

TOWN OF RYE, NH HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE 2016



Approved by the

**RYE, NH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

DECEMBER 12, 2016



This project was partially funded by

NEW HAMPSHIRE HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



FEMA

DEC 22 2016

Heather Dunkerley
State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Homeland Security & Emergency Management
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03303

Dear Ms. Dunkerley:

We would like to congratulate the Town of Rye and the State of New Hampshire for their dedication and commitment to mitigation planning. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region I Mitigation Planning Team has completed its review of the Town of Rye, NH Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016 and determined it meets the requirements of 44 C.F.R. Pt. 201.

With this plan approval, the Town of Rye is eligible to apply to the New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management for mitigation grants administered by FEMA. Requests for mitigation funding will be evaluated individually according to the specific eligibility requirements identified for each of these programs. A specific mitigation activity or project identified in your community's plan may not meet the eligibility requirements for FEMA funding; even eligible mitigation activities or projects are not automatically approved.

Approved mitigation plans are eligible for points under the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS). Complete information regarding the CRS can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system>, or through your local floodplain administrator.


The Town of Rye, NH Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016 must be reviewed, revised as appropriate, and resubmitted to FEMA for approval within **five years of the plan approval date of December 20, 2016** in order to maintain eligibility for mitigation grant funding. We encourage the Town to continually update the plan's assessment of vulnerability, adhere to its maintenance schedule, and implement, when possible, the mitigation actions proposed in the plan.

Heather Dunkerley
Page 2

DEC 22 2016

Once again, thank you for your continued dedication to public service demonstrated by preparing and adopting a strategy for reducing future disaster losses. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Melissa Surette at (617) 956-7559.

Sincerely,



Paul F. Ford
Regional Administrator

PFF: ms

cc: Fallon Reed, Chief of Planning, New Hampshire
Whitney Welch, Hazard Mitigation Planner, New Hampshire
Jennifer Gilbert, Asst. New Hampshire State NFIP Coordinator

Enclosure

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

Town of Rye, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen

A Resolution Adopting the Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
December 12, 2016

WHEREAS, the Town of Rye received funding from the NH Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management under a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant and assistance from Rockingham Planning Commission in the preparation of the Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, several planning meetings were held between September 2015 and July 2016 regarding the development and review of the Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016 contains several potential future projects to mitigate hazard damage in the Town of Rye; and

WHEREAS, a duly-noticed public hearing was held by the Rye Board of Selectmen on December 12, 2016 to formally approve and adopt the Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016.


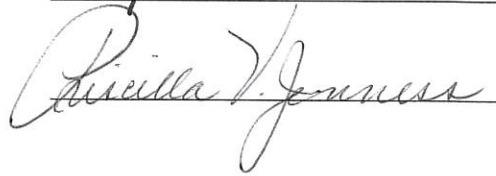
RESOLVED by the Rye Board of Selectmen:

- The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of Rye;
- The respective individuals identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;
- Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution;
- An annual report of the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the Board of Selectmen by the Town's Emergency Management Director or Town Administrator.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Rye Board of Selectmen adopts the Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned has affixed his/her signature and the corporate seal of the Town of Rye on this 12th day of December, 2016.

Rye Board of Selectmen Chair

ATTEST


Public Notary

JANICE E. IRELAND, Notary Public
My Commission Expires March 12, 2019



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
CHAPTER I – INTRODUCTION	2
Background	2
Methodology	2
Hazard Mitigation Goals and Objectives	5
Acknowledgements	6
CHAPTER II – COMMUNITY PROFILE	7
Natural Features	7
Land Use and Development	11
CHAPTER III – NATURAL HAZARDS IN THE TOWN OF RYE	14
What are the Hazards?	14
Hazard Definitions	14
Profile of Past and Potential Hazards	17
CHAPTER IV – CRITICAL FACILITIES	33
CHAPTER V – POTENTIAL HAZARD AFFECTS	36
CHAPTER VI – EXISTING HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS	40
CHAPTER VII – POTENTIAL MITIGATION ACTIONS	45
CHAPTER VIII – PRIORITIZATION OF MITIGATION ACTIONS	50
CHAPTER IX – ACTION PLAN	54
CHAPTER X – INCORPORATING, MONITORING, EVALUATING, AND UPDATING THE PLAN	56
 APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGIES	
APPENDIX B – TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HAZARD MITIGATION	
APPENDIX C – SAFFIR- SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE	
APPENDIX D – ENHANCED FUJITA TORNADO DAMAGE SCALE	
APPENDIX E – RICHTER SCALE	
APPENDIX F – ACCUWEATHER THUNDERSTORM CRITERIA	
APPENDIX G – HAIL SIZE DESCRIPTION CHART	
APPENDIX H – SPERRY-PITZ ICE ACCUMULATION INDEX	
APPENDIX I – WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE EXPOSURE	
APPENDIX J – NH DES DAM CLASSIFICATION	
APPENDIX K – PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS	
APPENDIX L – PLAN APPROVAL LETTERS	

LIST OF MAPS

- Map 1 – Land Use
- Map 2 – Past and Future Hazards
- Map 3 – Critical Facilities

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 – Rye Location Map
- Figure 2 – Rye Watershed Map
- Figure 3 – Rye Wetland Map
- Figure 4 – Rye Floodplain Map

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1 – Probability of flooding based on return interval
- Table 2 – NFIP Policy & Loss Statistics
- Table 3 – Peak Ground acceleration values for Rye
- Table 4 – Past Hazard Events in Rye, NH and Rockingham County
- Table 5 – Critical Facilities
- Table 6 – Flooding damage estimates
- Table 7 – Existing Hazard Mitigation Actions
- Table 8 – Potential Mitigation Actions
- Table 9.1-9.12 STAPLEE tables
- Table 10 – Action Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016 (herein after, the *Plan*) was compiled to assist the Town of Rye in reducing and mitigating future losses from natural hazard events. The *Plan* was developed by the Rockingham Planning Commission and participants from the Town of Rye and contains the tools necessary to identify specific hazards and aspects of existing and future mitigation efforts.

The following hazards are addressed:

- Flooding, including Sea Level Rise and Coastal Storm Surge
- Hurricane
- Tornado
- Severe Winter Weather
- Wildfire
- Earthquake
- Extreme Heat

The Critical Facilities include but are not limited to:

- Town Hall
- Public Safety Building
- Town Highway Shed
- Library

The *Plan* is considered a work in progress and should be revisited frequently to assess whether the existing and suggested mitigation strategies are successful. Copies have been distributed to the Town of Rye, and a copy will remain on file at the Rockingham Planning Commission. A copy of this Plan will be on file at New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NHHSEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Upon approval by both agencies the town shall adopt the plan update.

CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NHHSEM) has a goal for all communities within the State of New Hampshire to establish local hazard mitigation plans as a means to reduce and mitigate future losses from natural hazard events. The NHHSEM outlined a process whereby communities throughout the State may be eligible for grants and other assistance upon completion of a local hazard mitigation plan. FEMA's *2013 Hazard Mitigation Planning Handbook* was consulted throughout the Plan update process by staff from both the Rockingham Planning Commission and the Town of Rye to stimulate conversation about how the Town can become more resilient to natural hazards. The State's Regional Planning Commissions are charged with providing assistance to selected communities to develop local plans.

The *Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016* was prepared by participants from the Town of Rye Hazard Mitigation Team with the assistance and professional services of the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) under contract with the New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NHHSEM) operating under the guidance of Section 44 CFR 201.6. The *Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016* serves as a strategic planning tool for use by the Town of Rye in its efforts to identify and mitigate the future impacts of natural and/or man-made hazard events.

METHODOLOGY

The Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) organized the first meeting with emergency management officials from the Town of Rye in September 2015 to begin the initial planning stages of the *Plan*. RPC and participants from the Town developed the content of the *Plan* using the nine-step process set forth in FEMA's *2013 Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Handbook* during the initial meeting and subsequent meetings held on September 23, 2015, October 28, 2015, November 24, 2015, March 9, 2016, April 19, 2016, April 29, 2016, May 23, 2016, July 11, 2016. The Town of Rye's Emergency Management Director and Town Planner solicited information for the Plan from local officials and residents throughout the Plan development process, including requesting information on impacts from storms and Town response to the storms. The Plan update process was also discussed at Planning Board and Selectmen meetings, which are broadcast to residents via the Town's website. RPC staff kept communities in the region informed of the Plan Update process and requested feedback at monthly Commissioner meetings which involve members of Planning Boards, Boards of Selectmen, and Conservation Commissions in surrounding towns. In addition, RPC planning staff working in the abutting communities of Portsmouth, North Hampton, New Castle, Greenland and Portsmouth kept town officials in those communities informed of the update to Rye's plan and the opportunity to comment on regional mitigation strategies.

The Town's 2009 Plan served as a starting point for discussions on hazards impacting the town and mitigation strategies. The 2009 Plan has served as a reference for local land use regulations

and policies, development of the CIP and department budgets, the Rockingham Planning Commission's 2015 Regional Master Plan chapter on Natural Hazards, and the Town of Rye's 2015 Vulnerability Assessment regarding Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge.

Step 1 – Form Committee

A Committee comprised of the Town Administrator, Emergency Management Director, Public Works Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief, and the Planning and Zoning Administrator was established to work with staff from the Rockingham Planning Commission to update the Plan. RPC staff informed local officials of surrounding communities of the plan update at monthly meetings of RPC Commissioners. Participation was sought from the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management and staff from the Division attended planning meetings and reviewed and commented on the Plan.

Step 2 – Map the Hazards

The Committee identified areas where damage from past natural disasters have occurred and areas where critical man-made facilities and other features may be at risk in the future for loss of life, property damage, environmental pollution and other risk factors. RPC generated a set of base maps with GIS (Geographic Information Systems) that were used in the process of identifying past and future hazards.

Step 3 – Identify Critical Facilities and Areas of Concern

The Committee then identified facilities and areas that were considered to be important to the Town for emergency management purposes, for provision of utilities and community services, evacuation routes, and for recreational and historical, cultural and social value. Using aerial photography, RPC plotted the exact location of these sites on a map. Digital images were collected for each Critical Facility using Pictometrytm software and images of the Town of Rye.

Step 4 – Identify Existing Mitigation Strategies

After collecting detailed information on each critical facility in Rye, the Committee and RPC staff identified existing town mitigation strategies relative to flooding, sea level rise, wind, fire, ice and snow events, extreme temperatures, and earthquakes. This process involved reviewing the 2009 Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Town's Master Plan and Capital Improvements Program (CIP), Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations, Site Plan Review Regulations, and participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Committee also reviewed the 2015 Vulnerability Assessment for Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge completed for the Town of Rye by the Rockingham Planning Commission. This information allowed the Committee to review existing and new mitigation strategies.

Step 5 – Identify the Gaps in Existing Mitigation Strategies

The existing strategies were then reviewed by the RPC and the Committee for coverage and effectiveness, as well as the need for improvement.

Step 6 – Identify Potential Mitigation Strategies

A list was developed of additional hazard mitigation actions and strategies for the Town of Rye. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans for other communities in the region were utilized to identify new mitigation strategies as well as FEMA recommended hazard mitigation examples. The Vulnerability Assessment, Master Plan, Emergency Operation Plan, and Capital Improvements Plan were also reviewed to generate ideas.

Step 7 – Prioritize and Develop the Action Plan

The proposed hazard mitigation actions and strategies were reviewed and each strategy was rated (good, average, or poor) for its effectiveness according to several factors (*e.g.*, technical and administrative applicability, political and social acceptability, legal authority, environmental impact, financial feasibility). Each factor was then scored and all scores were totaled for each strategy. Strategies were ranked by overall score for preliminary prioritization then reviewed again under Step 8.

Step 8 - Determine Priorities

The preliminary prioritization list was reviewed in order to make changes and determine a final prioritization for new hazard mitigation actions and existing protection strategy improvements identified in previous steps. RPC also presented recommendations to be reviewed and prioritized by emergency management officials.

Step 9 - Develop Implementation Strategy

Using the chart provided under Step 9 in the handbook, an implementation strategy was created which included person(s) responsible for implementation (who), a timeline for completion (when), and a funding source and/or technical assistance source (how) for each identified hazard mitigation actions.

Step 10 - Adopt and Monitor the Plan

RPC staff compiled the results of Steps 1 to 9 in a draft document. This draft *Plan* was reviewed by members of the Committee and by staff members at the RPC. The draft *Plan* was also placed on the Town and RPC website for review by the public, neighboring communities, agencies, businesses, and other interested parties to review and make comments via email. Per NH RSA 91-A:2 (II) and pursuant to CFR 201.6(b)(1) a duly noticed public meeting was held by the Rye Board of Selectmen on May 23, 2016. The meeting was posted on the Town's website and allowed the community and neighboring towns to provide comments and suggestions for the Plan in person, prior to the document being finalized. This review also allowed board and committee members to review other planning documents in town such as the Master Plan and CIP to consider and incorporate pertinent information that may be included within the Hazard Mitigation Plan. After

public comment was accepted, the draft was revised to incorporate comments from the Selectmen, Planning Board and general public; then submitted to the NHHSEM and FEMA Region I for their review and comments. Any changes required by NHHSEM and FEMA were made and a revised draft document was then submitted to the Rye Board of Selectmen for their final review. A duly noticed public meeting was then held by the Rye Board of Selectmen on December 12, 2016. At this duly noticed public meeting the Plan update was approved and adopted by the Board of Selectman.

HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TOWN OF RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Town of Rye sets forth the following hazard mitigation goals and objectives:

- Reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities posed by natural hazards impacting Rye, including the impacts from flooding, tornadoes, downbursts, severe winter weather, wildfire, earthquakes and extreme heat.
- Improve upon the protection of the Town of Rye's general population, the citizens of the State and guests, from all natural and man-made hazards.
- Reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Rye and the State's Critical Support Services.
- Reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Rye's Critical Facilities in the State.
- Reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disaster on Rye's and the State's infrastructure.
- Improve Rye's Emergency Preparedness.
- Improve Rye's Disaster Response and Recovery Capability.
- Reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on private property in Rye.
- Reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Rye's and the State's economy.
- Reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Rye's and the State's natural environment.
- Reduce Rye's and the State's liability with respect to natural and man-made hazards generally.
- Reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Rye's and the State's specific historic treasures and interests as well as other tangible and intangible characteristics that add to the quality of life to the citizens and guests of the State and the town.
- Identify, introduce and implement cost effective Hazard Mitigation measures so as to accomplish Rye's and the states goals and objectives in order to raise the awareness and acceptance of hazard mitigation planning.

Through the adoption of this Plan the Town of Rye concurs and adopts these goals and objectives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Rye Board of Selectmen extends special thanks to those that assisted in the development of this Plan update by serving as member of Natural Hazards Mitigation Committee:

Kimberly Reed - Planning and Zoning Administrator, Town of Rye, NH

Michael Magnant – Town Administrator, Town of Rye, NH

Thomas Lambert – Fire Chief, Town of Rye, NH

Kevin Walsh – Police Chief and Emergency Management Director, Town of Rye, NH

Alan Gould – Deputy Emergency Management Director, Town of Rye, NH

Dennis McCarthy – Public Works Director, Town of Rye, NH

The Rye Board of Selectmen offers thanks to the NHHSEM (<http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/hsem/index.html>) which provided the model and funding for this Plan.

In addition, thanks are extended to the staff of the Rockingham Planning Commission for professional services, process facilitation and preparation of this document.

CHAPTER II – COMMUNITY PROFILE

NATURAL FEATURES

Rye is a rural suburban community in southeastern New Hampshire along the Atlantic Ocean. According to the US Census the population in 2010 was 5,298. Rye has an area of 36.7 square miles; 12.6 square miles of land and 24.1 square miles of water. The town includes four of the nine islands known as the Isles of Shoals, which are located approximately 10 miles offshore. The Town is characterized by residential development, including seasonal beach homes, and commercial businesses along NH Route 1. The highest point in Rye is Breakfast Hill with an elevation of 151 feet above sea level.

