

- C. By working with the MN Board of Veterinary Health to educate producers and enforce mortality disposal rules.
- D. By funding and training County staff.
- E. By updating County regulations as needed.
- F. By keeping Townships and Cities informed through appearances at Township Association meetings and via written correspondence relating to public hearings for feedlot proposals.

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 Blue Earth 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 Blue Earth 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 Blue Earth County and cities thereof decide they may be applicable to.

Projects submitted to FEMA for funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program Grant (PDM) are required to undergo a benefit cost analysis as part of the application. Applications for these grants are reviewed by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management before being submitted to FEMA.

Hazard: Winter Storms

- **Mitigation Project-** Assure availability of information for non-English speaking residents throughout Blue Earth County. Language barriers for emergency information should be reduced or eliminated as much as possible so that all residents, regardless of language spoken, are able to get up-to-date information.

Timeframe- This mitigation project could be undertaken immediately and likely implemented within 3-6 months from inception. Efforts should be considered ongoing from that point forward.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County staff and city-level staff may be involved with this project. It may likely be assisted by County-level programs targeted at assisting minority populations.

Possible Funding- Funding for this project could come from any appropriate and available Blue Earth County or city-level funding, and may possibly be aided by grant opportunities as well, especially those meant to help minority populations.

Priority Level- 1

- **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- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Utilization of severe storm spotters network in all Blue Earth County cities. The severe storm spotters network are specially trained to spot and report severe storm activity, which is in turn used to provide warnings to specific areas of an impending severe winter storm threat. Their training and methods should be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure their continued success.

Timeframe- Most cities already utilize severe storm spotters. This should be continued as needed indefinitely.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- It would be up to individual communities within Blue Earth County to decide how and when to utilize severe storm spotters.

Possible Funding- Many severe storm spotters are fire department members or police officers, so funding for them may come out of applicable city funds.

Priority Level- 2

- **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 Blue Earth County communities are already performing these forms of public outreach, 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 Amboy, Eagle Lake, Good Thunder, Lake Crystal, Madison Lake, Mankato, Mapleton, Pemberton, Skyline, St. Clair, and Vernon. 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 Blue Earth 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- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Education of key personnel in all Blue Earth County cities. Community personnel that are likely to be involved with the immediate effects of a winter storm event (such as fire department and police department staff) should undergo continuing training to ensure that they have the newest and best knowledge and resources available to them so that they may be more effective in dealing with winter storm emergencies. The county hazard mitigation group could disperse information to appropriate departments, and city police and fire personnel could distribute information to county residents.

Timeframe- This mitigation project is already in place in many communities, but it should be ongoing for all of them. Education workshops, seminars, conferences, etc. are held occasionally and applicable training should be considered at all times.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City fire department and police staff would be the most likely to be involved with ongoing education regarding winter storm hazard events. Blue Earth County officials, particularly the county hazard mitigation staff, may be involved as well. Some of the training may be conducted through State of Minnesota agencies and federal agencies such as FEMA.

Possible Funding- Funding for education of key personnel can come from local city governments, from fire department or police department funds, and grants for emergency preparedness.

Priority Level- 3

- **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 Good Thunder and St. Clair. 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 would be responsible for undertaking and completing this project, and this may include city administration, public works personnel, and police/fire departments. 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-** 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 summer 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 summer 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- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Assure development, improvement, and maintenance of Early Warning Systems (sirens) in all Blue Earth County communities, particularly Mankato and Vernon Center. Having these systems in place can provide a clearly understood message of imminent danger to residents within these communities, and may very well prevent injuries and even deaths by warning people to take shelter. Additional sirens where needed should be strongly considered.

Timeframe- The addition of early warning systems to communities can be a costly expenditure and may have to be tied in to a community budget, so this mitigation project may take 2-3 years to become fully operational. However, the sooner the early warning is in place the more likely it is to become a useful tool in protecting the community. In communities in which siren systems are already in place, their maintenance should be carefully monitored to ensure their continued functioning.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The cities of Mankato and Vernon Center (in addition to other Blue Earth County communities), and the manufacturers/distributors of appropriate early warning systems, would have to be involved in this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- Costs for early warning systems would be paid out of funds available for use by the cities that decide to utilize this mitigation project.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Assure availability of information for non-English speaking residents throughout Blue Earth County. Language barriers for emergency information should be reduced or eliminated as much as possible so that all residents, regardless of language spoken, are able to get up-to-date information.

Timeframe- This mitigation project could be undertaken immediately and likely implemented within 3-6 months from inception. Efforts should be considered ongoing from that point forward.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County staff and city-level staff may be involved with this project. It may likely be assisted by County-level programs targeted at assisting minority populations.

