

(Total divided by 4) Very Low – 1 Low – 2 Moderate – 3 High – 4	<u>Overall Priority</u> 2.5 Low/Moderate
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Vulnerability to Terrorism and Specific Areas of Concern

Cascading effects and risk of an intentional human-caused disaster are highly dependent on the specific mode used and asset targeted. Many of these have been detailed in the technological hazards portion of the plan covering dam failure and hazardous materials incidents. Fires and secondary explosions are possible with explosive attacks and fires from arson attacks can extend beyond the intended target. Targets could also include any building or facility that is owned, operated, or utilized by any level of government, including local, county, state, and federal. The City of Fairmont has indicated some concern with the possibility of terrorism, both international and domestic, because of suspicious activity that has been observed in other similar size communities around the nation. There is some concern with the possibility of Fairmont residents having to deal with damage to infrastructure as a product of a terrorist attack.

Potential Impacts and Cascading Effects

The potential impacts of acts of terrorism include the loss of life and injuries sustained due either to the event itself or the aftermath, possible secondary hazards such as fires or outbreaks of infectious diseases, the loss or reduction of necessary supplies such as water, widespread panic among residents, increased demand on emergency services, and impacts on buildings and infrastructure that may be either damaged or destroyed in such an event, which can lead to economic losses for the area as well.

Terrorism Gaps and Deficiencies

- Some communities, such as Welcome and Fairmont, have concerns with the security of water facilities, and the local dam in the case of Fairmont.

ACTIONABLE MITIGATION STEPS:

Actionable Mitigation Steps are more elaborately explained with project, timeframe, responsible jurisdictions/staff, possible funding sources, and priority level in the Action Plan section of this document. Suggested areas of focus are denoted in parentheses.

1. Well protection (Countywide) – City public works director will work with the police department to ensure external safety at wells by using means such as lighting, fencing, and locking mechanisms around well houses. This is for terrorism prevention as well as increased public safety, particularly for children who could access the area.
2. Limit pedestrian access to government buildings (Countywide) – Government buildings may wish to restrict pedestrian access to all facilities, or specified areas within the buildings. This could be enforced at specified times as deemed necessary.

3. Design new facilities with terrorism in mind (Countywide, particularly governmental buildings such as the Martin County Courthouse) – Facilities that may face an increased threat from terrorism should utilize design and building elements to minimize threats from terrorist attacks, such as blast-resistant materials and fire suppression systems.
4. Coordination/Cooperation with State and Federal Officials (Countywide) – Martin County officials should continue to work with state and federal officials and agencies on domestic preparedness efforts to mitigate impacts from a terrorism event.

PART SEVEN: ACTION PLAN

Martin County General Goals and Objectives

County general goals and objectives were developed based upon knowledge of county resources, political will, and existing hazard mitigation capacity. Martin County Priority Goals were prioritized according to how many jurisdictions identified them as priorities in their completed survey and how those jurisdictions ranked the threat they believe that the hazard poses to the community. Strategies for each goal were also based upon their respective cost-effectiveness, relative ease of implementation using existing or readily available resources, and their anticipated acceptance within Martin County communities. While cost estimates were made by participants based upon personal projections, more in-depth analysis will be conducted during future updates to the plan, in the form of a cost-benefit analysis. In addition, the planning process permitted deliberation of key issues and strategic areas of focus which influenced the decision making process in identifying county goals. Further prioritizations of goals identified below were chosen based upon vulnerability and capability of implementing hazard mitigation strategies.

An application may be submitted to the state for a federal grant share of up to 75% of the total project costs under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Projects will undergo a cost-benefit and project feasibility review before the state sends a request to FEMA for funding approval. The State Hazard Mitigation Officer should be contacted to determine the exact requirements for a pre-application review for the project.

Goal: Establish warning systems for use in the event of an emergency.

Strategies:

- A. Acquire, install, maintain, and utilize sirens to alert citizens to weather events.
- B. Promote the use of NOAA Weather Radios and develop appropriate methods of warning
- C. Train and maintain storm watch personnel to help aid early detection of possible natural disasters.

Goal: Establish and enforce building and fire codes through means of planning and zoning ordinances.

Strategies:

- A. Update the comprehensive planning and zoning ordinances.
- B. Adopt and enforce the Uniform Fire Code.
- C. Participate in the Firewise program to use fire resistant building materials, increase defensible space and utilize sprinkler systems.
- D. Develop city ordinances to limit the placement of new development in flood plains.

Goal: Improve upon current disaster planning and training.

Strategies:

- A. Update the City Emergency Operations Plans.
- B. Encourage the use of MnIMS by all emergency response personnel.

Goal: Provide better education to the public regarding procedures to follow in the event of an emergency.

Strategies:

- A. Work on a personal level to create personal protection planning.
- B. Notify the citizenry, by neighborhood if necessary, of localized hazards.

Goal: Work towards obtaining a more uniform system of communications among response personnel throughout the County.

Strategies:

- A. Develop a common communications language.
- B. Take steps to guarantee equipment compatibility.

Goal: To be more proactive in order to reduce disaster damages.