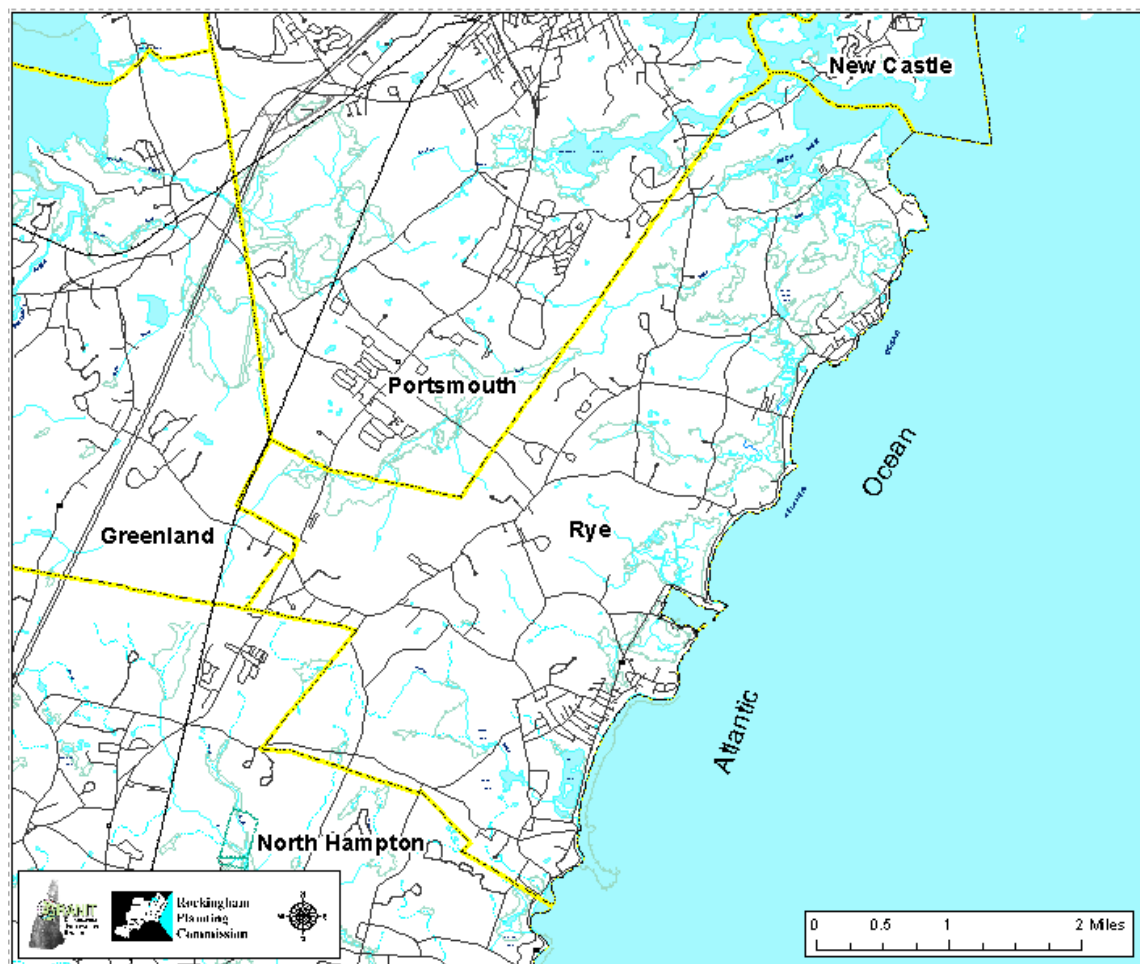


Figure 1: Location Map of Rye, New Hampshire

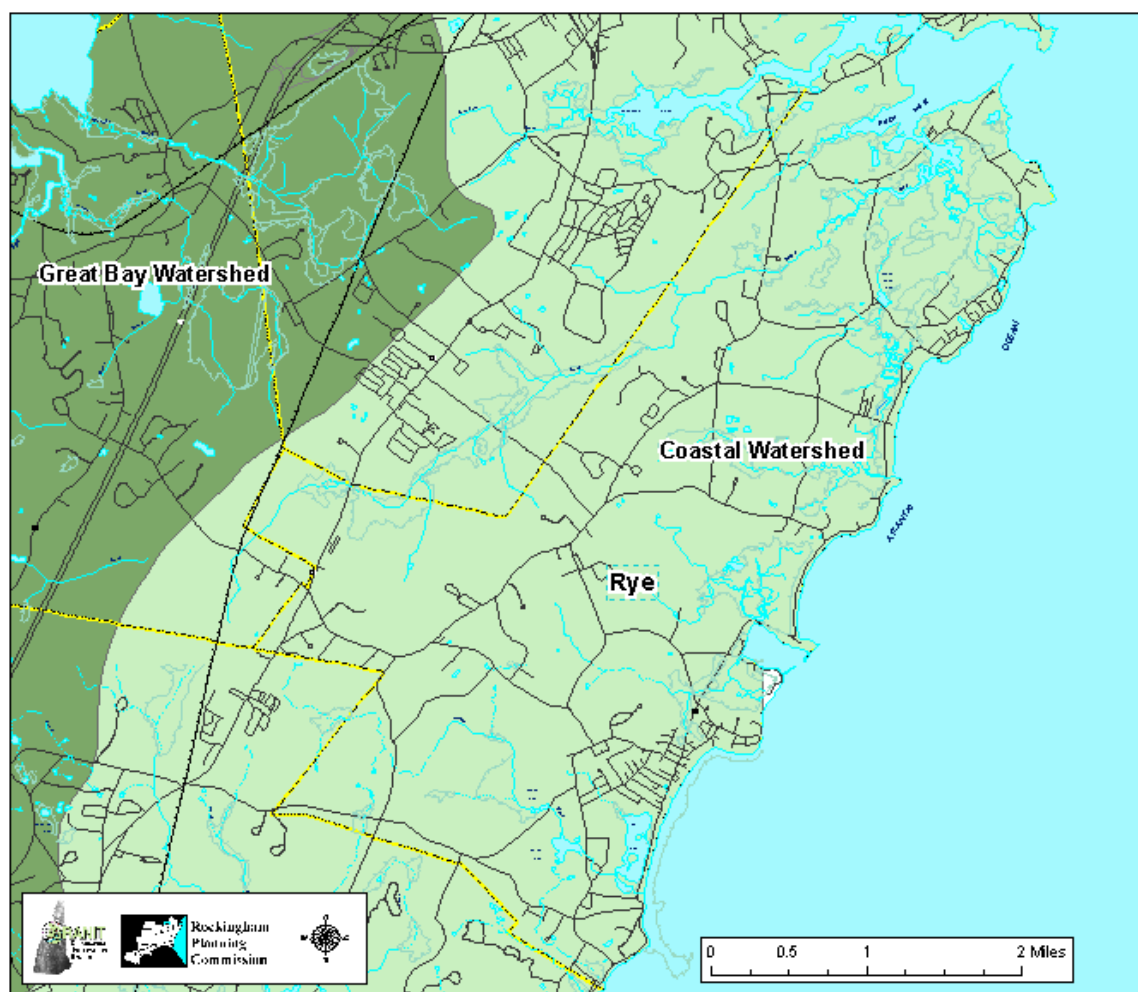


Figure 2: Watershed Map of Rye, New Hampshire

Rye lies within the New Hampshire's Coastal Watershed, with several brooks, streams, wetland complexes and salt marsh complexes draining into the Atlantic Ocean. Sub-watersheds include Berry's Brook, which flows towards the Ocean at Odiorne State Park, and Bailey's Brook, which flows into Burke Pond and Eel Pond.

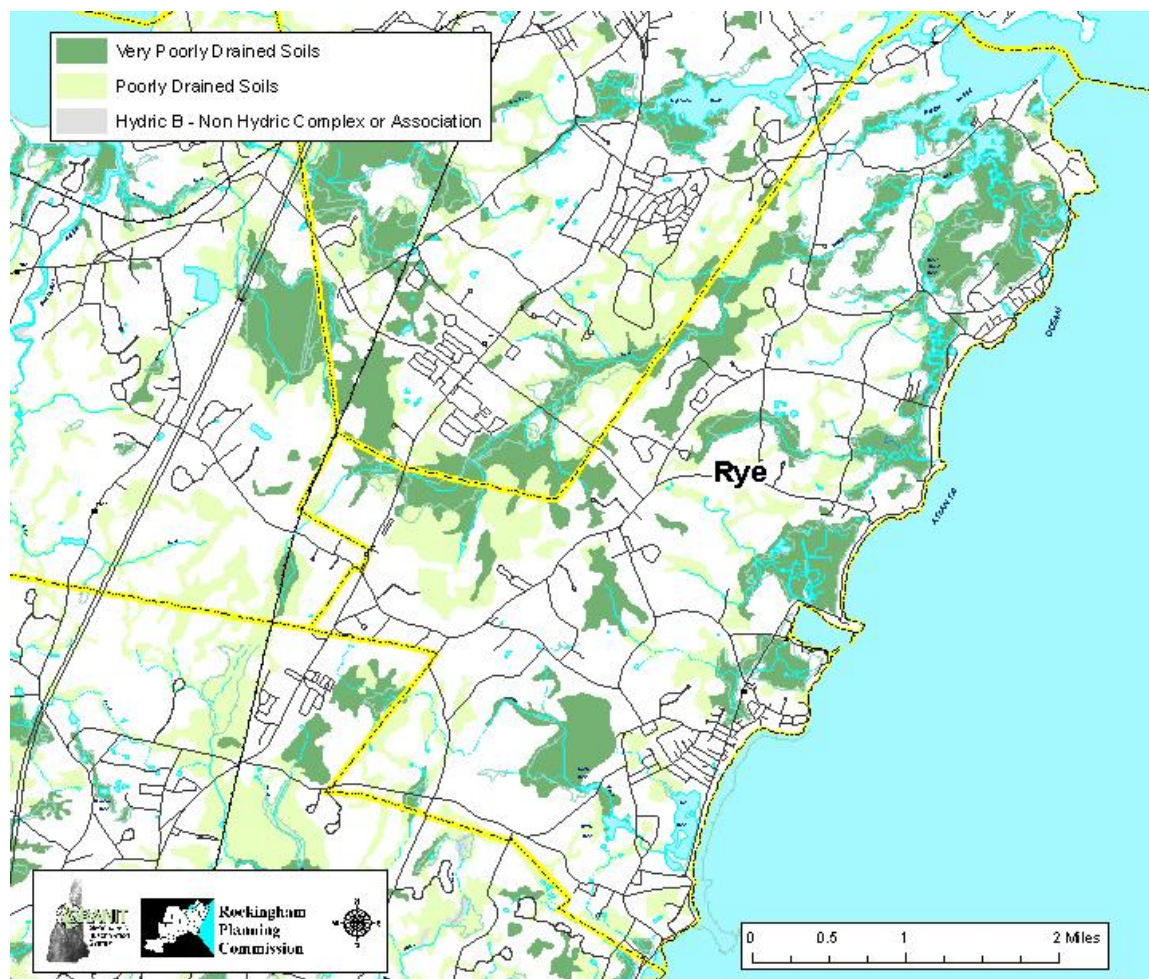


Figure 3: Wetland Map of Rye, New Hampshire

Wetlands soils in Rye are delineated on the basis of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and wetlands hydrology in accordance with the techniques outlined in the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, January 1987. Large wetland complexes are associated with the Bailey's Brook and Berry Brook sub-watersheds. Rye has established a Wetlands Conservation Overlay District to protect wetlands from development and to sustain critical flood storage capacity.

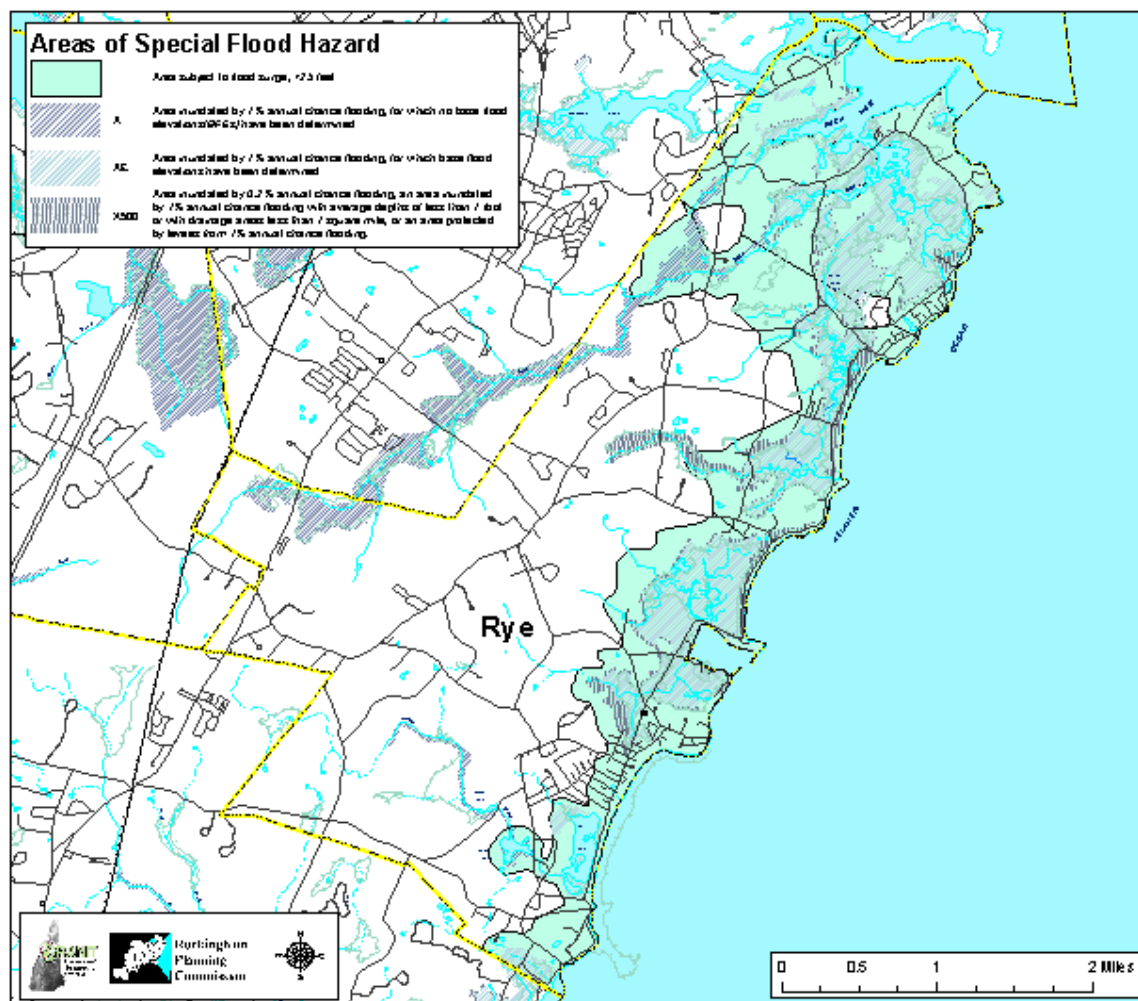


Figure 4: Floodplain Map of Rye, New Hampshire

Floodplains in Rye are depicted in Figure 4, above, and are defined by FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps as the 100-year and 500-year flood hazard zones. Rye participates in the National Flood Insurance Program administered by FEMA. The Town has adopted regulations to limit, and in some cases, prevent develop in wetlands and floodplains, including an updated Floodplain Development and Building Ordinance, adopted in March 1988, and was amended in March 2015 to addresses Coastal High Hazard Area Design Requirements.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

A land use map was prepared for this *Plan* using data from GRANIT (The New Hampshire Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System). The land use data was created for Rockingham County in 1998 and was amended in 2010 using 2010 aerial imagery. The data was developed through interpretation of 1:12,000 scale black and white digital orthophoto quadrangles from the United States Geologic Survey. For more information on this data layer please visit <http://www.granit.unh.edu/> . This data is presented in Map 1: Rye Land Use.

Rye is located in Rockingham County in southeastern New Hampshire, along the Atlantic Ocean. The town's population in 2010 was 5,298, according to the US Census. Population growth and corresponding residential development have increased the Town's vulnerability to damage from natural hazards, resulting in increased costs associated with repair and improvements to road infrastructure and increased demand for emergency services. The Town's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean also makes it vulnerable to hazards posed by sea-level rise and coastal storm surge. The mitigation action plan described in Chapter IX of this Plan Update reflects the increasing demands on municipal resources to mitigate natural hazards impacting Rye.

MAP 1: LAND USE MAP

CHAPTER III – NATURAL HAZARDS IN THE TOWN OF RYE

WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS?

The first step in planning for natural hazard mitigation is to identify hazards that may affect the Town. Some communities are more susceptible to certain hazards (i.e., flooding near rivers, hurricanes on the seacoast, etc.). The Town of Rye is prone to several types of natural hazards. These hazards include: **flooding, including flooding from coastal storms and sea level rise, hurricanes, tornadoes, severe winter weather, wildfires, earthquakes, and extreme temperatures.** Other natural hazards can and do affect the Town of Rye, but these were the hazards prioritized by the Committee for mitigation planning. These were the hazards that were considered to occur with regularity and/or were considered to have high damage potential, and are discussed below.

Natural hazards that are included in the State's Hazard Mitigation Plan that are not included in the *Plan* include: drought, landslide, subsidence, radon and avalanche. Subsidence and avalanche are rated by the State as having Low and No risk in Rockingham County, respectively; due to this they were left out of the *Plan*. Rye has no record of landslides and little chance of one occurring that could possibly damage property or cause injury; so landslides were not included in this *Plan*. The State's Plan indicates that Rockingham County is at Moderate risk to drought, and radon; these hazards were not included in the *Plan*. When compared to natural hazards that could be potentially devastating to the Town, such as hurricanes and coastal storms, or natural hazards that occur with regularity, such as flooding or severe winter weather, it was not considered an effective use of the Committee time to include drought and radon in the *Plan* at this time. Other potential natural Hazards that were considered highly unlikely or only minimally dangerous, and therefore not included in the plan are: tsunami, thunder storms, lightning, or hail. When the *Plan* is revised and updated in the future, possible inclusion of these hazards will be reevaluated.

HAZARD DEFINITIONS

Flooding

Floods are defined as a temporary overflow of water onto lands that are not normally covered by water. Flooding results from the overflow of major rivers and tributaries, storm surges, and/ or inadequate local drainage. Floods can cause loss of life, property damage, crop/livestock damage, and water supply contamination. Floods can also disrupt travel routes on roads and bridges.

Inland floods are most likely to occur in the spring due to the increase in rainfall and melting of snow; however, floods can occur at any time of the year. A sudden thaw in the winter or a major downpour in the summer can cause flooding because there is suddenly a lot of water in one place with nowhere to go. Coastal flooding can be caused by rising sea levels, storm surge associated with high wind events hurricanes or Nor'easters.

100-year Floodplain Events

Floodplains are usually located in lowlands near rivers, and flood on a regular basis. The term 100 year flood does not mean that flood will occur once every 100 years. It is a statement of probability that scientists and engineers use to describe how one flood

compares to others that are likely to occur. It is more accurate to use the phrase “1% annual chance flood”. What this means is that there is a 1% chance of a flood of that size happening in any year.

Sea Level Rise, Coastal Flooding and Storm Surge

Rye’s Atlantic Ocean coastline means homes and businesses, roadways and infrastructure, including state parks and harbors, are at risk due to flooding caused by storm surges and by rising sea levels.

Rapid Snow Pack Melt

Warm temperatures and heavy rains cause rapid snowmelt. Quickly melting snow coupled with moderate to heavy rains are prime conditions for flooding.

River Ice Jams

Rising waters in early spring often breaks ice into chunks, which float downstream and often pile up, causing flooding. Small rivers and streams pose special flooding risks because they are easily blocked by jams. Ice collecting in river bends and against structures presents significant flooding threats to bridges, roads, and the surrounding lands.