Possible Funding- Funding for this project could come from any appropriate and available Blue Earth County or city-level funding, and may possibly be aided by grant opportunities as well, especially those meant to help minority populations.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Utilization of severe storm spotters network in all Blue Earth County cities. The severe storm spotters network are specially trained to spot and report severe summer storm activity, which is in turn used to provide warnings to specific areas of an impending severe summer storm threat. Their training and methods should be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure their continued success.

Timeframe- Most cities already utilize severe storm spotters. This should be continued as needed indefinitely.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- It would be up to individual communities within Blue Earth County to decide how and when to utilize severe storm spotters.

Possible Funding- Many severe storm spotters are fire department members or police officers, so funding for them may come out of applicable city funds.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Provide public outreach and education regarding disaster preparedness as it relates to summer storm events throughout Blue Earth County. Providing such education would increase the public's knowledge of what to do prior to, during, and after a severe storm event, and help protect them from the hazard itself or secondary hazards associated with a summer storm event.

Timeframe- Some communities currently provide such education, and this should be continued, but those that do not should undertake education on disaster preparedness in the near future. This could take place in 2007 or 2008 and be considered ongoing from there. This may come in the form of community classes that may be offered annually or bi-annually, or other forms of educational outreach that communities may deem appropriate.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Cities would primarily be responsible for educational outreach regarding disaster preparedness for summer storms in their jurisdiction. Information and assistance may also come from Blue Earth County staff, the State of Minnesota, and Federal agencies such as FEMA.

Possible Funding- Funding for summer storm preparedness education could come from city funds as well as by grant money available for such projects, assuming the community qualifies to receive such grant funding.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** The City of Mankato may want to consider working with the local utility providers to bury power lines when possible. Power lines which are buried are less

vulnerable to the effects of severe summer storms. This mitigation project may be integrated with city ordinances and planning efforts.

Timeframe- This project should be considered ongoing, and new and replacement power lines should be buried instead of located above-ground whenever economically and geographically feasible.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The City of Mankato, particular the public works and planning/zoning departments, would likely oversee this project.

Possible Funding- Funding would most likely be covered in the same system as other city improvements, including via city funds and/or special assessments and possibly developers fees.

Priority Level- 3

Hazard: Flooding

- **Mitigation Project-** Creation of retention ponds and careful inspection to ensure they operate correctly within the City of Mankato. The City planning and zoning department shall work with its ordinances, building agreements, and permit processes to ensure that appropriate levels of retention pond development are being met.

Timeframe- This project is already in place and should be considered ongoing.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City of Mankato engineering and planning/zoning departments are responsible for this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- This mitigation project should not require any special funding outside of normal city staff time.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** The City of St. Clair should consider enlarging storm sewer mains and drainage ditches, while also carefully maintaining existing facilities. This could happen during routine construction when the time is appropriate.

Timeframe- This mitigation project may take several years to complete, as it is likely to be included as part of a capital improvement plan for the community and will depend on when current equipment is due for repair or replacement.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The St. Clair public works department would be responsible for this mitigation project. They would have to work closely with the city council and engineers.

Possible Funding- It is most likely that this project would be funded as part of a capital improvement plan for the community, but any available and appropriate city funds could be utilized.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** The City of Amboy should work towards reducing sources of inflow and infiltration that result in sewer back-ups within the community. The city should identify and develop measures to reduce inflow and infiltration contributors.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should be undertaken soon by the community and be considered as an ongoing strategy until such time as it is no longer needed.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The City of Amboy public works department and city engineers would be responsible for overseeing this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- This mitigation project would be funded by any available and appropriate city funds.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** The cities of St. Clair and Vernon Center should schedule frequent inspections and cleaning sessions for storm water inlets and grates. This helps maintain appropriate levels of cleanliness and performance of these systems.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should be considered routine by the cities of St. Clair and Vernon Center and be ongoing by both.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Public works departments of the cities of St. Clair and Vernon Center would be responsible for this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- This mitigation project would be funded by any available and appropriate city funds.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Education of key personnel throughout Blue Earth County regarding flood hazards. Community personnel that are likely to be involved with the immediate effects of a flooding event (such as fire department and police department staff) should undergo continuing training to ensure that they have the newest and best knowledge and resources available to them so that they may be more effective in dealing with flood emergencies.

Timeframe- This mitigation project may already be in place in some communities, but it should be ongoing for all of them. Education workshops, seminars, conferences, etc. are held occasionally and applicable training should be considered at all times.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City fire department and police staff would be the most likely to be involved with ongoing education regarding flood hazard events. Blue Earth County emergency management officials may be involved as well. Some of the training may be conducted State of Minnesota agencies, federal agencies such as FEMA, and the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Possible Funding- Funding for education of key personnel can come from local city governments, from fire department of police department funds, and grants for emergency preparedness.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Have items readily available for victims and responders in all Blue Earth County communities and areas. This may include ensuring stockpiling or access to stockpiles of sandbags and wall-building materials to erect barriers to flood waters. Educational material pertaining to flood events would be made available at public buildings. Flood responders should have proper equipment available to assist those who need help in times of a flood.

