

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



PURPOSE

The 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Update is to meet the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as well as the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS & EM) in preparing the communities of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), the City of Fairbanks, and the City of North Pole for natural hazards and establishing area-wide pre- and post- disaster mitigation priorities

HAZARDS



Flood damage can be devastating and have far reaching consequences because the FNSB provides critical access to much of the State of Alaska. Major flood events have had severe impacts on the region in the past. Although dams and levees provide protection, vulnerabilities still exist.



Severe Weather events can have severe effects such as leaving communities isolated and without power. Freezing rain, high winds, extreme cold, heavy snow, lightning and wind chills all fall into this category.



Seismic activity in the FNSB is 725% greater than the overall U.S. average. On November 3, 2002 an earthquake with a surface rupture 209 miles long and a horizontal offset up to 22 feet was felt as far away as Texas. As FNSB population and infrastructure grow, so does the need to prepare.



Wildland Fire historically has accounted for significant property damage, and continues to pose a real threat to lives and property. Every year thousands of acres burn, which improves ecosystem health. Balancing safety with the health of the ecosystem is an important aspect of mitigating this hazard.



Ground Failure otherwise known as landslides, have and very likely will occur. Damage can reduce access to school, utilities, postal and emergency services. Meteorological, seismic, and fire suppression can increase the severity of these events.



Cryosphere refers to where water is present in and on the Earth's surface in frozen form. Hazards related to the cryosphere are numerous and widespread. Frequent and expensive repairs are due to cryosphere hazards. Soils are warming and infrastructure will become increasingly exposed to this hazard.

GOALS

- Protect public safety and prevent loss of life.
- Reduce harm to existing and future development.
- Prevent damage to the unique economic, cultural and environmental assets in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, City of Fairbanks, and the City of North Pole.
- Minimize operational downtime and accelerate recovery of government and businesses after disasters.
- Reduce the costs of disaster response and recovery and the exposure to risk for first responders.
- Remain eligible for state and federal hazard mitigation grant funding.

FNSB.GOV/HMP

PARTICIPATE by providing input during the public comment period open January 8 - February 12, 2021. Visit the web-page above, to review the plan and leave comments. Additionally, you can attend the public open house held via Zoom on Tuesday January 19, 2021 from 6-8p.m. Register by sending an email to emergencymanagement@fnsb.gov with HMP Open House in the subject line.

QUESTIONS?



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