Hurricane

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone in which winds reach speeds of 74 miles per hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center (see Appendix C). The eye of the storm is usually 20-30 miles wide and may extend over 400 miles. High winds are a primary cause of hurricane-inflicted loss of life and property damage. Hurricanes can also include coastal storm surge. The Saffir–Simpson hurricane wind scale (SSHWS), or the Saffir–Simpson hurricane scale (SSHS) for short, classifies hurricanes (western hemisphere tropical cyclones that exceed the intensities of tropical depressions and tropical storms) into five categories distinguished by the intensities of their sustained winds. To be classified as a hurricane, a tropical cyclone must have maximum sustained winds of at least 74 mph. (Category 1). The highest classification in the scale, Category 5, is reserved for storms with winds exceeding 156 mph. The Saffir/Simpson Hurricane Scale is included in Appendix C.

Tornadoes

A tornado is a violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel shaped cloud. They develop when cool air overrides a layer of warm air, causing the warm air to rise rapidly. The atmospheric conditions required for the formation of a tornado include great thermal instability, high humidity and the convergence of warm, moist air at low levels with cooler, drier air aloft. Most tornadoes remain suspended in the atmosphere, but if they touch down they become a force of destruction

Tornadoes produce the most violent winds on earth, at speeds of 280 mph or more. In addition, tornadoes can travel at a forward speed of up to 70 mph. Damage paths can be in excess of one

mile wide and 50 miles long. Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause the most structural damage.

A downburst is an area of strong, downward moving air associated with a downdraft from a thunderstorm. As the downdraft impacts the ground, the air is forced outwards in all directions while it also curls backwards. This results in incredible wind damage close to the surface of the ground. Downbursts can produce straight-line wind damage over an area as small as one mile to as large as 250 miles from the center of the downdraft. Downbursts that span a distance less than 2.5 miles in diameter are considered to be microbursts.

The Enhanced Fujita Scale is the standard scale for rating the severity of a tornado as measured by the damage it causes (see Appendix D). A tornado is usually accompanied by thunder, lightning, heavy rain, and a loud “freight train” noise. In comparison with a hurricane, a tornado covers a much smaller area but can be more violent and destructive.

Severe Winter Weather

Ice and snow events typically occur during the winter months and can cause loss of life, property damage and tree damage.

Heavy Snow Storms

A winter storm can range from moderate snow to blizzard conditions. Blizzard conditions are considered blinding, wind-driven snow over 35 mph that lasts several days. A severe winter storm deposits four or more inches of snow during a 12-hour period or six inches of snow during a 24-hour period.

Ice Storms

An ice storm involves rain, which freezes upon impact. Ice coating at least one-fourth inch in thickness is heavy enough to damage trees, overhead wires and similar objects. Ice storms often produce widespread power outages.

Nor’easter

A Nor’easter is a large weather system traveling from South to North passing along or near the seacoast. As the storm approaches New England and its intensity becomes increasingly apparent, the resulting counterclockwise cyclonic winds impact the coast and inland areas from a Northeasterly direction. The sustained winds may meet or exceed hurricane force, with larger bursts, and may exceed hurricane events by many hours (or days) in terms of duration¹.

¹ Definition of Nor’easter taken from the State of New Hampshire Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2013.

Wildfire

Wildfire is defined as an uncontrolled and rapidly spreading fire. A forest fire is an uncontrolled fire in a woody area. They often occur during drought and when woody debris on the forest floor is readily available to fuel the fire. Grass fires are uncontrolled fires in grassy areas.

Earthquakes

Geologic events are often associated with California, but New England is considered a moderate risk earthquake zone. An earthquake is a rapid shaking of the earth caused by the breaking and shifting of rock beneath the earth's surface. Earthquakes can cause buildings and bridges to collapse, disrupt gas, electric and phone lines, and often cause landslides, flash floods, fires, and avalanches. Larger earthquakes usually begin with slight tremors but rapidly take the form of one or more violent shocks, and end in vibrations of gradually diminishing force called aftershocks. The underground point of origin of an earthquake is called its focus; the point on the surface directly above the focus is the epicenter. The magnitude and intensity of an earthquake is determined by the use of scales such as the Richter scale and Mercalli scale. The Richter scale is included in Appendix E.

Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is typically recognized as the condition where temperatures consistently stay ten degrees or more above a region's average high temperature for a 24-72 hours. Fatalities can result from extreme temperatures, as they can push the human body beyond its limits.

PROFILE OF PAST AND POTENTIAL HAZARDS

As discussed above the natural hazards that were identified for mitigation in this Plan include: flooding, hurricanes/tornadoes/high wind events, severe winter weather, wildfire earthquakes, and extreme temperatures. Some of the natural hazards could be included under more than one type of hazard. For example a hurricane could be considered a high wind event or a flooding event depending on the storm's consequences.

The hazard profiles below include: a description of the events included as part of the natural hazard, the geographic location of each natural hazard (if applicable), the extent of the natural hazard (e.g. magnitude or severity), probability, past occurrences, and community vulnerability. Past occurrences of natural hazards were mapped if possible (Map 2: Past and Future Hazards). Some of the natural hazards have not occurred within the Town of Rye (within written memory), for these hazards the plan refers to a table of hazards that have occurred regionally and statewide (Table 3). Community vulnerability identifies the specific areas, general type of structures, specific structures, or general vulnerability of the Town of Rye to each natural hazard.

The extent of a hazard is the strength or magnitude of a hazard. For this plan extent will be described as Minimal, Moderate or Severe if there is no other appropriate scale to use or data on the extent is limited. These terms are defined as follows: Minimal – local residents can handle the hazard event without help from outside sources. Moderate - county or regional assistance is

needed to survive and/or recover. Severe – state or federal assistance is necessary to survive and/or recover.

Probability was defined as high, a roughly 66-100% chance of reoccurrence within the next 25 years; moderate, roughly a 33-66% chance of reoccurrence within the next 25 years; and low, roughly a 0-33% of reoccurrence within the next 25 years.

FLOODING

Description: Flooding events can include hurricanes, coastal storm surges, 100-year floods, debris-impacted infrastructure, erosion, mudslides, rapid snow pack melt, river ice jams and dam breach and/or failure.

Location: Rye is vulnerable to flooding in several locations. Generally, the Town is at risk within the Flood Zones identified by FEMA on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). Rye has three major flood zones: AE – Areas of 100-year flood; AO – Areas of 100-year shallow flood; and, V – Areas of 100-year coastal flood with wave action. With the exception of Locke’s Neck, the area protected by the Wallis Sands seawall, Fairhill Manor, and parts of Odiorne Poine, most of Rye’s developed coastline, including approximately half of the densely developed Jenness Beach area, is located in Flood Hazard Zones V, AE, or AO.

There are also several locally-identified areas susceptible to flooding that are not within these flood zones, these areas are described below and displayed on Map 2: Past and Future Hazards.

Extent: The extent of flooding in Rye can range from minimal to severe. Minimal flooding can result in high water alongside roads and in yards and fields; severe flooding can, and has in Rye’s case, resulted in washed out roads and bridges, stranded motorists, and homes isolated by high and fast moving water, including tidal storm surges.

Probability: **HIGH**

Table 1: Probability of Flooding based on return interval

Flood Return Interval	Chance of Occurrence in Any Given Year
10-year	10%
50-year	2%
100-year	1%
500-year	0.2%

Past Occurrence: Flooding is a common hazard for the Town of Rye. Several locations were identified as areas of chronic reoccurring flooding or high potential for future flooding. These areas include Wallis Road between Appledore and Ocean Boulevard; Ocean Boulevard at Church Street; The Breakers; Jenness Road; Atlantic Avenue; Kenphill Avenue; Harbor Road at Ocean Boulevard; Locke Road at Harbor Road; Long John Road; the undersized culvert at Sagamore Road and Pioneer Road. Road closures at these locations can occur during periods of heavy rainfall, and rapid snowmelt and are temporary in nature, with road surfaces covered with water. Committee members recalled a dam breach occurring during a period of heavy rain in May 2006 at the Red Mill Lane dam, resulting in flooding of Red Mill Land and Central Road. In addition, coastal storm surges have caused damage to shale piles along Ocean Boulevard, causing the rock to be pushed back into the roadway.

Community Vulnerability: The Committee identified several areas in Rye as being vulnerable to flooding caused by heavy rains, coastal high tides and storm surge, snow melt and ice jams. These areas are depicted on Map 2: Past and Potential Hazards and are as follows: Wallis Road between Appledore and Ocean Boulevard; Ocean Boulevard at Church Street; The Breakers; Jenness Road; Atlantic Avenue; Kenphill Avenue; Harbor Road at Ocean Boulevard; Locke Road at Harbor Road; Long John Road; the undersized culvert at Sagamore Road and Pioneer Road. Mitigation and prevention of roadway flooding is taking place in a variety of ways in Rye, including the adoption and enforcement of stormwater management regulations to increase the on-site treatment of runoff and working with homeowners and developers on site plan design that takes into account areas prone to flooding and identifies long-term management of run-off and flood storage.

Closure of these roads due to high water and/or unsafe driving conditions can prevent residents from reaching homes and businesses, restrict emergency response vehicles and school bus routes. High water levels and swiftly moving water can also cause culvert failure and erosion, undermining road safety.

A summary of Rye's greatest vulnerabilities to flooding are as follows:

- Structures, primarily residential homes, and roads located in the flood zone and in neighborhoods prone to flooding, as identified on Map 2, Past and Potential Hazards, including: Wallis Road between Appledore and Ocean Boulevard; Ocean Boulevard at Church Street; The Breakers; Jenness Road; Atlantic Avenue; Kenphill Avenue; Harbor Road at Ocean Boulevard; Locke Road at Harbor Road; Long John Road; the undersized culvert at Sagamore Road and Pioneer Road.
- Dam breach and failure could impact Rye through flooding. Potential losses will depend on the extent of the breach and would mostly affect roadway infrastructure. Areas at risk of dam breach are Red Mill Lane and the causeway at the North Hampton town line.
- Planning for long term sea-level rise can be integrated with existing regulatory and management frameworks for the current 100-year floodplain (1% chance).

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in response to the rising cost of taxpayer funded disaster relief for flood victim and the increasing amount of damage caused by floods. The Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA) a component of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) manages the NFIP, and oversees the floodplain management and mapping components of the program.

Communities participate in the NFIP by adopting and enforcing floodplain management ordinances to reduce flood damage. In exchange, the NFIP makes federally subsidized flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in these communities. Flood insurance, Federal Grants and loans, Federal disaster assistance and federal mortgage insurance is unavailable for the acquisition or construction of structures located in the floodplain shown on the NFIP maps for those communities that do not participate in the program.

To get secure financing to buy, build or improve structures in the Special Flood Hazard Areas, it is legally required by federal law to purchase flood insurance. Lending institutions that are federally regulated or federally insured must determine if the structure is located in the SFHA and must provide written notice requiring flood insurance. Flood insurance is available to any property owner located in a community participating in NFIP. Flood damage is reduced by nearly \$1 billion a year through partnerships with communities, the insurance industry, and the lending industry. Further, buildings constructed in compliance with NFIP building standards suffer approximately 80 percent less damage annually than those not built in compliance. Additionally, every \$3 paid in flood insurance claims saves \$1 in disaster assistance payments.

The NFIP is self-supporting for the average historical loss year, which means that operating expenses and flood insurance claims are not paid for by the taxpayer, but through premiums collected for flood insurance policies. The program has borrowing authority from the U.S. Treasury for times when losses are heavy; however, these loans are paid back with interest.

Repetitive Loss Properties

A specific target group of repetitive loss properties is identified and serviced separately from other NFIP policies by the Special Direct Facility (SDF). The target group includes every NFIP insured property that, since 1978 and regardless of any change(s) of ownership during that period, has experienced four or more paid losses, two paid flood losses within a 10-year period that equal or exceed the current value of the insured property, or three or more paid losses that equal or exceed the current value of the insured property, regardless of any changes of ownership, since the buildings construction or back to 1978. Target group policies are afforded coverage, whether new or renewal, only through the SDF.

The FEMA Regional Office provides information about repetitive loss properties to State and local floodplain management officials. The FEMA Regional Office may also offer property owners building inspection and financial incentives for undertaking measures to mitigate future flood losses. These measures include elevating buildings from the flood area, and in some cases

drainage improvement projects. If the property owners agree to mitigation measures, their property may be removed from the target list and would no longer be serviced by the SDF.

Table 2: Rye NFIP Policy and Loss Statistics

Policies in force	Insurance in Force	Number of Paid Losses (since 1978)	Total Losses Paid (Since 1978)
324 residential & 9 commercial	\$85,161,300	174	\$1,709,576

Source: FEMA Policy and claims database, as of 1/1/2016

Rye NFIP Repetitive Flooding Losses

Rye joined the Regular Program of the NFIP on June 17, 1986. Rye is part of the Rockingham County DFIRMs and FIS, which are both dated May 17, 2005. As of January 1, 2016, Rye has had 17 repetitive loss residential property according to New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (NHOEP) records. This is determined by any repetitive damage claims on those properties that hold flood insurance through the NFIP.

Floodplain Management Goals/Reducing Flood Risks

A major objective to floodplain management is to continue participation in the NFIP and evaluate continued required compliance criteria within the program. Communities that agree to manage Special Flood Hazard Areas shown on NFIP maps participate in the NFIP by adopting minimum standards. The minimum requirements are the adoption of the Floodplain Ordinances and Subdivision/Site Plan Review requirements for land designated as Special Flood Hazard Areas. Under Federal Law, any structure located in the floodplain is required to have flood insurance. Federally subsidized flood insurance is available to any property owner located in a community participating in the NFIP. Communities that fail to comply with the NFIP will be put on probation and/or suspended. Probation is a first warning where all policy holders receive a letter notifying them of a \$50 increase in their insurance. In the event of suspension, the policyholders lose their NFIP insurance and are left to purchase insurance in the private sector, which is of significantly higher cost. If a community is having difficulty complying with NFIP policies, FEMA is available to meet with staff and volunteers to work through the difficulties and clear up any confusion before placing the community on probation or suspension.

Potential Administrative Techniques to Minimize Flood Losses in Rye

A potential step in mitigating flood damage is participating in NFIP. Rye continues to consistently enforce NFIP compliant policies in order to continue its participation in this program and has effectively worked within the provisions of NFIP by ensuring buildings, if built in the floodplain, comply with NFIP building standards and practices.

Since joining the NFIP in 1986, the Town has amended its zoning ordinance and regulations to protect wetlands and shoreland buffers and better comply with NFIP standards. The Town is in the process of applying to rejoin the Community Rating Systems. Below is a list of actions Rye will consider, or continue to perform, in order to comply with NFIP:

- Participate in NFIP training offered by the State and/or FEMA (or in other training) that addresses flood hazard planning and management;
- Continue with Mutual Aid Agreements with neighboring communities to address administering the NFIP following a major storm event;
- Address NFIP monitoring and compliance activities;
- Incorporate recommendations from the 2015 Vulnerability Assessment for sea-level rise and storm surge into town regulations and policies;
- Revise/adopt subdivision regulations, erosion control regulations, board of health regulations to improve floodplain management in the community;
- Prepare, distribute or make available NFIP insurance and building codes explanatory pamphlets or booklets;
- Identify and become knowledgeable of non-compliant structures in the community;
- Inspect foundations at time of completion before framing to determine if lowest floor is at or above Base Flood Elevation (BFE), if they are in the floodplain;
- Require the use of elevation certificates;
- Enhance local officials, builders, developers, local citizens and other stakeholders' knowledge of how to read and interpret the FIRM;
- Work with elected officials, the state and FEMA to correct existing compliance issues and prevent any future NFIP compliance issues through continuous communications, training and education.
- Add a chapter to the Town's Master Plan addressing threats from climate change and sea-level rise.

HURRICANE

Description: As described on page 12.

Location: Hurricane events are more potentially damaging with increasing proximity to the coast. For this *Plan*, high-wind events were considered to have an equal chance of affecting any part of the Town of Rye.

Extent: Hurricane strength is measured using the Saffir-Simpson Scale as located in Appendix C of this plan. Rye is located within a Zone II hurricane-susceptible region

(indicating a design wind speed of 160 mph)². Between 1900 and 2013 2 hurricanes have made landfall in New Hampshire, a category 1 and a category 2. In Maine, 5 hurricanes have made landfall (all category 1). In Massachusetts, 6 hurricanes have made landfall (2 category 1, 2 category 2 and 2 category 3). From this information it can be extrapolated that Rye is a high risk to a hurricane event, with variable wind speeds between 74 – 130 mph (category 1-3).

Probability: HIGH. The State of New Hampshire's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2013 rates Rockingham County with high likelihood of hurricane events.

Past Occurrence: Between 1635 and 2015 14 hurricanes have impacted the State of New Hampshire. The worst of these occurred on September 21, 1938, with wind speeds of up to 186 mph in MA and 138mph elsewhere. Thirteen of 494 people killed by this storm were residents of New Hampshire. The Storm caused \$12,337,643 in damages (1938 dollars), timber not included. Hurricanes Sandy and Irene created areas of localized flooding in Rye and power loss. The Town received \$20,384.57 in funds from FEMA in 2013 as a result of costs incurred from storms.

Community Vulnerability: The Committee determined that the high winds and heavy rain associated with hurricanes can impact every neighborhood in Rye before, during and after the storm, resulting in downed trees, flooding of ponds, rivers, streams, roads and basements, and damage to home, businesses and community infrastructure. The following infrastructure in Rye is at most risk:

- Power lines
- Shingled roofs
- Chimneys
- Trees
- Mobile homes
- Sewage pump stations
- Cell tower off Grove Road
- Beaches and State Parks

TORNADOES

Description: As described on page 12.

Location: For this *Plan*, Tornado events were considered to have an equal chance of affecting any part of the Town of Rye.

Extent: Tornadoes are measured utilizing the Enhanced Fujita Damage Scale located in Appendix D of this plan. From 1950 to 2013 Rockingham County was subject to 9

² "Understanding Your Risks, Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses", FEMA, page 3-22

recorded tornado events, measured using the previous Fujita Damage Scale, these included 2 type F0 (Gale Tornado, 40-72 mph), 2 type F1 (Moderate Tornado, 73-112 mph), 4 type F2 (Significant Tornado, 113-157 mph) and 1 type F3 (Severe Tornado, 158-206 mph)³. Type 3 tornadoes can cause severe damage including tearing the roofs and walls from well-constructed homes, trees can be uprooted, trains over-turned, and cars lifted off the ground and thrown⁴.