Timeframe- This mitigation strategy should be implemented soon. The extensive history of recent flooding in Blue Earth County demonstrates the need to begin stockpiling supplies as soon as possible.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County officials and city staff of communities within the county would be primarily responsible for the implementation of this strategy.

Possible Funding- Funding would likely be provided through county funding, local city government operating funds or through any funding available to counties or cities for such projects.

Priority Level- 3

- **Mitigation Project-** Coordination of preparations for and response to a flood emergency with other agencies, including any applicable Blue Earth County, State of Minnesota, and federal agencies. These agencies would have to work together effectively and efficiently in response to a serious flood event. Local resources alone are not adequate for a severe flood event of a prolonged duration.

Timeframe- Should be undertaken as soon as possible and should be considered as an ongoing project, particularly prior to annual flood seasons.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County officials and cities within the county should be responsible for the implementation of this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- This mitigation project should not require extensive funding and most of the costs would probably be incurred due to use of staff time from coordination activities. This may be funded by any proper means available to the responsible agencies.

Priority Level- 3

- **Mitigation Project-** Creation and maintenance of a communications plan for use in the event of a flood emergency. Blue Earth County, as well as all cities within the county,

should have a communications plan in place to direct methods and lines of communications in the event of a flood emergency, such as points of contact for different agencies and assignments of radio frequencies for electronic communications devices.

Timeframe- This mitigation project could be prepared and implemented relatively rapidly, likely within a few months time.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- County emergency management officials, sheriff and law enforcement departments at the city and county levels, fire departments, and city public works may all be involved to some degree.

Possible Funding- Establishment of a communications plan would not be very costly, and would rely more on coordination with other local agencies, but any required funding could come from the cities or Blue Earth County.

Priority Level- 3

Hazard: Wildfire

- **Mitigation Project-** Provision of proper equipment to adequately fight wildfires for all Blue Earth County fire departments. The rough terrain and remote locations associated with wildfires can only be reached by dedicated off-road vehicles that not all fire departments have. Arrangements to share equipment may also be considered and is discussed as an earlier mitigation project.

Timeframe- Agreements to share off-road capable equipment can be made quickly and easily, but significant time may be required to raise funds needed to purchase proper off-road equipment if this is considered.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Individual Blue Earth County community fire departments would be responsible for this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- Funding for new equipment can come out of fire department funds and can be assisted by grants or fund-raising activities and even private donations (such as those sometimes provided by local non-profit civic groups).

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Encourage fire department participation in annual DNR-provided training classes specific to wildfires, and any other relevant training exercises as needed.

Timeframe- This project should be undertaken as soon as possible if not already being utilized by all Blue Earth County fire departments. This mitigation project is likely to be performed on an annual or bi-annual basis.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Local level fire departments would be primarily responsible for this project.

Possible Funding- Could be provided as part of fire department operating costs, if needed. Emergency management grants may be available to pay for some costs.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Participation by all Blue Earth County cities in the national FireWise wildfire education program, which provides tools for risk assessment/reduction to interested communities.

Timeframe- Depending on the amount of time required to become involved with the FireWise program, could be implemented over the course of 6 months – one year. This project may be continued on an annual basis or any other reasonable set schedule as deemed appropriate.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Local city governments and fire departments would be involved and would oversee this project, which is administered by the Minnesota State DNR. The FireWise program itself is a national program so it may have some federal oversight.

Possible Funding- Participation in FireWise could be paid for by city funds and could also possibly be offset by some grant opportunities.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Clarification of state land management issues. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for operating all state lands within Blue Earth County, and clearing brush and vegetation in fire-prone areas can be an effective strategy. Who is responsible for clearing brush and fighting wildfires in these areas should be clearly understood by all fire departments involved.

Timeframe- This project can be undertaken immediately. This project would operate on a short timeframe and can be easily achieved.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The Minnesota DNR, Blue Earth County environmental officials, and local fire departments would all be involved in this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- This project should not require extensive funding as it relies more on basic communication between agencies, and costs would primarily be limited to staff time used by different agencies.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Coordination between fire departments and fire districts in times of increased need for assistance. Fire departments respond to any wildfires within their own district, but they may coordinate and assist each other in the event of a large wildfire.

Timeframe- This coordination between fire departments and districts is already in place and should be continued indefinitely, and revised occasionally to ensure the best possible use of services.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- All Blue Earth County fire departments may be considered as responsible agencies for the implementation of this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- This mitigation project requires minimal costs, if any, but any associated costs would likely be provided by local fire department funds.

Priority Level- 3

- **Mitigation Project-** Utilization of zoning ordinances to help prevent damage to built areas due to wildfires. Blue Earth County, as well as staff in communities thereof, should review and revise local zoning ordinances as needed to ensure that adequate distances (setbacks) are being maintained as a buffer from wildfire-prone areas.

