

**Converse County Hazard Mitigation Plan
LEPC Meeting, Douglas, Wyoming
January 26, 2011**

Quick Review

Contractor, Barb Beck, explained the benefits of preparing a hazard mitigation plan, the contents of the plan, and the roles of the various entities in preparing a plan. The plan is funded by a grant from FEMA and covers all five of the local jurisdictions in the county—Douglas, Glenrock, Lost Springs, Rolling Hills, and the county. The natural hazards being profiled for the county and their relative priority are as follows. The group agreed to raise the priority of dam failure from low to moderate specifically because of general concerns related to the age of the LaPrele dam.

- High: Wildland fire, winter storms, floods, hail, windstorms, hazardous material spills
- Moderate: Drought, tornadoes, dam failure
- Low: Earthquake, landslide, subsidence

Issues and Problem Statements

Examples of problem statements from other Wyoming and Montana counties were presented to stimulate discussion. The group identified the following problems and then went back and suggested project ideas to address these problems. The problem statements were not prioritized.

Problem Statement	Potential Projects/Follow Up
The primary infrastructure for responding to an emergency is all located in the center of Douglas, in close proximity to the railroad tracks.	Set up the mobile command center as a dual console dispatch. Identify two additional areas outside of the downtown core area (radio station and one other) that could access into 911 if needed. Hardwire trunk lines to these additional locations to be prepared.
There is no backup for the Glenrock 911 center.	Put a 911 trunk in at the Rolling Hills Fire station.
The county conducts approximately 15 search and rescue operations a year. Many of these are in remote locations with difficult access—especially in winter. Existing equipment is not adequate to transport supplies and people.	Purchase two snowcats for Search and Rescue Program
There is a gas plant located 1.5 miles north of Douglas with the potential for a large explosion. Depending on wind direction, a hazardous material release could drift towards Douglas.	Coordinate with facility EAP. Review and exercise Douglas evacuation plan.
Heavy flooding by the North Platte River could cut off some areas of the county if bridges were lost.	Review priorities with County Road and Bridge for bridge replacement.
Public schools may or may not have been retrofitted for earthquake safety.	Check on status of schools
Rolling Hills does not have back-up power at town hall	Acquire a generator or retrofit for an

	external generator
Radio station does not have back-up power and the station services a key communications role during an emergency.	Acquire back-up power for the radio station.
People in rural areas lose phone service when they lose power.	Educate people to use vehicle radio if other means of communication are lost.
Prairie fires with flashy fuels are frequent in the county. Ranches and stock are endangered when this happens. There is currently a lack of water in some areas. Smoke from these fires is a public health hazard.	Develop additional water supplies for fighting fires in rural areas of the county
Dunham Road in Rolling Hills has residences and no public access. This could be a problem in a wildfire or any situation that required emergency access.	Obtain an emergency access easement.
Sirens do not cover all areas of the town of Rolling Hills.	Test and determine areas lacking coverage. Augment existing coverage.
Access roads to power plant east of Glenrock can drift closed in the winter. Travelers use Tank Farm Road as an alternate access route when the Interstate is closed during snow storms and can get stuck in deep snow.	Review County Road and Bridge plowing priorities and/or sign to notify travelers of plowing status.
The town of Lost Springs does not have supplies to shelter travelers during winter storms or other emergencies.	Outfit community building with sheltering supplies for 15 people.

Types of Projects

- Emergency services
- Education and Awareness
- Structural
- Natural Resource Protection
- Prevention
- Property Protection

Wrap-up

Beck explained that a draft of the plan including the hazard profiles, goals and projects would be prepared. The draft will be presented to the LEPC at their next meeting in April which would initiate the public review and comment period. The next LEPC meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 20 at 12:30 at the Glenrock town hall.