Probability: **HIGH.** The State of New Hampshire's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2013 rates Rockingham County with high likelihood of tornado events.

Past Occurrence: Tornadoes have not impacted the Town of Rye in recent memory.

Community Vulnerability: The Committee determined that all parts of Rye are vulnerable to the impacts associated with the high winds and flying debris caused by tornadoes. Population density is dispersed equally throughout town, though the elementary school, fire station, police station, and town hall are all clustered in the village center. Mobile homes scattered throughout town are more vulnerable to tornadoes than conventionally built residences. Infrastructure at risk include:

- Power lines
- Shingled roofs
- Chimneys
- Trees
- Mobile homes
- Cell tower off Grove Road
- Beaches and State Parks

SEVERE WINTER WEATHER

Description: There are three types of winter events: blizzards, ice storms and extreme cold. All of these events are a threat to the community with subzero temperatures from extreme wind chill and storms causing low visibility for commuters. Snow storms have been known to collapse buildings. Ice storms disrupt power and communication services. Extreme cold affects the elderly.

Location: Severe winter weather events have an equal chance of affecting any part of the Town of Rye.

Extent: Large snow events in Southeastern New Hampshire can produce 30 inches of snow, or more. Portions of central New Hampshire recorded snowfalls of 98" during one

³ The tornado project .com

⁴ "Understanding Your Risks, Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses", FEMA, page

slow moving storm in February of 1969. Ice storms, which can be measured utilizing the Sperry-Piltz (Appendix J) ice accumulation scale as found in appendix F of this plan, occur with regularity in New England. Seven severe ice storms have been recorded that affected New Hampshire since 1929. These events caused disruption of transportation, loss of power and millions of dollars in damage.

Probability: **HIGH.** The State of New Hampshire's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2013 rates Rockingham County with high likelihood of heavy snows and ice storms.

Past Occurrence: A list of past winter storm events is displayed below, in Table 4.

Rye has been impacted by four severe winter storms in the past five years. A storm on January 2, 2009 resulted in the removal of tree debris and wind-blown debris. A storm on March 29, 2010 caused flooding that damaged roads and culverts. The "Halloween storm" on October 31, 2011 resulted in widespread power outages, fallen trees, and closed roads. A severe winter storm struck the town on March 19, 2013 with heavy snow fall resulting in 48 hours of snow removal. A severe winter storm on March 25, 2015 required extensive snow removal efforts by the Town and the Town was received \$16,345.03 in FEMA funds.

Community Vulnerability: Severe winter weather has struck Rye and every other town in the region on an annual basis in recent memory. The Committee determined that heavy snow, strong and gusty winds, and frigid temperatures can impact all parts of town equally, resulting in downed trees and power lines, extended power outages, and unsafe driving condition. Extended power outages and the resulting loss of heat in homes of elderly residents is of concern. Rapid snow melt after severe winter weather can result in flooding of rivers and streams, posing risk to roads and structures. The Committee identified the following at greatest risk from severe winter weather:

- Elderly and challenged populations
- Power lines
- Trees, including impacts roads on utility rights of way
- Congregate care facilities
- Cell tower off Grove Road

WILDFIRE

Description: Wildfires include grass fires and forest fires.

Location: The Committee identified areas of Town as at-risk to wildfires (see Map 2: Past and Future Hazards).

Extent: A wildfire is defined as a fire in wooded, potentially remote areas that may endanger lives. Wildfire can be measured utilizing the NWCG Classification of fire size⁵. New Hampshire has about 500 wildfires each year; most of these burn less than half an acre. A wildfire in the Town of Rye is unlikely, but if a crown fire were to occur it could be very damaging to structures abutting large wooded areas of Town. The Wildland-Urban Interface Scale, a tool to quantify the expected severity of wildfire events in developed areas, is included in Appendix J.

Probability: **MODERATE**. The State of New Hampshire's Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update 2013 rates Rockingham County with moderate risk to wildfires.

Past Occurrence: No major wildfires have occurred in Rye.

Community Vulnerability: The Committee determined that all forested and open areas in town are prone to wildfires, and the greatest wildfire threat in Rye is the result of extended drought that create wildfires. The Committee summarized the threat as follows:

- Structures located near large open vegetated areas
- Vulnerability increases during drought events
- Tree debris created by high wind and winter storm events

EARTHQUAKE

Description: Seismic activity including landslides and other geologic hazards.

Location: An earthquake has an equal chance of affecting all areas in the Town of Rye.

Extent: Earthquakes are measured utilizing the Richter Magnitude Scale as detailed in Appendix E of this plan. New England is particularly vulnerable to the injury of its inhabitants and structural damage because of our built environment. Few New England States currently include seismic design in their building codes. Massachusetts introduced earthquake design requirements into their building code in 1975 and Connecticut very recently did so. However, these specifications are for new buildings, or very significantly modified existing buildings only. Existing buildings, bridges, water supply lines, electrical power lines and facilities, etc. have rarely been designed for earthquake forces (New Hampshire has no such code specifications).

Probability: **MODERATE**. The State of New Hampshire's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2013 ranks all of the Counties in the State with at moderate risk to earthquakes. The Town of Rye's Peak Ground Acceleration (PGA) values range between 6.1 and

⁵ http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/stds/standards/fire-size-class_v1-0.htm#definition

21.0⁶. These numbers are associated with how much an earthquake is felt and how much damage it may cause (Table 3).

Table 3: Peak Ground acceleration (PGA) values for Rye (information from State and Local Mitigation Planning, FEMA).

PGA	Chance of being exceeded in the next 50 years	Perceived Shaking	Potential Damage
6.1	10%	Moderate	Very Light
10.6	5%	Strong	Light
21.0	2%	Very Strong	Moderate

Past Occurrence: Large earthquakes have not affected the Town of Rye within recent memory.

Community Vulnerability: The Committee determined that earthquakes do not pose a frequent threat to Rye, but if one were to occur that the most vulnerable structure is the Town Hall. Other structures at risk from earthquakes include:

- Older historic residences and municipal buildings of which there are many in town, including Town Hall;
- Infrastructure;
- Sewer and water lines along Ocean Boulevard;
- Secondary hazards such as fire, power outages, or hazardous material leak or spill.

EXTREME HEAT

Description: Extreme heat is typically recognized as the condition where temperatures consistently stay ten degrees or more above a region's average high temperature for a 24-72 hours. Fatalities can result from extreme temperatures, as they can push the human body beyond its limits.

Location: Extreme heat can affect all areas of Rye.

Extent: Extreme heat events impact Rye for 2-3 days each summer. FEMA's Heat Index measures a number in degrees Fahrenheit that tells how hot it feels when relative humidity is added to the air temperature.

⁶ <http://geohazards.cr.usgs.gov/eq/pubmaps/us.pga.050.map.gif>

Probability: **HIGH**

Past Occurrence: Annually

Community Vulnerability: The Committee determined that all parts of town are at risk of impacts associated with high heat. The young, elderly and challenged populations are especially vulnerable to heat stroke. The EMD maintains a list of these populations, including addresses for homes, day care centers, and congregate care facilities.

Table 4: State of New Hampshire
Presidentially Declared Disasters (DR) and Emergency Declarations (EM) 1982-2016
Source: *State of NH Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2013 Update*

Date Declared	Event	FEMA DR	Program	Amount	Counties Declared
08/27/86	Severe storms/flooding	FEMA-771-DR	PA	\$1,005,000	Cheshire and Hillsborough
04/16/87	Severe storms/flooding	FEMA-789-DR	PA/IA	\$4,888,889	Carroll, Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Sullivan
08/29/90	Severe storms/winds	FEMA-876-DR	PA	\$2,297,777	Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, and Sullivan
09/09/91	Hurricane	FEMA-917-DR	PA	\$2,293,449	Statewide
11/13/91	Coastal storm/flooding	FEMA-923-DR	PA/IA	\$1,500,000	Rockingham
03/16/93	Heavy snow	FEMA-3101-DR	PA	\$832,396	Statewide
01/03/96	Storms/floods	FEMA-1077-DR	PA	\$2,220,384	Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Merrimack, and Sullivan
10/29/96	Severe storms/flooding	FEMA-1144-DR	PA	\$2,341,273	Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford, and Sullivan
01/15/98	Ice storm	FEMA-1199-DR	PA/IA	\$12,446,202	Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Strafford, and Sullivan
07/02/98	Severe storms	FEMA-1231-DR	PA/IA	\$3,420,120	Belknap, Carroll, Grafton, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Sullivan
10/18/99	Hurricane/tropical storm Floyd	FEMA-1305-DR	PA	\$750,133	Belknap, Cheshire, and Grafton
March 2001	Snow emergency	FEMA-3166-EM	PA	\$4,500,000	Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford
2/17/2003 - 2/18/2003	Snow emergency	FEMA-3177-EM	PA	\$3,000,000	Cheshire, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford

09/12/03	Severe storms/flooding	FEMA-1489-DR	PA	\$1,300,000	Cheshire and Sullivan
03/11/03	Snow emergency	FEMA-3177-EM	PA	\$3,000,000	Cheshire, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford
01/15/04	Snow emergency	FEMA-3193-EM	PA	\$3,200,000	Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, and Sullivan
03/30/05	Snow emergency	FEMA-3207-EM	PA	\$4,654,738	Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford, and Sullivan
03/30/05	Snow emergency	FEMA-3208-EM	PA	\$1,417,129	Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan
04/28/05	Snow emergency	FEMA-3211-EM	PA	\$2,677,536	Carroll, Cheshire, Hillsborough, Rockingham, and Sullivan
10/26/05	Severe storm/flooding	FEMA-1610-DR	PA/IA	\$14,996,626	Belknap, Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, and Sullivan
05/31/06	Severe storm/flooding	FEMA-1643-DR	PA/IA	\$17,691,586	Belknap, Carroll, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford
4/15/2007 - 4/23/2007	Severe storm/flooding	FEMA-1695-DR	PA/IA	\$27,000,000	Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford, and Sullivan
08/11/08	Severe storms/tornado/flooding	FEMA-1782-DR	PA	\$1,691,240	Belknap, Carroll, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford
09/05/08	Severe storms/flooding	FEMA-1787-DR	PA	\$4,967,595	Belknap, Coos, and Grafton
10/03/08	Severe storms/flooding	FEMA-1799-DR	PA	\$1,050,147	Hillsborough and Merrimack

12/11/08	Severe winter storm	FEMA-3297-EM	DF A/P A	\$900,000	Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford, and Sullivan
01/02/09	Severe winter storm	FEMA-1812-DR	DF A/P A	\$19,789,657	Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford, and Sullivan
03/29/10	Severe winter storm	FEMA-1892-DR	PA	\$9,103,138	Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford, and Sullivan
05/12/10	Severe winter storm	FEMA-1913-DR	PA	\$3,057,473	Hillsborough and Rockingham
07/22/11	Severe storms/flooding	FEMA-4006-DR	PA	\$1,664,140	Coos and Grafton
09/03/11	Tropical storm Irene	FEMA-4026-DR	PA/IA	\$11,101,752	Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, Merrimack, Strafford, and Sullivan
12/07/11	October Nor'easter	FEMA-4049-DR	PA	\$4,411,457	Hillsborough and Rockingham
06/18/12	Severe storms/flooding	FEMA-4065-DR	PA	\$3,046,189	Cheshire
10/30/12	Hurricane Sandy	DR-4095 EM-3360	PA DFA	\$2,132,376	Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford, and Sullivan
2/8/2013 - 2/10/2013	Severe storm/blizzard	DR-4105	PA	\$6,127,598	Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Strafford, and Rockingham
6/26/2013 – 7/3/2013	Severe storms/flooding	DR-4139	PA	\$6,389,705	Cheshire, Sullivan, and Grafton
1/26/2015 – 1/29/2015	Severe winter storm/snowstorm	DR-4209	PA	\$4,607,527	Strafford, Rockingham, and Hillsborough
Program Key: PA: Public Assistance IA: Individual Assistance DFA: Direct Federal Assistance					

MAP 2: PAST AND FUTURE HAZARDS

CHAPTER IV – CRITICAL FACILITIES

The Critical Facilities List for the Town of Rye has been identified by Rye’s Hazard Mitigation Committee. The Critical Facilities List has been broken up into four categories. The *first category* contains facilities needed for Emergency Response in the event of a disaster. The *second category* contains Non-Emergency Response Facilities that have been identified by the committee as non-essential. These are not required in an emergency response event, but are considered essential for the everyday operation of Rye. The *third category* contains Facilities/Populations that the committee wishes to protect in the event of a disaster. The *fourth category* contains Potential Resources, which can provide services or supplies in the event of a disaster. Map 3: Critical Facilities at the end of this Chapter identifies the location of the facilities and the evacuation routes. A list of the critical facilities can be found in Table 5.

Table 5: Category 1 - Emergency Response Services and Facilities:

The first category contains facilities needed for Emergency Response in the event of a disaster.

Critical Facility	Facility Type
Town Hall	Public Building
Public Safety Complex	Public Building
Highway Shed	Public Building
Water Tanks - 4	Infrastructure
Water Dept. Office	Infrastructure
Water Supply Wells	Infrastructure
Aquarion Well	Infrastructure
Cell Towers - 3	Infrastructure
Electric Substations - 3	Infrastructure

Table 6: Category 2 - Non Emergency Response Facilities:

The Town has identified these facilities as non-emergency facilities; however, they are considered essential for the everyday operation of Rye.

Critical Facility	Facility Type
Sewage pump stations - 3	Infrastructure
Sea Wall/Shale Piles	Infrastructure
Emergency Fuel	Supplies

Table 7: Category 3 - Facilities/Populations to Protect:

The third category contains people and facilities that need to be protected in event of a disaster.

Critical Facility	Facility Type
Town Hall	Congregation Facility
Public Library	Congregation Facility
Recreation Center	Congregation Facility
Post Offices - 2	Congregation Facility
St. Andrews by the Sea Church	Congregation Facility
St. Theresa Church	Congregation Facility
Rye Congregational Church	Congregation Facility
Oceanic Hotel – Star Island	Congregation Facility
Sanctuary Care	Congregation Facility
White Birch	Congregation Facility
Parsonage	Congregation Facility
Seacoast Science Center	Congregation Facility
Rye Skate Park	Recreation
Wallis Sands State Park	Recreation
Rye Harbor State Park	Recreation
Rye Town Museum	Historic Resource
Rye Country Day School	School
Learning Skills Academy	School
Rye Elementary School	School
Rye Junior High School	School
Children’s House Montessori School	School

Table 8: Category 4 - Potential Resources:

This category contains facilities that provide potential resources for services or supplies in the event of a natural disaster.

Critical Facility	Facility Type
Home Depot – North Hampton	Supplies
Lowe’s - Greenland	Supplies
Travel Port - Greenland	Food and Fuel
	Heavy Equipment
Rite Aid – Rye and Portsmouth	Pharmacy and Supplies

MAP 3: CRITICAL FACILITIES MAP

CHAPTER V – POTENTIAL HAZARD AFFECTS

IDENTIFYING VULNERABLE FACILITIES

It is important to determine what the most vulnerable areas of the Town of Rye are and to estimate their potential loss. The first step is to identify the areas most likely to be damaged in a hazard event. To do this, the locations of buildings and other structures were compared to the location of potential hazard areas identified by the Hazard Mitigation Committee using GIS (Geographic Information Systems). Vulnerable buildings were identified by comparing their location to possible hazard events. For example, all of the structures within the 100-year floodplain were identified and used in conducting the potential loss analysis for flooding.

CALCULATING THE POTENTIAL LOSS

The next step in completing the loss estimation involved assessing the level of damage from a hazard event as a percentage of the buildings' assessed value. For the purposes of estimating losses and average values per residential structure was determined. The total value for all structures in Rye in 2015, residential and commercial was provided by the Town: \$1,988,672,100. The average assessed value of a structure in 2015 was \$631,145.

The damage estimates are divided into two categories based on hazard types: hazards that are location specific, such as flooding, and hazards that could affect all areas of Rye equally, such as extreme heat. Damage estimates from hazards with a specific location were calculated by determining how many structures were in the identified hazard area using 2010 digital aerial images of Rye, and then making the damage estimates based on the average value of residential structures determined above. This method makes the assumption that all of the affected structures are residential. Damage estimates from hazards that could affect all of Rye equally are much rougher estimates, based on percentages of the total assessed value of the structures and utilities in Rye.

After identifying the parcels and buildings that are at risk, the next step was to calculate a damage estimate for each potential hazard area. FEMA provides a model for estimating damage for various flooding events, so the flood damage estimates provide information including: damage estimates for structures, contents of buildings, functional downtime and replacement time. For wildfire and urban conflagration, damage estimates were determined for the buildings in the potential hazard areas as well as estimates of the building content value, based on the same estimates from the flood model. The following discussion summarizes the potential loss estimates due to natural hazard events.

FLOODING

These structures were identified by overlaying digital versions of FEMA's FIRM maps on 2010 digital aerial photography of the town of Rye. Because of the scale and resolution of the FIRM maps and imagery this is only an approximation of the total structures located within the 100-1%year floodplain (AO-zone and AE-zone). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed a process to calculate potential loss for structures during flood. The potential loss for residential and non-residential structures was calculated separately. All

structures were assumed to be single family residential units. The average assessed value of a structure was \$631,145.

The costs for repairing or replacing bridges, railroads, power lines, telephone lines, and contents of structures are not included in this estimate. In addition, the figures used were based on buildings which are one or two stories high with basements. The percentage of structural damage and contents damage that could be expected for each flood depth is shown in Table 6, along with estimates of functional downtime (how long a business/residence would be down before relocating) and displacement time (how long a business/residence would be displaced from its flooded location).

The following calculation is based on **one-foot flooding** and assumes that, on average, one or two story buildings with basements receive 15% damage (Understanding Your Risks, Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses, FEMA page 4-13):

Potential Structure Damage: 15%

Approximately 379 structures in the AE Zone valued at \$237,310,520 = \$35,596,578 potential damage.