Timeframe- This project can be utilized immediately and should be reviewed occasionally, perhaps yearly, to update as necessary.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County planning/zoning department and all city planning/zoning staff would be responsible for implementation of this project.

Possible Funding- This mitigation project would be funded as a part of staff time for city and county staff that may work on the project.

Priority Level- 3

- **Mitigation Project-** Creation and maintenance of an evacuation plan by all cities. All Blue Earth County communities should have such a plan in place describing and depicting appropriate routes out of the community in case of a large fire that poses an imminent threat to the community. Also considered a strategy for urban or structural fire and other hazards.

Timeframe- All communities should create this project as soon as possible. This project could be accomplished within several months in most cases.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Each community would be responsible for the creation of their own specific evacuation plan.

Possible Funding- Funding for this mitigation project could come from any source available to the community, including disaster mitigation grants if applicable.

Priority Level- 3

Hazard: Extreme Temperature

- **Mitigation Project-** Ensure the safety of elderly residents throughout all Blue Earth County communities, particularly areas which have a large elderly population. Communities should undertake efforts to ensure and promote the safety of elderly residents in times of extreme temperatures, as they are often more susceptible to the effects of extreme heat and cold.

Timeframe- This mitigation project could be created and implemented within approximately six months to one year from inception. It should be ongoing from that point and should be periodically reviewed to ensure it remains successful.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County Human Services, cities within Blue Earth County, and local service organizations such as church groups and the Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts could all have some level of involvement and/or responsibility for this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- This project is not likely to require significant amounts of funding, but any funding it does require could be paid through funds available for use by Blue Earth County Human Services, Blue Earth County cities, and local service organizations.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Broadcasting of National Weather Service issues heat advisories by local radio and television stations in times of extreme heat. Issuance of heat advisories serves to warn residents of dangers imposed by extreme heat.

Timeframe- This mitigation project is already being consistently utilized and should be considered an ongoing project.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The National Weather Service makes the decision as to when and where heat advisories are issued, but it is up to local broadcast media to decide how they wish to disseminate this information.

Possible Funding- This mitigation strategy should not require any funding on the part of local government or any other Blue Earth County agencies.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Broadcasting of National Weather Service issues wind chill/extreme cold advisories by local radio and television stations in times of extreme cold or wind chill. Issuance of these advisories serves to warn residents of dangers imposed by extreme cold and/or wind chill.

Timeframe- This mitigation project is already being consistently utilized and should be considered an ongoing project.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The National Weather Service makes the decision as to when and where extreme cold/wind chill advisories are issued, but it is up to local broadcast media to decide how they wish to disseminate this information.

Possible Funding- This mitigation strategy should not require any funding on the part of local government or any other Blue Earth County agencies.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Closing of public and private schools when necessary for safety of students and staff in times of extreme temperatures. In Minnesota, this is more likely to occur during times of extreme cold, due to many schools not being in session during the summer months when extreme heat events are more likely to occur.

Timeframe- This mitigation strategy is already in use as conditions necessitate and should be considered an ongoing project.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The Governor of Minnesota has the power to close all schools in the state in times of extreme temperatures, and has done so several times in the past. It is more common that school district officials make this judgment. Local television and radio station are usually responsible for disseminating information regarding school closures.

Possible Funding- This mitigation strategy does not require any funding on the part of Blue Earth County officials or any local government officials of communities within the county.

Priority Level- 3

Hazard: Drought

- **Mitigation Project-** Utilization of water conservation strategies as needed. Water conservation provisions and use restrictions in times of drought are usually included in city ordinances. These ordinances should be put in place if they do not currently exist, reviewed periodically to ensure they are appropriate, and enacted if deemed necessary due to a drought event.

Timeframe- Review and/or additions to water conservation strategies may take from several months to a year or more for many cities.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Planning/zoning staff at the local (city) level and city councils of all Blue Earth County cities would be the primary responsible parties for review and adoption of new ordinances, if necessary. They would also be responsible for deciding when to enact the water restrictions these ordinances authorize and for what duration.

Possible Funding- This mitigation project would be funded through city funds in most cases, as it would mainly require staff time for review/additions of ordinance.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Identification of water access points for human and animal consumption that may be utilized in the event of a drought. An inventory of these water access points should be created, maintained, and updated as needed.

Timeframe- This mitigation project would take considerable time, due to the sheer volume of water access points located throughout Blue Earth County. A proper inventory and cataloging of them all may take at least a year. Updates should occur every 3-5 years.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The County and city members of the hazard mitigation task force would work cooperatively on this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- This project would likely be funded primarily through any appropriate funding available to Blue Earth County and individual communities.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Blue Earth County and all communities thereof should consider undertaking community education to inform residents of drought issues and what it may mean to them and the community. This could take the form of classes/seminars, presentations to schools and community groups, and the creation and distribution of informational literature.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should be created and implemented in the early stages of a serious drought so residents will know how they can work through it with the community.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Administration of cities throughout Blue Earth County, and perhaps some departments of Blue Earth County itself, would be responsible for creating and implementing this mitigation project as needed.