Strategies:

- A. By maintaining or building new safety structures that will prevent major damages.
- B. By making sure infrastructure systems are working correctly and efficiently.
- C. By utilizing flood plain maps and city-identified flood-prone areas to target property acquisition/buyout and elevation.
- D. By modifying storm drains to prevent street flooding.
- E. County/cities can pursue funding to build or repair levees/dams to reduce flooding impacts to identified communities.
- F. By installing living snow fences, upgrading or burying/upgrading power lines to reduce the impact of winter storms and damages due to strong winds.
- G. By construction and maintenance of safe rooms and storm shelters to protect the public against high winds and tornadoes.

Priority Goals as Established in the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan

The following goals have been determined as being the “priority listing” of goals for Martin County hazard-mitigation planning efforts, as they are the forms of hazard events that have been deemed most likely to have a serious detrimental impact on Martin County and all communities therein. These priority goals have been determined using the input of all Martin County persons involved in the creation of this plan, using Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Environmental, and Economic (also referred to as “STAPLEE”) criteria. It is recommended that Martin County pursue this set of goals for hazard mitigation as soon as possible. While all possible hazard events could have a serious negative impact on the County, due to the fact that they have not been determined as being priority hazards they are not included within this section of Martin County Goals, Objectives, and Strategies. However, every hazard does have Actionable Mitigation steps that have been designed to minimize the impact of these hazards on the County, and these are listed and described under the “Actionable Mitigation Steps for All Hazards” section.

1. Summer Storms, Specifically Tornadoes

How many jurisdictions named storms as a top three priority?

10

Goal

To prevent or minimize loss of life, injuries, and damage to property due to severe summer storms, particularly dangerous tornadoes.

Objective

- The development of public education programs and educational material that can assist in teaching people about the hazards posed by summer storms and tornadoes

Strategies

- Martin County’s severe weather information will be mailed to citizens in coordination with cities via utility billing or other public information mailings. Information would identify not only where to go for storm information (i.e. radio stations), but also where the nearest shelters are located. This information will be provided to citizens as a means to prevent damage or impacts of hazards.
- Begin developing and disseminating information in 2007.
- Periodically review information as a step in the annual monitoring and planning process. Department of Emergency Management will work with cities, towns and the regional development commission to develop educational material that can be presented to public via website and brochures.
- Continue working towards implementation of an emergency calling system that would automatically place a warning telephone call to every resident in the event of an imminently threatening hazard event.

2. Fires, Especially in Downtown Areas

How many jurisdictions named fires as a top three priority?

10

Goal

To protect people, animals, and the built and natural environment from unwanted fire hazards.

Objectives

- To encourage the countywide adoption of the Minnesota State Building Code and to continue funding training for public education performed by county fire departments. These goals will require only minimal staffing costs.
- To develop and distribute educational materials regarding fire hazards to the public.

Strategies

- The county will need to seek funding to explore the development and adoption of Minnesota State Building Code. The Department of Emergency Management at the county along with jurisdictions will discuss this issue during the first annual update meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for March/April of 2008. Adoption of such codes will lessen the vulnerability of new buildings, because measures such as structure of walls and fire apparatuses may be addressed early.
- The County along with city police, fire, public works and other appropriate units will collaborate on distributing educational material to the public. Information can be made available via websites, handouts at community or youth events and public presentations.
- Continue working towards implementation of an emergency calling system that would automatically place a warning telephone call to every resident in the event of an imminently threatening hazard event.

3. Winter Storms

How many jurisdictions named winter storms as a top three priority?

7

Goal

To prepare all Martin County residents for severe winter storm events and have systems in place to minimize the threats to their safety and well being imposed by said storms.

Objectives

- To encourage the updating of snow removal plans
- To begin planning for the event of a prolonged winter storm event, including guaranteeing availability of shelters in the event of a power outage.

Strategies

- Continue working towards implementation of an emergency calling system that would automatically place a warning telephone call to every resident in the event of an imminently threatening hazard event.
- Continue annual review of snow removal plans in all Martin County jurisdictions.
- Assess community vulnerabilities to prolonged winter storm events.
- Perform collective inventories of adequate shelter sites throughout Martin County, particularly so that elderly and vulnerable residents may be prepared for prolonged power outages.

Actionable Mitigation Steps for All Hazards

The following Actionable Mitigation Steps for All Hazards are expanded explanations and recommendations of the Actionable Mitigation Steps contained within each section of this document. In this section, some concepts of possible timeframes, funding resources, and responsible jurisdictions/agencies (and if at all possible staff positions) have been included as well. These recommended projects are also listed in prioritized order, as deemed by Region Nine staff using the general criteria that projects with the greatest forecasted impact on reducing or eliminating impacts should be undertaken first. A priority level of one to three has been assigned to each project, with one denoting that the project should be undertaken as soon as possible, and three denoting that the project should be implemented as time allows.