Approximately 191 structures in the AO Zone valued at \$120,548,695 = \$18,082,304 potential damage

The following calculation is based on **two-foot flooding** and assumes that, on average, one or two story buildings with basements receive 20% damage (Understanding Your Risks, Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses, FEMA page 4-13):

Potential Structure Damage: 20%

Approximately 379 structures in the AE Zone valued at \$237,310,520 = \$47,462,104 potential damage

Approximately 191 structures in the AO Zone valued at \$120,548,695 = \$24,109,739 potential damage

Table 6: Percentages of structural and content damage, based on the assessed value of a flooded parcel. Also shows the functional downtime and displacement time for each flood event.

Flood Depth	One-foot	Two-foot	Four-foot
% Structural Damage: Buildings	15%	20%	28%
% Structural Damage: Mobile Homes	44%	63%	78%
% Contents Damage: Buildings	22.5%	30%	42%

% Contents Damage: Mobile Homes	30%	90%	90%
Flood Functional Downtime: Buildings	15 days	20 days	28 days
Flood Functional Downtime: Mobile Homes	30 days	30 days	30 days
Flood Displacement Time: Buildings	70 days	110 days	174 days
Flood Displacement Time: Mobile Homes	302 days	365 days	365 days

~Dam Breach and Failure

Dam breach and failure could impact Rye through flooding. Potential losses will depend on the extent of the breach and would mostly affect roadway infrastructure. There are three man-made dams that could cause flooding if breached: Locke Pond Dam (also known as Brown's Pond off Love Lane), Burke Pond Dam and Eel Pond Dam. These dams are along the same watercourse.

In addition, there are known to be beaver dams located in Rye on private land that could cause road and field flooding if breached. The Committee determined that an approximate dollar value of potential damage is not known without conducting a detailed engineering study on the specific dam sites, as well as measuring the potential downstream impacts. Appendix J provides information on the NH Department of Environmental Services Dam Classification System.

HURRICANE/HIGH WIND EVENTS

~Hurricane

Hurricanes do affect the Northeast coast periodically. Since 1900, 2 hurricanes have made landfall in the State of New Hampshire. Due to the coastal location of the Town of Rye, hurricanes and storm surges present a real hazard to the community. Even degraded hurricanes or tropical storms could still cause significant damage to the structures and infrastructure of the Town of Rye. The assessed value of all residential, commercial and industrial structures in the Town of Rye is \$1,988,672,100. Assuming 1% to 5% damage, a hurricane could result in \$19,886,721 to \$994,336,050 of structure damage.

~Tornado

Tornadoes are relatively uncommon natural hazards in New Hampshire. On average, about six touch down each year. Damage largely depends on where the tornado strikes. If it strikes an inhabited area, the impact could be severe. The assessed value of all residential, commercial and industrial structures in the Town of Rye is \$1,988,672,100. Assuming 1% to 5% damage, a hurricane could result in \$19,886,721 to \$994,336,050 of structure damage.

SEVERE WINTER WEATHER

~Heavy Snowstorms

Heavy snowstorms typically occur during January and February. New England usually experiences at least one or two heavy snow storms with varying degrees of severity each year. Power outages, extreme cold and impacts to infrastructure are all effects of winter storms that have been felt in Rye in the past. All of these impacts are a risk to the community, including isolation, especially of the elderly, and increased traffic accidents. Damage caused as a result of this type of hazard varies according to wind velocity, snow accumulation and duration. Heavy snowstorms in Rye could be expected to cause damage ranging from a few thousand dollars to several million, depending on the severity of the storm.

~Ice Storms

Ice storms often cause widespread power outages by downing power lines, making power lines at risk in Rye. They can also cause severe damage to trees. In 1998, an ice storm inflicted \$12,466,202 worth of damage across New Hampshire and in 2008 an ice storm, which mostly impacted southern NH communities, experienced over a reported \$150 million dollars worth of property damage. Ice storms in Rye could be expected to cause damage ranging from a few thousand dollars to several million, depending on the severity of the storm.

WILDFIRE

The risk of fire is difficult to predict based on location. Forest fires are more likely to occur during years of drought. However, these areas are identified as at risk to wildfire (Map 2: Past and Future Hazards) by the Hazard Mitigation Committee. These areas include large tracts of open vegetation including forests and wetlands. Drought conditions increase the risks of wildfire in these open vegetated areas. The areas of Rye at risk to potential wildfire are the Town Forest, Marden Woods, and Parsons Woods.

EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes can cause buildings and bridges to collapse, disrupt gas, electric and phone lines and are often associated with landslides and flash floods. Four earthquakes in New Hampshire that occurred between 1924-1989 had a magnitude of 4.2 or more. Two of these occurred in Ossipee, one west of Laconia, and one near the Quebec border. If an earthquake were to impact the Town of Rye, underground lines would be susceptible. In addition, buildings that are not built to a high seismic design level would be susceptible to structural damage. For example, the assessed value of all residential, commercial and industrial structures in the Town of Rye is \$1,988,672,100. Assuming 1% to 5% damage, a hurricane could result in \$19,886,721 to \$994,336,050 of structure damage.

CHAPTER VI – EXISTING HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS

The next step involves identifying existing mitigation strategies for the hazards likely to affect the town and evaluate their effectiveness. This section outlines those programs and recommends improvements and changes to these programs to ensure the highest quality emergency service possible. Poor is defined as an action in need of improvement; Average is defined as an action that is fair but could use some improvement in order to be effective; and Good is defined as an action that does not need further improvements and is effective.

Table 7: Existing Hazard Mitigation Actions

Existing Protection	Area Covered	Responsible Local Agent	Effectiveness (Poor, Average, Good)	Recommended Changes-Actions-Comments
2016 Zoning Ordinance	Town-wide	Code Enforcement Officer	Good	Contains shoreland, wetland, stormwater management, and floodplain provisions that are effective at mitigating negative impacts from development such as but not limited to stormwater runoff. The zoning ordinance is reviewed annually to ensure consistency with the Master Plan. The Ordinance is reviewed on an on-going bases and updated as needed
2014 Subdivision Regulations	Town-wide	Planning Board	Good	Evaluated annually updated as needed. Regulations are effective at mitigating the stormwater and erosion impacts of subdivision development. The Regulations are reviewed on an on-going bases and updated as needed.

Existing Protection	Area Covered	Responsible Local Agent	Effectiveness (Poor, Average, Good)	Recommended Changes-Actions-Comments
2014 Site Plan Review Regulations	Town-wide	Planning Board	Good	Regulation meets effective targets for mitigating impacts from snow and rain events. Regulations are reviewed on an on-going bases and updated as needed.
2014 Road Design Standards	Town-wide	Planning Board/Board of Selectmen/DPW	Good	Flexible road width standards reduce impervious cover. Evaluated annually and updated as needed to ensure an effective strategy for safe road access and design. Standards are reviewed on an on-going bases and updated as needed.
2016 Culvert Inspection and Maintenance Program	Town-wide	Public Works Director	Good	Culverts are inspected annually and problems are addressed quickly.
2015 Sea Level Rise and Coastal Storm Surge Vulnerability Assessment	Town-Wide	Planning Board	Good	Assessment recommendations being incorporated into land use regulations, CIP, and emergency response planning
2013 Master Plan	Town-wide	Planning Board	Good	Updated on a regular basis. Includes directives for future land use changes in town.
2016 Capital Improvements Plan	Town-wide	Board of Selectmen	Good	Updated annually to enable Town to budget for equipment and programs efficiently.
2012 Building Codes	Town-wide	Building Inspector	Good	The code is in line with the most recent state and federal standards and is effective at ensuring meeting safety standards to hazard events. It will continue to be reviewed annually.

Existing Protection	Area Covered	Responsible Local Agent	Effectiveness (Poor, Average, Good)	Recommended Changes-Actions-Comments
2012 Emergency Operations Plan	Town-wide	EMD	Good	Plan is reviewed annually and updated as needed.
NH Emergency Notification System	Town-wide	EMD	Good	Town encourages residents to signup for NH-ENS alerts
Town Website	Town-wide	Town Administration	Good	Emergency preparedness information is posted on the website
HazMat Training	Town-wide	EMD	Good	Training is done periodically to ensure proper emergency response.
Seabrook Station Emergency Drill	Town-wide	EMD	Good	Town participates in all drills
Emergency Response Training	Town-wide	EMD and Fire Dept	Good	Monthly training held for all personnel
School Emergency Response Plan	Town-wide	SAU 50 -Regional School District	Good	Plan is reviewed by SAU and Town annually.
Emergency Service: Police Department	Town-wide	Police Chief	Good	Training needs are reviewed annually based on town needs.
Emergency Services: Fire Department	Town-wide	Fire Chief	Good	Training needs are reviewed annually based on town needs. Department maintains a list of vulnerable populations.
Public Works Department	Town-wide	Highway Dept.	Good	Storm drain, catch basin and culvert maintenance, snow removal, road-side mowing, Tree maintenance within Town Right-of-Way. The highway department is effective at ensuring the above maintenance is done annually to mitigate hazard events in town.

Existing Protection	Area Covered	Responsible Local Agent	Effectiveness (Poor, Average, Good)	Recommended Changes-Actions-Comments
Police, Fire and DPW Mutual Agreements Mutual Aid	Town-wide/Region	Police Chief/Fire Chief/EMD/DPW Director	Good	The town and regional partners continue to evaluate and uphold effective regional emergency response, including the State Task Force, Regional Tactical Team, Regional Incident Management Team, Seacoast Chiefs, Regional Mobile Command Post, Southeast Hazardous Mitigation and Mutual Aid, DPW Mutual Aid. Mutual aid agreements are reviewed annually.
Regional Association of Road Agents	Town-wide/Region	Highway Foreman	Good	Monthly meeting of Road Agents in region to address issues of common concern. Highway foreman attends monthly.
Road side tree trimming program	Town-wide	Public Works Director and Planning Board	Good	Rye works with Eversource annually to review and ensure trees are cleared away from power lines on municipal roadways. This program is effective at eliminating damage and power outage from ice storms and severe wind storms.
NFIP	Town-wide	Building Inspector	Good	Rye maintains status as a participating NFIP community and has an effective history of compliance with FEMA and NFIP building standards. Compliance requirement are reviewed annually by the code enforcement officer to ensure continue compliance with program directives.

Existing Protection	Area Covered	Responsible Local Agent	Effectiveness (Poor, Average, Good)	Recommended Changes-Actions-Comments
Land Conservation Program	Town-wide	Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission	Good	The Town works regularly with landowners and land conservation organizations to permanently protect land from development

CHAPTER VII – POTENTIAL MITIGATION ACTIONS

POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The Action Plan was developed by the Committee by analyzing the existing Town programs and identifying proposed improvements and changes to these programs. Additional programs were also identified as potential mitigation strategies. The hazards that were defined in this plan were analyzed for potential mitigation opportunities using the New Hampshire's Hazard Mitigation Plan, other abutting community's hazard mitigation plans, and FEMA's Mitigation Ideas, A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards. Following this review and evaluation of potential mitigation strategies, the following hazards were identified as being critical for mitigation and therefore the committee included strategies pertinent to those listed below that the community will attempt to implement in a timely manner. These potential mitigation strategies were ranked in five categories according to how they accomplished each item: These potential mitigation strategies (Table 8) were ranked in five categories according to how they accomplished each item:

- Prevention
- Property Protection
- Structural Protection
- Emergency Services
- Public Information and Involvement

Table 8: Potential Mitigation Actions

Mitigation Strategies or Action	Mitigation Category	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Description	Status 2016: New/Completed/ Deferred/ Removed
Local cable television channel for public outreach	Public Information and Involvement, Preparedness, Emergency Services	All Hazards	Establish a local cable television channel for broadcast of municipal alerts, messages, meetings	Removed due to lack of financial support
Generator for Junior High School	Emergency Services	All Hazards	Acquire a backup generator for the school so it may be used as an emergency shelter	Removed due to lack of financial support and the use of Portsmouth High School as a shelter
New base unit/Police Communications	Emergency Services	All Hazards	Acquire a base unit to support Police communications	Completed
4 x 4 vehicle for Evacuation	Emergency Services	All Hazards	Acquire a 4 x 4 vehicle for evacuation situations	Deferred due to lack of funds
Trailer mounted electric sign for traffic control and public information	Public Information and Involvement, Preparedness, Emergency Services	All Hazards	Acquire trailer mounted electric sign to use to inform residents of emergency situations	Completed
SPOTS (State Police Telecommunications System) Terminal	Emergency Services	All Hazards	Install a SPOT terminal in the Police Station	Completed
Update Master Plan to incorporate Hazard Mitigation Recommendations	Prevention	All Hazards	Include Hazard Mitigation Plan recommendations in Master Plan	Master Plan update is in progress and will include chapters on Natural Hazards and Climate Change
Earthquake proof Junior High School (primary	Emergency Services	Earthquake	Retrofit Junior School to prevent damage to the shelter from an	Removed due to lack of financial support

Mitigation Strategies or Action	Mitigation Category	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Description	Status 2016: New/Completed/ Deferred/ Removed
shelter)			earthquake	
Investigate using grant funds to purchase or raze repetitive loss properties	Prevention/Property Protection	Flooding/Coastal Storm Surge/Sea Level Rise	Prevent repetitive loss by removing or retrofitting repetitive loss structures	Removed due to lack of resident support
Participate in the Community Rating System program	Property Protection	Flooding/Coastal Storm Surge/Sea Level Rise	Reapply to participate in the CRS	Deferred – in the process of reapplying
Review building codes to insure adequate compliance for wind speed	Prevention/Property Protection	High Wind Events	Building codes designed to prevent damage from high wind events	Deferred due to lack of funds
Review Zoning, Subdivision, and Site Plan regulations for vegetation setback and fire protections requirements	Prevention/Property Protection	Wildfire	Create managed vegetation buffer zones to prevent wildfire from reaching structures	Completed
Update drainage analysis plan	Prevention/Emergency Services/Property Protection	Flooding/Coastal Storm Surge/Sea Level Rise	A drainage analysis plan provides information on areas prone to flooding and infrastructure updates	Completed
Town mapping station	Emergency Services	All Hazards	Enable town staff to access information on roads closed/open	Completed, software update needed
Control release of water from Eel Pond Dam	Emergency Services	Flooding	Coordinate management of dam, which is on private property but is managed by state and impacts state roads	Completed

Mitigation Strategies or Action	Mitigation Category	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Description	Status 2016: New/Completed/ Deferred/ Removed
Control release of water from Burke's Pond	Emergency Services	Flooding	Coordinate management of dam with Abenaki Country Club	Completed
Drainage improvements on Red Mill and Love Lane	Emergency Services	Flooding	Improvements to drainage to alleviate road flooding	Deferred due to lack of funds/ Red Mill Road in progress
Communicate with State Police regarding Ocean Boulevard to address Town concerns regarding spectators driving, biking and walking the road during storm events	Emergency Services	All Hazards	Improve management of Ocean Boulevard during hazard events	New
Install new HVAC in Library and establish building as cooling and heating station for vulnerable populations	Emergency Services	All Hazards	Open Library to vulnerable populations	New
Research land and building regulations designed to reduce damage caused by seismic activity and earthquakes	Prevention/Property Protection	Earthquake	There are several historic structures in Rye valued by the community, including the Town Hall	New
Fire Department and EMD identify areas in town prone to wildfire	Emergency Services	Wildfire	Drought conditions can create wildfire situations	New
Generator for Town Hall	Emergency Services	All Hazards	Installing a generator in Town Hall would enable use of the facility during hazard events	New

Mitigation Strategies or Action	Mitigation Category	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Description	Status 2016: New/Completed/ Deferred/ Removed
Provide more education and outreach to residents and visitors, especially storm watchers, about natural hazard risks, preparation, and mitigation	Prevention/Public Information/Involve ment	All Hazards	Post information on Town website, provide information through Library and Schools	New
Incorporate recommendations from the Vulnerability Assessment into town regulations and policies	Prevention	Flooding/Coastal Storm Surge/Sea Level Rise	Planning for sea-level rise can include improvements to local and state roads, bridges and culverts, changes to building codes	New
Maintain Harbor Road Bridge Deck	Emergency Services	Flooding/Coastal Storm Surge/Sea Level Rise	45-yearl old bridge deck in dis-repair and needs replacement	New
Conduct annual review of culvert inventory and town-wide drainage analysis to identify vulnerabilities	Prevention/Property Protection/ Emergency Services	Flooding/Coastal Storm Surge/Sea Level Rise	Annual review will enable DPW to prioritize repairs to make town more resilient to impacts of natural hazards	New

CHAPTER VIII – PRIORITIZATION OF MITIGATION ACTIONS

The goal of each strategy or action is reduction or prevention of damage from a hazard event. In order to determine their effectiveness in accomplishing this goal, a set of criteria was applied to each proposed strategy. A set of questions developed by the Committee that included the STAPLEE method was developed to rank the proposed mitigation actions. The STAPLEE method analyzes the Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic and Environmental aspects of a project and is commonly used by public administration officials and planners for making planning decisions. The following questions were asked about the proposed mitigation strategies identified in Table 9:

- Does it reduce disaster damage?
- Does it contribute to other goals?
- Does it benefit the environment?
- Does it meet regulations?
- Will historic structures be saved or protected?
- Could it be implemented quickly?

STAPLEE criteria:

- **Social:** Is the proposed strategy socially acceptable to the community? Are there equity issues involved that would mean that one segment of the community is treated unfairly?
- **Technical:** Will the proposed strategy work? Will it create more problems than it solves?
- **Administrative:** Can the community implement the strategy? Is there someone to coordinate and lead the effort?
- **Political:** Is the strategy politically acceptable? Is there public support both to implement and to maintain the project?
- **Legal:** Is the community authorized to implement the proposed strategy? Is there a clear legal basis or precedent for this activity?
- **Economic:** What are the costs and benefits of this strategy? Does the cost seem reasonable for the size of the problem and the likely benefits?
- **Environmental:** How will the strategy impact the environment? Will the strategy need environmental regulatory approvals?