Possible Funding- This project would likely be funded primarily through any appropriate funding available to Blue Earth County communities.

Priority Level- 3

Hazard: Infectious Disease

- **Mitigation Project-** Creation of safe handling processes and facility structures for livestock and utilization of zoning and inspections to properly design and maintain livestock operations. This would serve to reduce risks of diseases that can ultimately affect humans.

Timeframe- This mitigation project is already in effect to some degree but its use could be extended gradually over the course of several years, particularly in times of increased concern for livestock disease outbreaks.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County planning/zoning officials and health department would collaborate on this project, with assistance from local city planning/zoning staff when applicable.

Possible Funding- This mitigation project would be funded primarily through county and city funds, but some funding may also be available through state or federal programs aimed at negating diseases among livestock.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Media outreach should be conducted via radio, television, and print media in the event of an infectious disease outbreak to ensure that proper and factual information is being distributed throughout Blue Earth County communities. This may assist in calming fears that may lead to negative secondary effects.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should be utilized as deemed necessary, but should be prepared well in advance of an actual event so that it is ready to be implemented immediately if need be.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The State Department of Health, local clinics and hospitals, and local media would all have roles in a media outreach campaign in the event of an infectious disease outbreak.

Possible Funding- A media outreach project would primarily come at the expense of local media, as it is largely considered a news event.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Provision of health education material detailing the impacts and risks of infectious diseases to youth and parents. Blue Earth County and school public health nurses can provide these materials to students.

Timeframe- Can be implemented immediately, may already be in place to some extent. This project can be considered as an ongoing mitigation strategy.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County health officials can coordinate with local clinics/hospitals for materials to distribute to local schools and youth functions.

Possible Funding- Funding for this project could come from Blue Earth County funds available for maintaining public health, local school districts, and possibly applicable state and federal health agencies.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Provide health education to private businesses where the risks of infectious diseases are a concern, such as food-processing facilities and restaurants. County public health department will provide educational material and periodic site visits.

Timeframe- May already be in progress, but if not it should be increased and utilized as needed on an ongoing basis.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County health officials would coordinate with private businesses on these health education matters. The State of Minnesota Department of Health may also be involved.

Possible Funding- This project would be paid for by funds available for use by Blue Earth County health officials. Participating businesses may contribute some funding as well.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Develop increased protection measures for residential water supplies and systems throughout Blue Earth County. The cities should assess water system safety and implement measures as needed to increase security and protect equipment from possible contamination, including the elimination of low windows around the facilities.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should be undertaken as soon as feasibly possible, and it may take a year or more to be completed by the cities.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Cities within Blue Earth County, including the public works departments and the police chiefs, could be responsible for the creation and implementation of this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- Funding for this project would primarily be provided by any available and appropriate city funds.

- **Mitigation Project-** Encourage and facilitate countywide cooperation with the Minnesota State Health Department to share information regarding infectious disease occurrences. This information flow will assist in alerting proper agencies to the possibility of an outbreak event.

Timeframe- This mitigation project has been and will continue to be ongoing.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- All Blue Earth County clinics and hospitals will coordinate and share information with the State Health Department and the National Center for Disease Control (CDC) when needed.

Possible Funding- This mitigation strategy is integrated into the operations of all clinics, hospitals, and the State Department of Health.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Encourage and facilitate participation in vaccination programs for all Blue Earth County residents, particularly children. Programs for vaccinating uninsured or low-income residents should be identified and utilized.

Timeframe- This should be considered an ongoing mitigation project. Vaccination programs may be already in place but they should be identified and well-publicized, especially in times of concern of a particular disease that is preventable by vaccination.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County health officials, the State of Minnesota Health Department, numerous federal and non-profit organizations may all be involved to some degree with this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- Funding for this project could be provided by Blue Earth County, the State Department of Health, private donations, non-profit organizations, and perhaps state or federal grants.

Priority Level- 3

- **Mitigation Project-** Encourage sick employees to stay home. Businesses and organizations throughout Blue Earth County should encourage all personnel to stay home if at all possible for the duration of their illness if they believe they are sick. This will help mitigate the spread of the infectious disease that may be impacting the area.

Timeframe- This mitigation project can be put into place, if not already in place, very quickly and be considered ongoing.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Public and private organizations throughout Blue Earth County would be responsible for implementing this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- Costs to implement this project should be negligible, but any costs incurred would likely be covered by each individual organization or business.

Priority Level- 3

- **Mitigation Project-** Utilization of a quarantine/isolation plan in extreme cases of an infectious disease outbreak in order to protect the public health.

