face from natural hazards and identifies mitigation strategies and resources to minimize risk from those hazards. Natural hazards are natural events that threaten lives, property, and other assets such as flood, wildfire, and drought. This planning process is to update Harney County's existing NHMP, which should be updated every five years.

The NHMP is intended to be a community-oriented document that also meets FEMA's policy requirements. Actions and strategies are developed with the goal of making them realistic and attainable with existing resources and capabilities.

The update process began in March 2025. A draft of the **Risk Assessment** portion of the plan is completed and can be reviewed here: https://dlcd.box.com/s/jbnsp0pmfox3mgj7ttrzd41xex9ojmmx . Everyone who lives and works in Harney County is encouraged to participate and provide comment (see QR code on second page). The draft of the remaining portions of the plan will be available for review later this year.

Who is involved in developing this NHMP?

The Harney County NHMP is the result of collaboration between federal, state, and local partners making up a steering committee. This NHMP is multi-jurisdictional and includes Harney County, the city of Burns, and the city of Hines. Local non-profits, utilities, and state agencies have also contributed.

All residents of Harney County are encouraged to participate and provide comment on the plan.

Recent Natural Hazard Events

2021
- Winter storm
- Declared drought

2022
- Declared drought

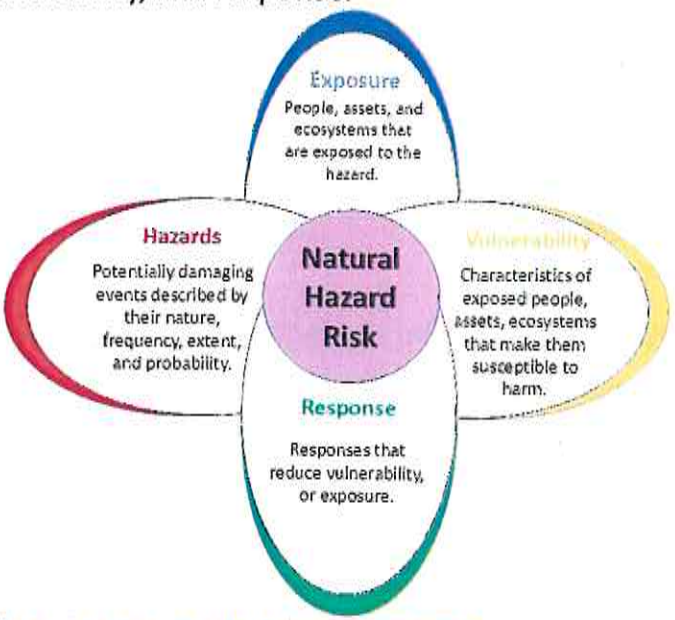
2023
- Severe storm with flooding and landslides
- Declared drought

2024
- Falls and Telephone Fires
- Declared drought
- Winter storm

2025
- March 2025 Flooding
- Extreme heat

What is Risk?

Natural hazard risk is the estimated impact that a hazard would have on people, services, facilities, and structures in a community and the likelihood that a hazard event results in injury or damage. It is the overlap between hazards, exposure, vulnerability, and response.



What is the Risk Assessment?

Step 1: Hazard Identification

Step 2: Vulnerability Assessment

Step 3: Risk Analysis

The Risk Assessment provides the factual foundation for mitigation actions and goals. It includes the identification of hazards, assessment of vulnerability to those hazards, and a hazard vulnerability assessment that combines the two.

Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

The steering committee identified and assessed all hazards with the potential to affect Harney County. The Hazard Analysis Methodology assigns scores to each hazard based on **history, probability, vulnerability,** and **maximum threat** and weights and combines them to give an overall risk score. Risk ratings allowed the steering committee to determine relative ranking of hazard concerns and priorities. The table below shows the steering committee's ranking which will be used to prioritize mitigation actions.

Hazard	Total Score	Risk Level
Winter Storms	202	High
Wildfires	198	High
Droughts	194	High
Floods	186	High
Air Quality	179	Medium
Windstorms	178	Medium
Extreme Temperature	170	Medium
Landslides	100	Low
Earthquakes	87	Low
Volcanic Events	72	Low

Next Steps

The steering committee is in the process of updating mitigation actions from the previous plan and compiling new mitigation actions. Remaining portions of the plan are also being updated. The next steering committee will be held in March.

http://bit.ly/4rwlzrZ

Follow the QR code or link to provide comments on the draft risk assessment and share your priorities and experiences with natural hazards.

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