Each proposed mitigation strategy was evaluated using the above criteria and assigned a score (Good = 3, Average = 2, Poor = 1) based on the above criteria. An evaluation chart with total scores for each strategy can be found in the collection of individual tables under Tables 9.1 to 9.12.

Table 9.1: Annual Review of Culvert Inventory and Drainage Analysis

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	2
Does it contribute to other goals?	3
Does it benefit the environment?	3
Does it meet regulations?	1
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	2
Could it be implemented quickly?	1
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	3
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	3
A: Is it Administratively workable?	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	3
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	3
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	3
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	3
Score	33

Table 9.3: Maintain Harbor Road Bridge Deck

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	3
Does it contribute to other goals?	3
Does it benefit the environment?	3
Does it meet regulations?	3
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	2
Could it be implemented quickly?	2
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	3
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	3
A: Is it Administratively workable?	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	3
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	2
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	2
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	1
Score	33

Table 9.2: Participate in the Community Rating System

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	2
Does it contribute to other goals?	2
Does it benefit the environment?	2
Does it meet regulations?	2
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	2
Could it be implemented quickly?	2
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	2
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	2
A: Is it Administratively workable?	2
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	2
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	2
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	2
Score	26

Table 9.4: Building codes for wind speed

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	2
Does it contribute to other goals?	2
Does it benefit the environment?	2
Does it meet regulations?	2
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	2
Could it be implemented quickly?	2
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	2
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	2
A: Is it Administratively workable?	2
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	2
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	2
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	2
Score	26

Table 9.5: Drainage improvements on Red Mill and Love Lane

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	3
Does it contribute to other goals?	3
Does it benefit the environment?	3
Does it meet regulations?	2
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	2
Could it be implemented quickly?	2
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	2
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	2
A: Is it Administratively workable?	2
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	2
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	3
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	2
Score	30

Table 9.7 Communicate with State on Ocean Boulevard

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	3
Does it contribute to other goals?	3
Does it benefit the environment?	3
Does it meet regulations?	1
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	2
Could it be implemented quickly?	1
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	3
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	3
A: Is it Administratively workable?	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	3
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	3
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	2
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	1
Score	31

Table 9.6: Incorporate Vulnerability Assessment Recommendations into Town regulations and policies

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	2
Does it contribute to other goals?	3
Does it benefit the environment?	2
Does it meet regulations?	2
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	2
Could it be implemented quickly?	2
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	2
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	2
A: Is it Administratively workable?	2
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	2
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	2
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	2
Score	27

Table 9.8: Install new HVAC at Library for heating and cooling center

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	1
Does it contribute to other goals?	3
Does it benefit the environment?	1
Does it meet regulations?	2
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	1
Could it be implemented quickly?	2
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	3
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	3
A: Is it Administratively workable?	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	3
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	3
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	3
Score	30

Table 9.9: Research land and building regulations to reduce damage from seismic events and earthquakes

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	2
Does it contribute to other goals?	3
Does it benefit the environment?	3
Does it meet regulations?	1
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	2
Could it be implemented quickly?	1
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	3
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	3
A: Is it Administratively workable?	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	3
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	3
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	3
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	3
Score	33

Table 9.11: Generator for Town Hall

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	1
Does it contribute to other goals?	3
Does it benefit the environment?	1
Does it meet regulations?	1
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	3
Could it be implemented quickly?	1
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	1
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	2
A: Is it Administratively workable?	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	3
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	2
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	3
Score	25

Table 9.10: Identify areas in town prone to wildfire

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	3
Does it contribute to other goals?	2
Does it benefit the environment?	3
Does it meet regulations?	3
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	3
Could it be implemented quickly?	2
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	3
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	3
A: Is it Administratively workable?	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	3
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	3
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	3
Score	36

Table 9.12: Education and Outreach to residents and visitors

Criteria	Evaluation Rating (1-3)
Does it reduce disaster damage?	3
Does it contribute to other goals?	3
Does it benefit the environment?	3
Does it meet regulations?	1
Will historic structures be saved or protected?	2
Could it be implemented quickly?	3
S: Is it Socially acceptable?	3
T: Is it Technically feasible and potentially successful?	3
A: Is it Administratively workable?	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable?	3
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	3
E: Is it Economically beneficial?	3
E: Are other Environmental approvals required?	3
Score	36

CHAPTER IX – ACTION PLAN

This step involves developing an action plan that outlines who is responsible for implementing each of the prioritized strategies determined in the previous step, as well as when and how the actions will be implemented. The following questions were asked to develop an implementation schedule for the identified priority mitigation strategies:

WHO? Who will lead the implementation efforts? Who will put together funding requests and applications?

HOW? How will the community fund these projects? How will the community implement these projects? What resources will be needed to implement these projects?

WHEN? When will these actions be implemented, and in what order?

Table 10 is the Action Plan. In addition to the prioritized mitigation projects, the Action Plan includes the responsible party (WHO), how the project will be supported (HOW), and what the timeframe is for implementation of the project (WHEN).

Table 10: Action Plan for proposed mitigation actions

Score	Project	Responsibility/ Oversight	Funding/ Support	Estimated Cost	Timeframe
36	Provide residents and visitors with information on natural hazard risks	EMD/Board of Selectmen	Town/HMAG	\$1,500	Short Term One year or less
36	Fire Dept. and EMD identify areas in town prone to wildfire	Fire/EMD	Town/HMAG	\$500	Short Term One year or less
33	Annual review of Culvert Inventory and Drainage Analysis	DPW	Town	\$500	Short Term One year or less
33	Research land and building regulations designed to reduce damage from earthquakes and seismic events	Planning Board	Town	\$1,000	Medium Term 2-3 years
33	Maintain Harbor Road Bridge deck	DPW	Town	\$100,000	Medium Term 2-3 years
31	Communicate with State regarding Ocean Boulevard	EMD/ Board of Selectmen	Town	\$0	Short Term One year or less
30	Drainage improvements on Red Mill and Love Lane	DPW	Town/HMAG	\$300,000	Medium Term 2-3 years

Score	Project	Responsibility/ Oversight	Funding/ Support	Estimated Cost	Timeframe
30	Install new HVAC in Library and establish as heating and cooling station	Library/Board of Selectmen/EM D	Town	\$100,000	Medium 2-3 years
27	Incorporate Vulnerability Assessment recommendations into Town regulations and policies	Planning Board/Board of Selectmen	Town/HMAG	\$20,000	Medium 2-3 years
26	Review building codes to insure compliance with wind speed	Building Inspector/Board of Selectmen	Town	\$1,000	Medium Term 2-3 years
26	Participate in the Community Rating System	EMD/Board of Selectmen	Town	\$1,000	Medium 2-3 years
25	Generator for Town Hall	EMD/Board of Selectmen	Town/HMAG	\$25,000	Long Term 4-5 years

CHAPTER X – INCORPORATING, MONITORING, EVALUATING AND UPDATING THE PLAN

Incorporating the Plan into Existing Planning Mechanisms

Upon review by FEMA and the State of New Hampshire, the Plan will be adopted by the Town and become an appendix to the Town's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) when that plan is completed.

In the future, the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016 will be consulted when the Town updates its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Master Plan. The Capital Improvements Committee is responsible for updating the CIP annually, and will review the Action Plan, as it has done before, during each update. This committee in conjunction with the Planning Board and Rye Emergency Management will determine what items can and should be added to the CIP based on the Town's annual budget and possible sources of other funding. Portions of this plan should be referred to when updates to the towns Master Plan takes place. Considerations about future land use and proximity to current and potential hazard areas need to be inherently part of the planning process. NH RSA 674:2 III (e) gives towns the authority to include a natural hazards section, which documents the physical characteristics, severity, and extent of any potential natural hazards to the community, within the framework of a Master Plan.

Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating the Plan

Recognizing that many mitigation projects are continual, and that while in the implementation stage communities may suffer budget cuts, experience staff turnover, or projects may fail altogether, a good plan needs to provide for periodic monitoring and evaluation of its successes and failures and allow for updates of the Plan where necessary.

In order to track progress and update the Mitigation Strategies identified in the Action Plan (Table 10), it is recommended that the Town revisit the Plan annually, or after a hazard event. If it is not realistic or appropriate to revise the Plan every year, then the Plan will be revisited no less than every five years per FEMA requirements. The Emergency Management Director is responsible for initiating this review with members of the Town that are appropriate including members of the public. In keeping with the process of adopting the 2016 Plan Update and per NH RSA 91-A:2 (II) and pursuant to CFR 201.6(b)(1) regarding notice requirements, a public meeting to receive public comment on Plan maintenance and updating will be held during any review of the Plan. This publicly noticed meeting (via town website, and postings in the town office, library, or local newspaper) will allow for members of the community not involved in developing the Plan to provide input and comments each time the Plan is revised. The final revised Plan will be adopted by the Board of Selectmen appropriately, at a second publicly noticed meeting.

Changes should be made to the Plan to accommodate for projects that have failed or are not considered feasible after a review for their consistency with STAPLEE, the timeframe, the community's priorities, and funding resources. Priorities that were not ranked high, but identified as potential mitigation strategies, should be reviewed as well during the monitoring and update of this Plan to determine feasibility of future implementation.

APPENDIX A:
SUMMARY OF HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGIES

I. RIVERINE MITIGATION

A. PREVENTION - Prevention measures are intended to keep the problem from occurring in the first place, and/or keep it from getting worse. Future development should not increase flood damage. Building, zoning, planning, and/or code enforcement officials usually administer preventative measures.

1. Planning and Zoning - Land use plans are put in place to guide future development, recommending where - and where not - development should occur. Sensitive and vulnerable lands can be designated for uses that would not be incompatible with occasional flood events - such as parks or wildlife refuges. A Capital Improvements Program can recommend the setting aside of funds for public acquisition of these designated lands. The zoning ordinance can regulate development in these sensitive areas by limiting or preventing some or all development - for example, by designating floodplain overlay, conservation, or agricultural districts.

2. Open Space Preservation - Preserving open space is the best way to prevent flooding and flood damage. Open space preservation should not, however, be limited to the flood plain, since other areas within the watershed may contribute to controlling the runoff that exacerbates flooding. Land Use and Capital Improvement Plans should identify areas to be preserved by acquisition and other means, such as purchasing easements. Aside from outright purchase, open space can also be protected through maintenance agreements with the landowners, or by requiring developers to dedicate land for flood flow, drainage and storage.

3. Floodplain Development Regulations - Floodplain development regulations typically do not prohibit development in the special flood hazard area, but they do impose construction standards on what is built there. The intent is to protect roads and structures from flood damage and to prevent the development from aggravating the flood potential. Floodplain development regulations are generally incorporated into subdivision regulations, building codes, and floodplain ordinances, which either stand-alone or are contained within a zoning ordinance.

Subdivision Regulations: These regulations govern how land will be divided into separate lots or sites. They should require that any flood hazard areas be shown on the plat, and that every lot has a buildable area that is above the base flood elevation.

Building Codes: Standards can be incorporated into building codes that address flood proofing for all new and improved or repaired buildings.

Floodplain Ordinances: Communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program are required to adopt the minimum floodplain management regulations, as developed by FEMA. The regulations set minimum standards for subdivision regulations and building codes. Communities may adopt more stringent standards than those set forth by FEMA.

4. Stormwater Management - Development outside of a floodplain can contribute significantly to flooding by covering impervious surfaces, which increases storm water runoff. Storm water management is usually addressed in subdivision regulations. Developers are typically required to build retention or detention basins to minimize any increase in runoff caused by new or expanded impervious surfaces, or new drainage systems. Generally, there is a prohibition against storm water

leaving the site at a rate higher than it did before the development. One technique is to use wet basins as part of the landscaping plan of a development. It might even be possible to site these basins based on a watershed analysis. Since detention only controls the runoff rates and not volumes, other measures must be employed for storm water infiltration - for example, swales, infiltration trenches, vegetative filter strips, and permeable paving blocks.

5. Drainage System Maintenance - Ongoing maintenance of channel and detention basins is necessary if these facilities are to function effectively and efficiently over time. A maintenance program should include regulations that prevent dumping in or altering watercourses or storage basins; regrading and filling should also be regulated. Any maintenance program should include a public education component, so that the public becomes aware of the reasons for the regulations. Many people do not realize the consequences of filling in a ditch or wetland, or regrading their yard without concern for runoff patterns.

B. PROPERTY PROTECTION - Property protection measures are used to modify buildings subject to flood damage, rather than to keep floodwaters away. These may be less expensive to implement, as they are often carried out on a cost-sharing basis. In addition, many of these measures do not affect a building's appearance or use, which makes them particularly suitable for historical sites and landmarks.

1. Relocation - Moving structures out of the floodplain is the surest and safest way to protect against damage. Relocation is expensive, however, so this approach will probably not be used except in extreme circumstances. Communities that have areas subject to severe storm surges, ice jams, etc. might want to consider establishing a relocation program, incorporating available assistance.

2. Acquisition - Acquisition by a governmental entity of land in a floodplain serves two main purposes: (1) it ensures that the problem of structures in the floodplain will be addressed; and (2) it has the potential to convert problem areas into community assets, with accompanying environmental benefits. Acquisition is more cost effective than relocation in those areas that are subject to storm surges, ice jams, or flash flooding. Acquisition, followed by demolition, is the most appropriate strategy for those buildings that are simply too expensive to move, as well as for dilapidated structures that are not worth saving or protecting. Relocation can be expensive; however, there are government grants and loans that can be applied toward such efforts.

3. Building Elevation - Elevating a building above the base flood elevation is the best on-site protection strategy. The building could be raised to allow water to run underneath it, or fill could be brought in to elevate the site on which the building sits. This approach is cheaper than relocation, and tends to be less disruptive to a neighborhood. Elevation is required by law for new and substantially improved residences in a floodplain, and is commonly practiced in flood hazard areas nationwide.

4. Floodproofing - If a building cannot be relocated or elevated, it may be floodproofed. This approach works well in areas of low flood threat. Flood proofing can be accomplished through barriers to flooding, or by treatment to the structure itself.

Barriers: Levees, floodwalls and berms can keep floodwaters from reaching a building. These are useful, however, only in areas subject to shallow flooding.

Dry Flood proofing: This method seals a building against the water by coating the walls with waterproofing compounds or plastic sheeting. Openings, such doors, windows, etc. are closed either permanently with removable shields or with sandbags.

Wet Flood proofing: This technique is usually considered a last resort measure, since water is intentionally allowed into the building in order to minimize pressure on the structure. Approaches range from moving valuable items to higher floors to rebuilding the floodable area. An advantage over other approaches is that simply by moving household goods out of the range of floodwaters, thousands of dollars can be saved in damages.

5. Sewer Backup Protection - Storm water overloads can cause backup into basements through sanitary sewer lines. Houses that have any kind of connection to a sanitary sewer system - whether it is downspouts, footing drain tile, and/or sump pumps, can be flooded during a heavy rain event. To prevent this, there should be no such connections to the system, and all rain and ground water should be directed onto the ground, away from the building. Other protections include:

- Floor drain plugs and floor drain standpipe, which keep water from flowing out of the lowest opening in the house.
- Overhead sewer - keeps water in the sewer line during a backup.
- Backup valve - allows sewage to flow out while preventing backups from flowing into the house.

6. Insurance - Above and beyond standard homeowner insurance, there is other coverage a homeowner can purchase to protect against flood hazard. Two of the most common are National Flood Insurance and basement backup insurance.

National Flood Insurance: When a community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, any local insurance agent is able to sell separate flood insurance policies under rules and rates set by FEMA. Rates do not change after claims are paid because they are set on a national basis.

Basement Backup Insurance: National Flood Insurance offers an additional deductible for seepage and sewer backup, provided there is a general condition of flooding in the area that was the proximate cause of the basement getting wet. Most exclude damage from surface flooding that would be covered by the NFIP.

C. NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION - Preserving or restoring natural areas or the natural functions of floodplain and watershed areas provide the benefits of eliminating or minimizing losses from floods, as well as improve water quality and wildlife habitats. Parks, recreation, or conservation agencies usually implement such activities. Protection can also be provided through various zoning measures that are specifically designed to protect natural resources.

1. Wetlands Protection Wetlands are capable of storing large amounts of floodwaters, slowing and reducing downstream flows, and filtering the water. Any development that is proposed in a wetland is regulated by either federal and/or state agencies. Depending on the location, the project might fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which in turn, calls upon several other agencies to review the proposal. In New Hampshire, the N.H. Wetlands Board must

approve any project that impacts a wetland. And, many communities in New Hampshire also have local wetland ordinances. Generally, the goal is to protect wetlands by preventing development that would adversely affect them. Mitigation techniques are often employed, which might consist of creating a wetland on another site to replace what would be lost through the development. This is not an ideal practice, however, since it takes many years for a new wetland to achieve the same level of quality as an existing one.

2. Erosion and Sedimentation Control - Controlling erosion and sediment runoff during construction and on farmland is important, since eroding soil will typically end up in downstream waterways. And, because sediment tends to settle where the water flow is slower, it will gradually fill in channels and lakes, reducing their ability to carry or store floodwaters. Practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation have two principal components: (1) minimize erosion with vegetation and; (2) capture sediment before it leaves the site. Slowing the runoff increases infiltration into the soil, thereby controlling the loss of topsoil from erosion and the resulting sedimentation. Runoff can be slowed by vegetation, terraces, contour strip farming, no-till farm practices, and impoundments (such as sediment basins, farm ponds, and wetlands).

3. Best Management Practices - Best Management Practices (BMPs) are measures that reduce nonpoint source pollutants that enter waterways. Nonpoint source pollutants are carried by storm water to waterways, and include such things as lawn fertilizers, pesticides, farm chemicals, and oils from street surfaces and industrial sites. BMPs can be incorporated into many aspects of new developments and ongoing land use practices. In New Hampshire, the Department of Environmental Services has developed best management practices for a range of activities, from farming to earth excavations.

D. EMERGENCY SERVICES - Emergency services protect people during and after a flood. Many communities in New Hampshire have emergency management programs in place, administered by an emergency management director (very often the local police or fire chief).