Timeframe- Quarantines and isolations are designated by the State of Minnesota and are therefore subject to the regulations and timeframes that the State already has in place.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Quarantines and isolations are designated by the State of Minnesota and are therefore subject to the regulations and timeframes that the State already has in place. Blue Earth County emergency personnel (fire, police, emergency management) would support the role of the State in a quarantine/isolation event.

Possible Funding- Funding for a quarantine/isolation event would be handled primarily by the State of Minnesota.

Priority Level- 3

Hazard: Urban Fire

- **Mitigation Project-** Undertake aggressive increased training of fire department personnel in the cities of Amboy, Vernon Center, and Pemberton in the near future. These cities can collaborate on efforts to train emergency response personnel in proper methods and equipment usage.

Timeframe- This increased training would begin in 2007 or 2008 and be ongoing from this point.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The above-mentioned city fire departments would be the primary responsible entity for implementing this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- Funding would likely come from each city fire department fund, or if necessary any other proper and available source of funding.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Blue Earth County communities should focus on ways to reduce the threat of fire hazards at local vulnerable areas, including the power plant and agricultural facilities at area communities that have been deemed a possible fire hazard.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should be undertaken soon by cities and should be considered an ongoing project. Significant changes made to reduce fire risks could take a year or more.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City administration of all participating communities would be responsible for this mitigation project, and they may have to work closely with private owners of vulnerable areas.

Possible Funding- Funding would be provided by any applicable funds available to the cities and may also require some responsibility for costs on the part of private owners/operators of facilities in vulnerable areas.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** All Blue Earth County cities should adopt and maintain building and fire codes if they have not already done so, which will work towards making structures increasingly fire-resistant and less hazardous should they ever be subjected to a fire hazard.

Timeframe- Adoption of building and fire codes can be achieved relatively quickly, within 6 months to one year. The codes must be continually enforced, maintained, and periodically updated thereafter.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City administrators, building inspectors, and planning staff of all county communities will work to have the city councils incorporate the code within the plans of the participating communities.

Possible Funding- The adoption of building and fire codes would have to be funded by the adopting cities, primarily through the costs of associated staff time needed for the project.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** The City of Madison Lake has indicated that it would like to adopt an evacuation plan. This plan could be created by city staff and formally adopted by the city council. This plan could also be shared with surrounding communities and the county for coordination purposes.

Timeframe- This project could be created in implemented in a short time, likely in several months.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City staff and city council members of Madison Lake would be responsible for the creation and implementation of this project.

Possible Funding- Funding would be provided by any applicable funds available to the cities. The most likely cost is the requirement for city staff time.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** The City of Vernon Center will work with the State Department of Motor Vehicles and private entities to develop a vehicle inspection plan to make sure city vehicles are not posing a fire hazard. State regulations already placed on certain types of vehicles will be used as a basis for developing the plan.

Timeframe- This project could be created in implemented in a relatively short time, likely within six months.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City staff and city council members of the City of Vernon Center would be responsible for the creation and implementation of this project.

Possible Funding- Funding would be provided by any applicable funds available to the cities. The most likely cost is the requirement for city staff time.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Consider offering specialized fire training classes. Local Blue Earth County fire departments could offer classes for residents regarding topics which often lead to fires, such as chimney cleaning and holiday-time hazards.

Timeframe- Classes could be prepared and offered at any time, but may focus on times of increased fire risk, including the holiday season and 4th of July weekend.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City fire departments would be responsible for the creation and use of such specialized classes. They may also partner with a program such as FireWise, which is run by the Minnesota DNR.

Possible Funding- Funding sources for specialized training classes could come from city funds, payment for classes by residents, state or federal funds/grants, or contributions by private individuals or local civic non-profit groups.

Priority Level- 3

Hazard: Hazardous Materials

- **Mitigation Project-** Increase countywide public education regarding methamphetamine labs. Educational material in print and presentation formats will be distributed to youth, communities at risk, and vulnerable people. This would be primarily through print and public presentations that would be made available to city emergency responders and then distributed throughout the community. It may also take the form of presentations to various community groups., and may include such strategies as presentations to younger school students by older school students outlining the dangers of drugs, including methamphetamine.

Timeframe- This project should be implemented over the span of the next year and administered as needed or continually thereafter.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County officials, city emergency responders, the State of Minnesota public health/Department of Public Safety, regional emergency management officials, and non-profit organizations can work together as needed to implement this project.

Possible Funding- Funding for this mitigation project could come from many sources, including the State of Minnesota, grants, Blue Earth County and local city funds.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Monitoring of legislative actions that provide resources to effectively deal with the damages of methamphetamine labs, such as how to pay for associated cleanup costs of properties used for clandestine labs.

Timeframe- This mitigation project can be implemented immediately and should be considered ongoing.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County officials and staff would have a lead role in this project. City staff from specifically concerned communities may also be interested in monitoring legislative activity.