These steps are only recommendations, and it is the responsibility of Martin County and cities thereof to implement these measures, as they deem appropriate. Specific steps may very well require significantly more research as to whether they would be appropriate and feasible steps for Martin County communities to take in their hazard mitigation efforts. It is recommended that these communities continue to use the suggestions included herein to assist in conceptualizing additional steps and strategies to help prepare for hazard events. Additionally, many of the mitigation projects included in this section are applicable to several forms of hazard events beyond the category under which they are listed, and these may be considered as mitigation projects for any and all hazards for which Martin County and cities thereof decide they may be applicable to.

Hazard: Winter Storms

- **Mitigation Project-** Undertake community education and drills to prepare residents for severe weather storm events. This could take the form of public education classes/seminars, presentations to schools and community groups, and creation/distribution of informational literature regarding winter storm events.

Timeframe- Community education and drills could be undertaken immediately, if they are already not being conducted. If these forms of public outreach are already being performed by Martin County communities, then they may consider increasing their events prior to and during the winter storm season when these hazard events are most likely to occur. These programs should be an ongoing effort within communities.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City personnel would be largely responsible for the development, implementation, and continuation of these projects. Identified cities that may find the programs especially beneficial include Ceylon, Granada, Fairmont, Northrop, Sherburn, Trimont, and Welcome. Local fire department and police personnel may be involved with presentations and the development of informational material. The State of Minnesota has information available as well, which could likely be utilized by Martin County officials for distribution to their local residents.

Possible Funding- Funding for these projects could come from local jurisdictions, grant sources for emergency preparedness and public education, and possibly contributions from local civic non-profit groups.

Priority Level-1

- **Mitigation Project-** Utilization of local fire department spotters in times of severe winter storm events and creation of communication protocols for alerting police and other personnel throughout the county.

Timeframe- If not already in place, these mitigation projects should be undertaken soon. This mitigation project should be relatively simple to implement and could be completed in the span of a few months.

Responsible Agencies/Jurisdictions- This mitigation project would involve city staff, including fire department and police, from Ceylon, Fairmont, Granada, Northrop, Sherburn, Trimont, and Welcome, and possibly also Martin County personnel. Martin County emergency management officials could oversee it.

Possible Funding- This project would likely be considered as a part of normal police and fire operations and could be funded as such, which is to say that it would probably be funded through local community funds that pay for these services.

Priority Level-2

- **Mitigation Project-** Encourage the public to listen to local news sources, including television and radio broadcasts. These broadcasts can be extremely useful in disseminating information to residents in the event of a severe winter storm event, but are only effective if they are utilized. Reminders could be placed in city correspondence (such as water bills or newsletters) and on city web sites, if they are available.

Timeframe- This mitigation project can be implemented immediately, and should especially be encouraged during the winter storm season when events are most likely to occur.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Local cities would be largely responsible for implementation of this mitigation project. Local news sources may also be involved through use of their own broadcasts making note of their severe weather alert capabilities.

Possible Funding- This mitigation project can be done at minimal cost and would likely be funded primarily by local city governments.

Priority Level-2

- **Mitigation Project-** Creation of plans for rapid snow removal in Fairmont. City public works department will have the appropriate equipment and scheduling systems in place to quickly remove snow and debris in order to prevent accidents and deaths.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should be considered ongoing and should be periodically reviewed to ensure its continued effectiveness.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Fairmont public works department may coordinate with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Martin County Public Works department to work for prompt clearing of intersecting roads.

Possible Funding- Funding for this project would come largely from the City of Fairmont and may also be assisted with Martin County and MnDOT funds.

Priority Level-2

- **Mitigation Project-** Utilize city ordinances to discourage placement of trees near power lines. Winter storms, particularly ice storms, can easily down trees. Trees that topple near or on power lines present a serious secondary hazard in addition to the winter storm itself, and can also lead to power outages. Cities should utilize local ordinances to limit the locations of trees nearby to power lines.

Timeframe- This mitigation project could be undertaken immediately, and the amendments to city ordinances could be prepared, approved, and adopted relatively quickly.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City governments would be responsible for the strategy, primarily planning/zoning department staff and the city councils.

Possible Funding- The primary costs associated with this mitigation project would be the staff time needed by the city planning staff to prepare or amend the ordinance, which would be the responsibility of the local city government.

Priority Level-3

Hazard: Summer Storms

- **Mitigation Project-** The identification/creation and use of adequate storm shelter facilities for the public in Dunnell, Truman, and Sherburn. Appropriate and safe shelter facilities should be designated for those that may otherwise lack access to them.

Timeframe- This project should be undertaken and completed as soon as possible, due to the fact that it is a serious gap in the preparedness of these communities to adequately deal with a summer storm event.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The cities of Dunnell, Truman, and Sherburn would be responsible for undertaking and completing this project. They may be assisted with external partners of some sort if necessary.

Funding- Funding for the identification and/or creation of adequate storm shelter facilities would be the responsibility of the cities to fund by any means available to them that would be appropriate for use in this project.

Priority Level-1

- **Mitigation Project-** Assure development, improvement, and maintenance of Early Warning Systems (sirens) in all Martin County communities. Having these systems in place can provide a clearly understood message of imminent danger to residents within