1. Flood Warning - On large rivers, the National Weather Service handles early recognition. Communities on smaller rivers must develop their own warning systems. Warnings may be disseminated in a variety of ways, such as sirens, radio, television, mobile public address systems, or door-to-door contact. It seems that multiple or redundant systems are the most effective, giving people more than one opportunity to be warned.

2. Flood Response - Flood response refers to actions that are designed to prevent or reduce damage or injury, once a flood threat is recognized. Such actions and the appropriate parties include:

- activating the emergency operations center (emergency director)
- sandbagging designated areas (public works department)
- closing streets and bridges (police department)
- shutting off power to threatened areas (public service)
- releasing children from school (school district)
- ordering an evacuation (selectmen/city council/emergency director)
- opening evacuation shelters (churches, schools, Red Cross, municipal facilities)

These actions should be part of a flood response plan, which should be developed in coordination with the persons and agencies that share the responsibilities. Drills and exercises should be conducted so that the key participants know what they are supposed to do.

3. Critical Facilities Protection - Protecting critical facilities is vital, since expending efforts on these facilities can draw workers and resources away from protecting other parts of town. Buildings or locations vital to the flood response effort:

- emergency operations centers
- police and fire stations
- hospitals
- highway garages
- selected roads and bridges
- evacuation routes
- Buildings or locations that, if flooded, would create secondary disasters
- hazardous materials facilities
- water/wastewater treatment plants
- schools
- nursing homes

All such facilities should have their own flood response plan that is coordinated with the community's plan. Nursing homes, other public health facilities, and schools will typically be required by the state to have emergency response plans in place.

4. Health and Safety Maintenance - The flood response plan should identify appropriate measures to prevent danger to health and safety. Such measures include:

- patrolling evacuated areas to prevent looting.
- providing safe drinking water.
- vaccinating residents for tetanus.
- clearing streets.
- cleaning up debris.

The plan should also identify which agencies will be responsible for carrying out the identified measures. A public information program can be helpful to educate residents on the benefits of taking health and safety precautions.

Structural Projects - Structural projects are used to prevent floodwaters from reaching properties. These are all man-made structures, and can be grouped into the six types of discussed below. The shortcomings of structural approaches are that:

- They can be very expensive.
- They disturb the land, disrupt natural water flows, and destroy natural habitats.
- They are built to an anticipated flood event, and may be exceeded by a greater-than-expected flood.
- They can create a false sense of security.

Reservoirs - Reservoirs control flooding by holding water behind dams or in storage basins. After a flood peaks, water is released or pumped out slowly at a rate the river downstream can handle.

Reservoirs are suitable for protecting existing development, and they may be the only flood control measure that can protect development close to a watercourse. They are most efficient in deeper valleys or on smaller rivers where there is less water to store. Reservoirs might consist of man-made holes dug to hold the approximate amount of floodwaters, or even abandoned quarries. As with other structural projects, reservoirs:

- are expensive;
- occupy a lot of land;
- require periodic maintenance;
- may fail to prevent damage from floods that exceed their design levels; and
- may eliminate the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain.

Reservoirs should only be used after a thorough watershed analysis that identifies the most appropriate location, and ensures that they would not cause flooding somewhere else. Because they are so expensive and usually involve more than one community, they are typically implemented with the help of state or federal agencies, such as the Army Corps of Engineers.

Levees/Floodwalls - Probably the best known structural flood control measure is either a levee (a barrier of earth) or a floodwall made of steel or concrete erected between the watercourse and the land. If space is a consideration, floodwalls are typically used, since levees need more space. Levees and floodwalls should be set back out of the floodway, so that they will not divert floodwater onto other properties.

Diversions - A diversion is simply a new channel that sends floodwater to a different location, thereby reducing flooding along an existing watercourse. Diversions can be surface channels, overflow weirs, or tunnels. During normal flows, the water stays in the old channel. During flood flows, the stream spills over the diversion channel or tunnel, which carries the excess water to the receiving lake or river.

Diversions are limited by topography; they won't work everywhere. Unless the receiving water body is relatively close to the flood prone stream and the land in between is low and vacant, the cost of creating a diversion can be prohibitive. Where topography and land use are not favorable, a more expensive tunnel is needed. In either case, care must be taken to ensure that the diversion does not create a flooding problem somewhere else.

Channel Modifications - Channel modifications include making a channel wider, deeper, smoother, or straighter. These techniques will result in more water being carried away, but, as with other techniques mentioned, it is important to ensure that the modifications do not create or increase a flooding problem downstream.

Dredging: Dredging is often cost-prohibitive because the dredged material must be disposed of somewhere else, and the stream will usually fill back in with sediment. Dredging is usually undertaken only on larger rivers, and then only to maintain a navigation channel.

Drainage modifications: These include man-made ditches and storm sewers that help drain areas where the surface drainage system is inadequate or where underground drainage ways may be safer or more

attractive. These approaches are usually designed to carry the runoff from smaller, more frequent storms.

Storm Sewers - Mitigation techniques for storm sewers include installing new sewers, enlarging small pipes, street improvements, and preventing back flow. Because drainage ditches and storm sewers convey water faster to other locations, improvements are only recommended for small local problems where the receiving body of water can absorb the increased flows without increased flooding.

In many developments, streets are used as part of the drainage system, to carry or hold water from larger, less frequent storms. The streets collect runoff and convey it to a receiving sewer, ditch, or stream. Allowing water to stand in the streets and then draining it slowly can be a more effective and less expensive measure than enlarging sewers and ditches.

Public Information - Public information activities are intended to advise property owners, potential property owners, and visitors about the particular hazards associated with a property, ways to protect people and property from these hazards, and the natural and beneficial functions of a floodplain.

1. Map Information - Flood maps developed by FEMA outline the boundaries of the flood hazard areas. These maps can be used by anyone interested in a particular property to determine if it is flood-prone. These maps are available from FEMA, the NH Office of Emergency Management, the NH Office of State Planning, or your regional planning commission.

Outreach Projects - Outreach projects are proactive; they give the public information even if they have not asked for it. Outreach projects are designed to encourage people to seek out more information and take steps to protect themselves and their properties. Examples of outreach activities include:

- Mass mailings or newsletters to all residents.
- Notices directed to floodplain residents.
- Displays in public buildings, malls, etc.
- Newspaper articles and special sections.
- Radio and TV news releases and interview shows.
- A local flood proofing video for cable TV programs and to loan to organizations.
- A detailed property owner handbook tailored for local conditions.
- Presentations at meetings of neighborhood groups.

Research has shown that outreach programs work, although awareness is not enough. People need to know what they can do about the hazards, so projects should include information on protection measures. Research also shows that locally designed and run programs are much more effective than national advertising.

Real Estate Disclosure - Disclosure of information regarding flood-prone properties is important if potential buyers are to be in a position to mitigate damage. Federally regulated lending institutions are required to advise applicants that a property is in the floodplain. However, this requirement needs to be met only five days prior to closing, and by that time, the applicant is typically committed to the purchase. State laws and local real estate practice can help by making this information available to prospective buyers early in the process.

Library - Your local library can serve as a repository for pertinent information on flooding and flood protection. Some libraries also maintain their own public information campaigns, augmenting the activities of the various governmental agencies involved in flood mitigation.

Technical Assistance - Certain types of technical assistance are available from the NFIP Coordinator, FEMA, and the Natural Resources Conservation District. Community officials can also set up a service delivery program to provide one-on-one sessions with property owners. An example of technical assistance is the flood audit, in which a specialist visits a property. Following the visit, the owner is provided with a written report, detailing the past and potential flood depths, and recommending alternative protection measures.

Environmental Education - Education can be a great mitigating tool, if people can learn what not to do before damage occurs. And the sooner the education begins, the better. Environmental education programs for children can be taught in the schools, park and recreation departments, conservation associations, or youth organizations. An activity can be as involved as course curriculum development or as simple as an explanatory sign near a river. Education programs do not have to be limited to children. Adults can benefit from knowledge of flooding and mitigation measures. And decision-makers, armed with this knowledge, can make a difference in their communities.

II. EARTHQUAKES

A. PREVENTIVE - Planning/zoning to keep critical facilities away from fault lines.
Planning, zoning and building codes to avoid areas below steep slopes or soils subject to liquefaction.
Building codes to prohibit loose masonry, overhangs, etc.

B. PROPERTY PROTECTION:

Acquire and clear hazard areas.

Retrofitting to add braces, remove overhangs.

Apply mylar to windows and glass surfaces to protect from shattering glass.

Tie down major appliances, provide flexible utility connections.

Earthquake insurance riders.

C. EMERGENCY SERVICES - Earthquake response plans to account for secondary problems, such as fires and hazardous materials spills.

D. EMERGENCY SERVICES - Slope stabilization.

III. DAM FAILURE

A. PREVENTIVE:

Dam failure inundation maps.

Planning/zoning/open space preservation to keep area clear.

Building codes with flood elevation based on dam failure.

Dam safety inspections.

Draining the reservoir when conditions appear unsafe.

- B. PROPERTY PROTECTION** - Acquisition of buildings in the path of a dam breach flood. Flood insurance.
- C. EMERGENCY SERVICES** - Dam conditioning monitoring; warning and evacuation plans based on dam failure.
- D. EMERGENCY SERVICES** - Dam improvements, spillway enlargements. Remove unsafe dams.

IV. WILDFIRES

A. PREVENTIVE:

Zoning districts to reflect fire risk zones.

Planning and zoning to restrict development in areas near fire protection and water resources.

Requiring new subdivisions to space buildings, provide firebreaks, on-site water storage, wide roads multiple accesses.

Building code standards for roof materials, spark arrestors.

Maintenance programs to clear dead and dry bush, trees.

Regulation on open fires.

B. PROPERTY PROTECTION:

Retrofitting of roofs and adding spark arrestors.

Landscaping to keep bushes and trees away from structures.

Insurance rates based on distance from fire protection.

- C. NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION** - Prohibit development in high-risk areas.

- D. EMERGENCY SERVICES** - Fire Fighting

V. WINTER STORMS

- A. PREVENTIVE** - Building code standards for light frame construction, especially for wind-resistant roofs.

B. PROPERTY PROTECTION:

Storm shutters and windows

Hurricane straps on roofs and overhangs

Seal outside and inside of storm windows and check seals in spring and fall.

Family and/or company severe weather action plan & drills:

include a NOAA weather radio

designate a shelter area or location

keep a disaster supply kit, including stored food and water

keep snow removal equipment in good repair; have extra shovels, sand, rock, salt and gas

know how to turn off water, gas, and electricity at home or work

- C. NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION** - Maintenance program for trimming tree and shrubs

- D. EMERGENCY SERVICES** - Early warning systems/NOAA Weather Radio Evacuation Plans

APPENDIX B: TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HAZARD MITIGATION

Local Municipalities must have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants. Information on these grants may be found at:

http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1424983165449-38f5dfc69c0bd4ea8a161e8bb7b79553/HMA_Guidance_022715_508.pdf

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP) - Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding is only available in States following a Presidential disaster declaration. Eligible applicants are:

- State and local governments
- Indian tribes or other tribal organizations
- Certain private non-profit organization

Individual homeowners and businesses may not apply directly to the program; however a community may apply on their behalf. HMGP funds may be used to fund projects that will reduce or eliminate the losses from future disasters. Projects must provide a long-term solution to a problem, for example, elevation of a home to reduce the risk of flood damages as opposed to buying sandbags and pumps to fight the flood. In addition, a project's potential savings must be more than the cost of implementing the project. Funds may be used to protect either public or private property or to purchase property that has been subjected to, or is in danger of, repetitive damage.

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANTS PROGRAM - The [Pre-Disaster Mitigation \(PDM\) program](#) provides technical and financial assistance to States and local governments for cost-effective pre-disaster hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program, and reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property. FEMA provides grants to States and Federally recognized Indian tribal governments that, in turn, provide sub-grants to local governments (to include Indian Tribal governments) for mitigation activities such as planning and the implementation of projects identified through the evaluation of natural hazards.

FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (FMA) PROGRAM - FEMA provides funding to assist States and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There are three types of grants available under FMA: Planning, Project, and Technical Assistance Grants. FMA Planning Grants are available to States and communities to prepare Flood Mitigation Plans. NFIP-participating communities with approved Flood Mitigation Plans can apply for FMA Project Grants. FMA Project Grants are available to States and NFIP participating communities to implement measures to reduce flood losses. Ten percent of the Project Grant is made available to States as a Technical

Assistance Grant. These funds may be used by the State to help administer the program. Communities receiving FMA Planning and Project Grants must be participating in the NFIP.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT

GUIDELINES - Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG Program) funding is available to local communities and eligible Agencies for projects that fall in FOUR general areas of Emergency Management: Planning activities; Training activities; Drills and Exercises; and Emergency Management Administration. Contact Heather Dunkerley at NHHSEM, heather.dunkerley@dos.nh.gov, 603-223-3614 for assistance.

The following list of possible projects and activities is meant to guide you in selecting projects for an EMA Grant Submission. This list of suggested projects is not intended to be all-inclusive. Local communities or agencies may have other specific projects and activities that reflect local needs based on local capability assessments and local hazards.

Planning Activities may include:

- Develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan for your community.
- Prepare a hazard mitigation project proposal for submission to NHHSEM.
- Create, revise, or update Dam Emergency Action plans.
- Update your local Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Consider updating a number of specific annexes each year to ensure that the entire plan is updated at least every four years.
- If applicable, develop or incorporate a regional HazMat Team Annex into your EOP.
- Develop an Anti-Terrorism Annex into your EOP.
- Develop a local/regional Debris Management Annex into your EOP.
- Develop and maintain pre-scripted requests for additional assistance (from local area public works, regional mutual aid, State resources, etc.) and local declarations of emergency.
- Develop and maintain written duties and responsibilities for EOC staff positions and agency representatives.
- Develop and maintain a list of private non-profit organizations within your local jurisdiction to ensure that these organizations are included in requests for public assistance funds.
- Prepare a submission for nomination as a "Project Impact" Community.

Training Activities may include:

- Staff members attend training courses at the Emergency Management Institute.
- Staff members attend a "field delivered" training course conducted by NHHSEM.
- Staff members attend other local, State, or nationally sponsored training event, which provides skills or knowledge relevant to emergency management.
- Staff members complete one or more FEMA Independent Study Courses.
- Identify and train a pre-identified local damage assessment team.

Drills and Exercises might include:

- Conduct multi-agency EOC Exercise (Tabletop or Functional) and forward an Exercise Evaluation Report, including after action reports, to NHHSEM (external evaluation of exercises is strongly encouraged). Drills or Exercises might involve any of the following scenarios:
 - Hurricane Exercise
 - Terrorism Exercise
 - Severe Storm Exercise
 - Communications Exercise
 - Mass Causality Exercise involving air, rail, or ship transportation accident

- Participate in multi-State or multi-Jurisdictional Exercise and forward Exercise Report to NHHSEM.
- HazMat Exercise with Regional HazMat Teams
- NHHSEM Communications Exercises
- Observe or evaluate State or local exercise outside your local jurisdiction.
- Assist local agencies and commercial enterprises (nursing homes, dams, prisons, schools, etc.) in developing, executing, and evaluating their exercise.
- Assist local hospitals in developing, executing and evaluating Mass Care, HazMat, Terrorism, and Special Events Exercises.
- Administrative Projects and Activities may include:
- Maintain an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and alternate EOC capable of accommodating staff to respond to local emergencies.
- Establish and maintain a Call-Down List for EOC staff.
- Establish and maintain Emergency Response/Recovery Resource Lists.
- Develop or Update Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreements with a focus on Damage Assessment, Debris Removal, and Resource Management.
- Develop and maintain written duties and responsibilities for EOC staff positions and agency representatives.
- Develop or Update Procedures for tracking of disaster-related expenses by local agencies.

FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (FMA) PROGRAM - FMA was created as part of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act (NFIRA) of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 4101) with the goal of reducing or eliminating claims under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FMA regulations can be found in 44 CFR Part 78. Funding for the program is provided through the National Flood Insurance Fund. FMA is funded at \$20 million nationally. FMA provides funding to assist States and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

There are three types of grants available under FMA: Planning, Project, and Technical Assistance Grants. FMA Planning Grants are available to States and communities to prepare Flood Mitigation Plans. NFIP-participating communities with approved Flood Mitigation Plans can apply for FMA Project Grants. FMA Project Grants are available to States and NFIP participating communities to implement measures to reduce flood losses. Ten percent of the Project Grant is made available to States as a Technical Assistance Grant. These funds may be used by the State to help administer the program. Communities receiving FMA Planning and Project Grants must be participating in the NFIP. A few examples of eligible FMA projects include: the elevation, acquisition, and relocation of NFIP-insured structures.

States are encouraged to prioritize FMA project grant applications that include repetitive loss properties. The FY 2001 FMA emphasis encourages States and communities to address target repetitive loss properties identified in the Agency's Repetitive Loss Strategy. These include structures with four or more losses, and structures with 2 or more losses where cumulative payments have exceeded the property value. State and communities are also encouraged to develop Plans that address the mitigation of these target repetitive loss properties.

**APPENDIX C:
SAFFIR/SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE**

Courtesy of National Hurricane Center

This can be used to give an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast with a hurricane.

Category	Definition	Effects
One	Winds 74-95 mph	No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage
Two	Winds 96-110 mph	Some roofing material, door, and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2-4 hours before arrival of center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings.
Three	Winds 111-130 mph	Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtainwall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 feet ASL may be flooded inland 8 miles or more.
Four	Winds 131-155 mph	More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet ASL may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas inland as far as 6 miles.
Five	Winds greater than 155 mph	Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet ASL and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 to 10 miles of the shoreline may be required.