Possible Funding- This project should not require any specialized funding to implement.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Blue Earth County and cities thereof should continue to work on drug prevention efforts. The cities can work with their local Healthy Communities Network Coalition (13 coalitions throughout the region) to continue working with youth

on drug prevention programming, including puppet shows and literature dissemination warning of the dangers of drugs.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should already be taking place, and should be considered an ongoing project.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County and staff of cities thereof, as well as leaders of the Healthy Communities Network Coalition would all have a stake in being responsible for this mitigation project. The county sheriff and city police departments may also be involved in working with educational programming in schools.

Possible Funding- This mitigation project could be funded by a large variety of sources, including county and city funds, state and federal programs, and possibly local non-profit groups or charitable organizations.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Ensure proper labeling of hazardous materials throughout Blue Earth County. Proper labeling and securing of all possible hazardous materials will help to maintain safety and prohibit exposure to the materials.

Timeframe- If not already in progress, this project should be undertaken immediately in all applicable areas and should be considered as an ongoing project.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Local public works staff, Blue Earth County officials, and possibly State agencies could all work together on this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- Funding for careful and accurate labeling of hazardous materials would most likely come at the expense of the business, organization, agency, or individual that maintains such materials in their possession or on their premises.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Blue Earth County should coordinate and cooperate with appropriate State agencies to address the needs for responding to and mitigating the impacts of a hazardous material release event. In the event of a serious hazardous material event, Blue Earth County alone will not be able to adequately deal with the effects and must work directly with the State of Minnesota.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should already be taking place, and should be considered an ongoing project.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County and applicable State of Minnesota agencies would be responsible for implementation of this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- While this project should not require extensive funding, Blue Earth County would likely be responsible for any costs involved. Disaster mitigation grants or funds may also be used if they are available.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Utilization of Emergency Warning System by local radio and television stations if the need to warn people of a major and dangerous hazardous material release event occurs.

Timeframe- Emergency Broadcast System is already in place and is tested regularly. This mitigation project is ready to be utilized but should only be used when absolutely necessary.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Blue Earth County emergency officials, city officials, and possibly State agencies, would be involved with utilization of this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- This project is already in place and should not require additional funding.

Priority Level- 3

- **Mitigation Project-** Ensure proper storage of hazardous materials throughout Blue Earth County. Proper storage and securing of all possible hazardous materials will help to maintain safety and prohibit exposure to the materials.

Timeframe- If not already in progress, should be undertaken immediately in all applicable areas and should be considered as an ongoing project.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Local public works, Blue Earth County officials, and possibly State agencies could all work together on this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- Funding for secure storage of hazardous materials would most likely come at the expense of the business, organization, agency, or individual that maintains such material in their possession or on their premises.

Priority Level- 3

Hazard: Wastewater Treatment Plant Failure/Water Supply Contamination

- **Mitigation Project-** Securing water systems and implementing safety measures in the City of Good Thunder. Regular security checks shall be conducted and reported, and any irregularities or deficiencies shall be noted and addressed.

Timeframe- This mitigation project will likely take at least one year and it should be considered ongoing from that point.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Good Thunder public works staff will assess water system safety and implement measures as needed.

Possible Funding- Funding would likely be provided via any available and appropriate city funds.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** The cities of Madison Lake and St. Clair should consider building newer and safer water towers, wells, and treatment systems to replace existing low capacity facilities as these facilities come due for replacement or upgrading. During the project bidding process, city administration will request specific measures to address hazard mitigation steps be included in proposals. City staff shall work with builders to address potential hazards.

Timeframe- This mitigation project will likely take several years, and will depend largely on how soon existing equipment requires upgrading or replacement.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City administration, engineers, public works, and city councils of Madison Lake and St. Clair would oversee this project in their respective communities.

Possible Funding- Funding would likely be provided via any available and appropriate city funds. Due to the extensive costs of these projects, it is likely that they may be part of a capital improvements plan for the cities.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** The City of Mapleton should consider adding a force main to take more water to their treatment plant facilities. This increased capacity will provide more and better water service and fire protection for residents. The system will be regularly tested and flushed to ensure the safety and cleanliness of the system for the public. All residential development should also have a water service capacity check before plans are approved by the city council.

Timeframe- This project should be considered as city funding and needs dictate.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City of Mapleton staff, including city engineers and administration, would have a role in overseeing the development of this project.

Possible Funding- This project could be funded via any available and appropriate city funds for infrastructure.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Require and monitor certified operators and inspections for all public wastewater systems in Blue Earth County. Operators of such systems are required to have state training to maintain their certified operator status.

Timeframe- This mitigation project is already in place and should be considered ongoing. Monitoring and inspections should always be up-to-date.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- All Blue Earth County wastewater plant operators and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) both have roles in this project.