Above information can be found at: <http://www.fema.gov/hazards/hurricanes/saffir.shtml>

**APPENDIX D:
ENHANCED FUJITA TORNADO DAMAGE SCALE**

The Enhanced Fujita Scale			
F-Scale Number	Potential Damage	Wind Speed	Type of Damage
F0	Light	65 – 85 mph	Little to no damage to man-made structures. Breaks branches off trees; pushes over shallow-rooted trees; damages signs
F1	Moderate	86 – 110 mph	Beginning of hurricane wind speed; peels surface off roofs; mobile homes pushed off foundations or overturned; moving autos pushed off roads; Moderate damage.
F2	Considerable	111 – 135 mph	Considerable damage. Roofs torn off frame houses; mobile homes demolished; boxcars from trains pushed over; large trees snapped or uprooted; light object missiles generated.
F3	Severe	136 – 165 mph	Roof and some walls torn off well-constructed houses; trains overturned; most trees in forest uprooted; heavy cars lifted and thrown.
F4	Devastating	166 – 200 mph	Well-constructed houses leveled; structures with weak foundations blown away some distance; cars thrown and large missiles generated.
F5	Incredible	Over 200 mph	Strong frame houses leveled off foundations and carried considerable distances; automobile-sized missiles fly through the air in excess of 109 yards; trees debarked; steel reinforced concrete structures badly damaged. Complete devastation.

**APPENDIX E:
THE RICHTER MAGNITUDE SCALE**

Earthquake Severity

Magnitudes	Earthquake Effects
Less than 3.5	Generally not felt, but recorded.

3.5-5.4	Often felt, but rarely causes damage.
Under 6.0	At most slight damage to well-designed buildings. Can cause major damage to poorly constructed buildings over small regions.
6.1-6.9	Can be destructive in areas up to about 100 kilometers across where people live.
7.0-7.9	Major earthquake. Can cause serious damage over larger areas.
8 or greater	Great earthquake. Can cause serious damage in areas several hundred kilometers across.

Information above found at: <http://www.seismo.unr.edu/ftp/pub/louie/class/100/magnitude.html>

The Richter Magnitude Scale - Seismic waves are the vibrations from earthquakes that travel through the Earth; they are recorded on instruments called seismographs. Seismographs record a zig-zag trace that shows the varying amplitude of ground oscillations beneath the instrument. Sensitive seismographs, which greatly magnify these ground motions, can detect strong earthquakes from sources anywhere in the world. The time, locations, and magnitude of an earthquake can be determined from the data recorded by seismograph stations.

The Richter magnitude scale was developed in 1935 by Charles F. Richter of the California Institute of Technology as a mathematical device to compare the size of earthquakes. The magnitude of an earthquake is determined from the logarithm of the amplitude of waves recorded by seismographs. Adjustments are included for the variation in the distance between the various seismographs and the epicenter of the earthquakes. On the Richter Scale, magnitude is expressed in whole numbers and decimal fractions. For example, a magnitude 5.3 might be computed for a moderate earthquake, and a strong earthquake might be rated as magnitude 6.3. Because of the logarithmic basis of the scale, each whole number increase in magnitude represents a tenfold increase in measured amplitude; as an estimate of energy, each whole number step in the magnitude scale corresponds to the release of about 31 times more energy than the amount associated with the preceding whole number value.

Earthquakes with magnitude of about 2.0 or less are usually called microearthquakes; they are not commonly felt by people and are generally recorded only on local seismographs. Events with magnitudes of about 4.5 or greater - there are several thousand such shocks annually - are strong enough to be recorded by sensitive seismographs all over the world. Great earthquakes, such as the 1964 Good Friday earthquake in Alaska, have magnitudes of 8.0 or higher. On the average, one earthquake of such size occurs somewhere in the world each year. The Richter Scale has no upper limit. Recently, another scale called the moment magnitude scale has been devised for more precise study of great earthquakes. The Richter Scale is not used to express damage. An earthquake in a densely populated area which results in many deaths and considerable damage may have the same magnitude as a shock in a remote area that does nothing more than frighten wildlife. Large-magnitude earthquakes that occur beneath the oceans may not even be felt by humans.

Extreme Weather Madness Thunderstorm Criteria

THUNDERSTORM TYPES	Rainfall Rate/hr	MAX WIND GUST	HAIL SIZE	PEAK TORNADO Possibility	LIGHTNING FREQUENCY (5 min Intervals)	Darkness Factor	STORM IMPACT
T-1 – Weak thunderstorms or Thundershowers	.03-.10	< 25 MPH	None	None	Only a few strikes during the storm.	Slightly Dark. Sunlight may be seen under the storm.	1. No damage. 2. Gusty winds at times.
T-2 – Moderate Thunderstorms.	.10”-.25”	25-40 MPH	None	None	Occasional 1-10	Moderately Dark. Heavy downpours may cause the need for car lights.	1. Heavy downpours. 2. Occasional lightning. 3. Gusty winds. 4. Very little damage. 5. Small tree branches may break 6. Lawn furniture moved around
T-3 – Heavy Thunderstorms 1. Singular or lines of storms.	.25”-.55”	40-57 MPH	1/4 “ to 3/4”	EF0	Occasional to Frequent 10-20	Dark. Car lights used. Visibility low in heavy rains. Cars may pull off the road.	1. Minor Damage. 2. Downpours that produce some flooding on streets. 3. Frequent lightning could cause house fires. 4. Hail occurs within the downpours. 5. Small branches are broken. 6. Shingles are blown off roofs.
T-4 – Intense Thunderstorms 1. Weaker supercells 2. Bow Echos or lines of Storms	.55” – 1.25”	58 to 70 MPH	1” to 1.5”	EF0 to EF2	Frequent 20-30	Very Dark. Car lights used. Some street lights come on.	1. Moderate Damage. 2. Heavy rains can cause flooding to streams and creeks. Roadway flooding. 3. Hail can cause dents on cars and cause crop damage. 4. Wind damage to trees and buildings. 5. Tornado damage. 6. Power outages
T-5 – Extreme Thunderstorms 1. Supercells with family of tornadoes. 2. Derecho Windstorms	1.25” – 4”	Over 70 Mph	Over 1.5” to 4”	EF3 to EF5	Frequent to Continuous. > 30	Pitch Black. Street Lights come on. House lights maybe used	1. Severe Damage to Trees and Property. Damage is widespread. 2. Flooding rains. 3. Damaging hail. 4. Damaging wind gusts to trees and buildings. 5. Tornadoes F3-F5 or family of tornadoes can occur. Tornadoes can cause total devastation. 6. Widespread power outages.

Copyright 2010 AccuWeather.com by Sr. Meteorologist Henry Margusity

Appendix G Lightning Risk Definitions

Lightning Risk Definitions	
Low Risk	Thunderstorms are only expected to be isolated or widely scattered in coverage (20 Percent Chance). Atmospheric conditions do not support frequent cloud-to-ground lightning strikes.
Moderate Risk	Thunderstorms are forecast to be scattered in coverage (30-50 Percent Chance). Atmospheric conditions support frequent cloud-to-ground lightning strikes.
High Risk	Thunderstorms are forecast to be numerous or widespread in coverage (60-100 Percent Chance). Atmospheric conditions support continuous and intense cloud-to-ground lightning strikes.

Appendix H

Hail Size Description Chart

Hail Size Description Chart		
Hailstone size	Measurement	
	in.	cm.
bb	< 1/4	< 0.64
pea	1/4	0.64
dime	7/10	1.8
penny	3/4	1.9
nickel	7/8	2.2
quarter	1	2.5
half dollar	1 1/4	3.2
golf ball	1 3/4	4.4
billiard ball	2 1/8	5.4
tennis ball	2 1/2	6.4
baseball	2 3/4	7.0
softball	3.8	9.7
Compact disc / DVD	4 3/4	12.1

Note: Hail size refers to the **diameter** of the hailstone.

Appendix I

Sperry-Pitz Ice Accumulation Index

The Sperry-Pitz Ice Accumulation Index, or “SPIA Index” – Copyright, February, 2009

ICE DAMAGE INDEX	DAMAGE AND IMPACT DESCRIPTIONS
0	Minimal risk of damage to exposed utility systems; no alerts or advisories needed for crews, few outages.
1	Some isolated or localized utility interruptions are possible, typically lasting only a few hours. Roads and bridges may become slick and hazardous.
2	Scattered utility interruptions expected, typically lasting 12 to 24 hours. Roads and travel conditions may be extremely hazardous due to ice accumulation.
3	Numerous utility interruptions with some damage to main feeder lines and equipment expected. Tree limb damage is excessive. Outages lasting 1 – 5 days.
4	Prolonged & widespread utility interruptions with extensive damage to main distribution feeder lines & some high voltage transmission lines/structures. Outages lasting 5 – 10 days.
5	Catastrophic damage to entire exposed utility systems, including both distribution and transmission networks. Outages could last several weeks in some areas. Shelters needed.

(Categories of damage are based upon combinations of precipitation totals, temperatures and wind speeds/directions.)

Appendix J

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Exposure Zones – NIST Technical Note 1748, January 2013

Source: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), US Dept. of Commerce

Table 4: E-Scale Building Construction Classes and Attributes

WUI scale	Building Construction Class	Ignition Vulnerabilities from Embers and Fire	Building Construction and Landscaping Attributes for Protection against Embers
E1 or F1	WUI 1	None	Normal Construction Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintained Landscaping - Local AHJ-Approved Access for firefighting equipment
E2 or F2	WUI 2	In this area, highly volatile fuels could be ignited by embers. Weathered, dry combustibles with large surface areas can become targets for ignition from embers.	Low Construction Hardening Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treated combustibles allowed on structure - Attached treated combustibles allowed - Treated combustibles allowed around structure - Low flammability plants - Irrigated and well maintained Landscaping - Local AHJ-Approved Access for firefighting equipment
E3 or F3	WUI 3	Exposed combustibles are likely to ignite in this area from high ember flux or high heat flux	Intermediate Construction Hardening Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No exposed combustibles on structure - Combustibles placed well away from structure - Low flammability plants - Irrigated and well maintained landscaping - Local AHJ-Approved Access for firefighting equipment
E4 or F4	WUI 4	Ignition of combustibles from direct flame contact is likely.	High Construction Hardening Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No exposed combustibles - All vents, opening must be closed - Windows and doors must be covered with insulated non-combustible coverings. - Irrigated and well maintained low flammability landscaping - Local AHJ-Approved Access for firefighting equipment

**Appendix K
Documentation of Planning Process**

**Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Meeting #1
Rye Town Hall
Rye, NH**

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introduction**
 - Review of Hazard Mitigation Goals and Objectives
 - Review of Current Plan
- 2. Identify Hazards and conduct Risk Analysis**
 - What are the hazards? – Past and potential
 - What is at risk from those hazards?
- 3. Develop Base Map with Critical Facilities (Step 2)**
 - Identify Critical Facilities on a Base Map.
- 4. Vulnerability Assessment (Step 3)**
 - List hazards from hazards map - identify what is at risk/vulnerable
 - Estimate potential losses
- 5. Capability Assessment (Step 5)**
 - Identify Existing Mitigation Strategies
 - Consider New Strategies
- 6. Questions and Answers**
- 7. Set Goals for Next Meeting**

**Rye Hazard Mitigation Committee
Meetings #2, #3 and #4
Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Meeting
RyeTown Hall**

- 1. Welcome and Introduction**
- 2. Capability Assessment (Step 6A)**
 - Review Critical Facilities/Past and Potential Hazards Map
 - Identify Existing Mitigation Strategies/Projects
 - Identify New Mitigation Strategies/Projects
 - Review and update Plan Maps
- 3. Evaluate Each Strategy/Project (Step 6B)**
 - Using the STAPLEE METHOD.
- 4. Prioritize Proposed Mitigation Strategies (Step 7)**

- Does the action reduce damage?
- Does the action contribute to community objectives?
- Does the action meet existing regulations?
- Does the action protect historic structures?
- Can the action be implemented quickly?

5. Establish an implementation strategy for each new mitigation Strategy defining the following three questions (Step 8)

- Who will lead the effort?
- How will it be implemented? (*Technical and Financial resources*)
- When will it take place?

6. Discuss Monitoring, Updating and Adoption of Plan

Notice of Public Hearing on Draft Plan

TOWN OF RYE - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, May 23, 2016
5:30 p.m.**

Rye Town Hall

Selectmen's Meetings are held the
2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

The next meeting will be
Monday, June 13, 2016

AGENDA

5:30 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- II. NON-PUBLIC SESSION (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (b) Hiring
(2) per RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Acquisition**

6:30 p.m. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

- III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - A.** Town Offices will be closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2016
 - B.** Memorial Day Ceremony, Central Cemetery, Monday, May 30, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- V. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
 - A.** Letter rec'd from Joe Tucker re: Process he'd like to see enacted by the town when utility companies are planning tree pruning around power lines in Town Right-of-Ways
 - B.** Chief Walsh – Event Permit Application: Alzheimer's Association Charity Bicycle Ride, Saturday, 6/11/16, 6:30am – 5:00 pm.
- VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A.** Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Meeting, Meeting, Monday, May 9, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall
 - 2. Non-Public Session, Monday, May 9, 2016 (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel
(2) per RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation
 - B. Public Hearing: Comcast Cable Agreement Renewal**

The purpose of the Hearing is to consider acceptance of the RENEWAL CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF RYE, NH AND COMCAST OF MAINE/NEW HAMPSHIRE.

C. Public Hearing: Draft Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016

The purpose of the Hearing is to review and take comment on the draft Town of Rye, NH Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016. FEMA requires every municipality in the country to develop and maintain a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to reduce the personal and economic costs of hazard events in the community. The draft Plan is available for review on the Town website www.town.rye.nh.us and at the Town Hall.

D. ABATEMENTS

The Assessor recommends approval of the following abatements.

1. Frank Colby Jr. Rev Trust 0 Ocean Blvd. map/lot 194-065
Current: \$27,900. Proposed: \$14,000. Abatement \$159.57 + int.
2. Frank Colby Jr. Rev Trust 1130 Ocean Blvd. map/lot 194-085
Current: \$1,615,900. Proposed: \$1,503,000. Abatement \$1296.09 + int.
3. William & Catherine Graham 615 Brackett Road map/lot 017-034-001
Current: \$791,700. Proposed: \$655,800. Abatement \$1,560.13 + int.
4. Daniel & Joanne Cahalane 15 Breakers Road map/lot 084-062
Current: \$433,600. Proposed: \$423,800. Abatement \$109.17 + int.
5. Linda Toumpas Trust 10 Bass Drive map/lot 202-079
Current: \$1,131,100. Proposed: \$837,800. Abatement \$202.93 + int.

E. Dennis McCarthy, Public Works Director – Bid Results

1. Paving
2. Heating & Fuel Oil

F. Dennis McCarthy, Public Works Director - Red Mill Lane Culvert Update

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- A.** Letter rec'd from the Town of North Hampton re: A Possible Collaboration Between Towns
- B.** Letter rec'd from Susan Kwiatkowski requesting the town repaves Shoals View Drive

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Posted: Friday 5/20/16– Town Hall, Rye Public Library, Town website: www.town.rye.nh.us

****THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE UP UNTIL THE TIME OF THE MEETING****

TOWN OF RYE - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, December 12, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Rye Town Hall

Selectmen's Meetings are held the 2 nd and 4 th Monday of each month. The next meeting will be <u>Tuesday, December 27, 2016</u>

AGENDA

6:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. NON-PUBLIC SESSION (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation**

6:30 p.m. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

- III. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - A.** Town Offices are closed Monday, December 26, 2016 for the Christmas Holiday
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
- VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A.** Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Meeting, Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 5:15 p.m., Town Hall
 - 2. Meeting, Monday, November 14, 2106, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall (*tabled on 11/28/16*)
 - 3. Meeting, Monday, November 28, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall
 - 4. Non-Public Session, Monday, November 28, 2016 (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel
 - B. PUBLIC HEARING: NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE 2016**

The purpose of the Hearing is to consider the approval and adoption of the Town of Rye, NH Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016.
 - C.** Approval and Adoption of the EPZ Plan
 - D.** 165 Sagamore Road – Enforcement Action
 - E.** Dennis McCarthy, Public Works Director - MS4 Stormwater Management Collaborative Compliance Project at a cost of \$2,000
 - F.** North Hampton Request to Use the Transfer Station
 - G.** Town Hall RFP Bid Results
- VIII. CORRESPONDENCE**
 - A.** Letter rec'd from Town of N. Hampton Select Board re: Perambulation
- IX. SELECTMEN'S 2017 BUDGET WORK SESSION**
 - A.** Departmental Budgets – Any Unfinished Business
 - B.** Warrant Articles
- X. NEW BUSINESS**
- XI. OLD BUSINESS**
- XII. OTHER BUSINESS**

ADJOURNMENT

Posted: Friday 12/9/16– Town Hall, Rye Public Library, Town website: www.town.rye.nh.us

THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE UP UNTIL THE TIME OF THE MEETING

Appendix L

Approval Letters from FEMA

Congratulations!

FEMA Region I has completed its review of the Rye, NH Hazard Mitigation Plan and found it approvable pending adoption. With this approval, the jurisdiction meets the local mitigation planning requirements under 44 CFR 201 **pending FEMA's receipt of electronic copies of the adoption documentation and the final plan.**

These items should be provided to your State's mitigation planning point of contact who will ensure they are forwarded to FEMA. Acceptable electronic formats include Word or PDF files and must be submitted to us via email at fema-r1-mitigationplans@fema.dhs.gov. Upon FEMA's receipt of these documents, a formal letter of approval will be issued, along with the final FEMA Checklist and Assessment.

The FEMA letter of formal approval will confirm the jurisdiction's eligibility to apply for Mitigation grants administered by FEMA and identify related issues affecting eligibility, if any. If the plan is not adopted within one calendar year of FEMA's Approval Pending Adoption, the jurisdiction must update the entire plan and resubmit it for FEMA review. If you have questions or wish to discuss this determination further, please contact me at Melissa.Surette@fema.dhs.gov or 617-956-7559.

Thank you for submitting the Rye, NH Hazard Mitigation Plan and congratulations again on your successful community planning efforts.

Sincerely,

Melissa A. Surette
Senior Planner, Risk Analysis Branch

FEMA Region I
99 High Street
Boston, MA 02110

Email: Melissa.Surette@fema.dhs.gov
Office: 617.956.7559
Cellular: 617.794.0292