Possible Funding- This project is funded through state and city funds.

Priority Level- 3

Hazard: Dam Failure

- **Mitigation Project-** Inspection of all five existing Blue Earth County dams and reservoir capabilities to ensure dam stability and safety. These reports indicate whether the dams are in adequate condition for flood events and springtime runoff.

Timeframe- This project should be considered for the near to moderate future. The threat of dam failure within Blue Earth County is not considered very serious, but still should always warrant consideration due to the possible impacts a dam failure could have.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The Minnesota DNR and the US Army Corps of Engineers perform these inspections.

Possible Funding- Funding would be provided via Blue Earth County, communities which own or operate dams within Blue Earth County, or by the Minnesota DNR or US Army Corps of Engineers as part of their operations.

Priority Level- 1

Hazard: Terrorism

- **Mitigation Project-** Increased school security measures in the City of Mankato. City and school officials in Mankato may want to consider evaluating the possibility of an attack on school grounds, and if deemed necessary undertake increased security actions to reduce the risks of any form of terror event at these schools.

Timeframe- This project could be undertaken relatively quickly, and could be ongoing from that point, in the form of periodic security evaluations and risk assessments, and appropriate actions may be taken as deemed necessary and appropriate.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- City and school administration in the City of Mankato would be responsible for implementing this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- These projects would most likely be paid for by funding available for use by the schools within these communities.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Consider implementing additional security measures at chemical and fertilizer facilities in the City of Lake Crystal. The community has indicated that

they have some concern regarding an event focusing on such facilities. Using additional security measures (such as improved lighting, additional security staffing, and improved or added locking and other security provisions) as needed would assist in minimizing this threat.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should be considered for implementation in the near to moderate future, as circumstances warrant. This strategy should always be available for utilization in times of increased or imminent danger due to terrorism events, or may possibly be considered as an ongoing and permanent strategy as the facilities deem appropriate.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- The owners of the facilities would be the primary responsible party for the implementation of this mitigation project, and they may be assisted by city staff as needed.

Possible Funding- Funding for this project would likely come from the companies themselves since they are privately owned.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Develop increased protection measures for residential water supplies in all Blue Earth County communities. All communities should consider protection and monitoring of their water systems and treatment plants to prevent tampering. External safety measures such as increased lighting and fencing may be utilized. This mitigation project has the added benefit of reducing the possibility of an accident, particularly when children could possibly access the area.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should be undertaken as soon as feasibly possible, and it may take a year or more to be completed by the communities.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Individual communities throughout Blue Earth County would be responsible for implementation of this mitigation project within their respective water systems.

Possible Funding- Funding for these projects would primarily be provided by city funds and perhaps some form of disaster mitigation grants.

Priority Level- 1

- **Mitigation Project-** Countywide coordination and cooperation with State of Minnesota and Federal officials and agencies for continued preparation efforts to face a domestic terrorism event.

Timeframe- This project has been and will continue to be ongoing.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- All Blue Earth County public safety personnel (fire, police, etc.), State of Minnesota Department of Public Safety and other applicable state agencies, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management,

and any other applicable federal agencies would work cooperatively on this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- Funding for this mitigation project may come from any and all available funds to any of these agencies.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Consider limiting pedestrian/civilian access to government buildings throughout Blue Earth County. Government buildings may wish to limit access to either entire buildings or specified areas within these buildings, as officials may deem necessary, such as at times of an increased terror alert level.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should be considered for implementation in the near to moderate future, as circumstances warrant. This strategy should always be available for utilization in times of increased or imminent danger due to terrorism events.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- This would depend on the nature of the building, and whether it is a city, county, or state building within Blue Earth County. Workers in different buildings may not be able to make these decisions for themselves, and may have to receive some form of authorization to undertake this mitigation project.

Possible Funding- Funding for limiting access to governmental buildings could come from a very wide variety of funds, including city and county funding or law enforcement funding.

Priority Level- 2

- **Mitigation Project-** Design new facilities that may face an increased terrorism threat with these dangers in mind, particularly governmental buildings such as the Blue Earth Courthouse. These facilities may wish to incorporate design and building elements such as blast-resistant materials and fire suppression systems that can help minimize damage from an attack.

Timeframe- This mitigation project should be considered whenever new buildings are created (or existing buildings are renovated/altered) which may be deemed as facing an increased threat due to their specific nature (such as being a governmental building), and should be considered as ongoing.

Responsible Jurisdictions/Agencies- Cities, Blue Earth County, architects, engineers, and builders may all have a role in the implementation of buildings designed and constructed to minimize effects of a terrorist attack.

Possible Funding- Funding for this mitigation project would most likely have to be provided via city funds (for municipal buildings) or Blue Earth County funds (such as changes made to the County Courthouse). Private buildings designed to withstand terrorist attacks would have to be privately funded.

Priority Level- 2