

CRITICAL FACILITIES

Section 201.6 44CFR states that a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan risk assessment shall provide a description of the jurisdictions vulnerability to the identified hazards of concern and this vulnerability should be described in terms of:

The types and numbers of existing and future buildings, infrastructure, and *critical facilities* located in the identified hazard areas.

The law does not specify or define the term “Critical Facility”. The reason is this term should be defined by the planning process. Each planning effort should identify and define those facilities and infrastructure that are critical to providing emergency services to the planning area. These definitions can and should be unique to the defined planning area.

To maximize all of the planning partners funding options and opportunities, this process will be enhanced during the update of this plan. The Steering Committee will define ‘critical facilities’ for the Kittitas County planning area utilizing their knowledge of operations within the County and past hazard events. These facilities will then be inventoried and entered into HAZUS and the vulnerability of those facilities will be estimated. Each hazard of concern addressed by this plan will evaluate those defined critical facilities exposed to the hazard. This will enable the partnership to target vulnerable critical facilities for mitigation, which is a high priority, established by FEMA under the mitigation grant programs.

EXAMPLE DEFINITIONS

Standard FEMA Definition:

Facilities/infrastructure that are critical to the health and welfare of the population and that are especially important following hazard events. Critical facilities include, but are not limited to, shelters, police and fire stations, and hospitals.

Whitman County, WA Definition:

Those facilities and infrastructure that is critical to the health and welfare of the population. These become especially important after any hazard event occurs. For the purposes of the WCNHMP, Critical facilities include:

- Structures or facilities that produce, use, or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic and/or water reactive materials;
- Hospitals, nursing homes, and housing likely to contain occupants who may not be sufficiently mobile to avoid death or injury during a hazard event.
- Police stations, fire stations, vehicle and equipment storage facilities, and emergency operations centers that are needed for disaster response before, during, and after hazard events, and
- Public and private utilities and infrastructure that are vital to maintaining or restoring normal services to areas damaged by hazard events

Humboldt County, CA Definition:

A Critical Facility is infrastructure or a facility that is critical to the health and welfare of the population. These become especially important after any hazard/natural disaster event occurs. For

the purposes of the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan, Critical Facilities include:

- Essential Facilities:
 - Medical and Shelter Facilities and Vulnerable Populations—Facilities likely to be used as a sheltering or community assembly location, and structures likely to contain occupants who may not be sufficiently mobile to avoid death or injury during and after a hazard/natural disaster event including but not limited to: Hospitals, schools, skilled nursing facilities, board and care homes, pharmacies, clinics, fairgrounds, community centers, ambulance services, and veterinary hospitals.
 - Emergency Response—Facilities and emergency operations centers that are needed for response and recovery activities before, during, and after a hazard/natural disaster event including but not limited to: Police stations, fire stations, local, state and federal vehicle and equipment storage facilities, and emergency response staging sites.
 - Utility Services—Public and private utility facilities and essential services that are vital to maintaining or restoring normal services to impacted areas before, during, and after a hazard/natural disaster event including but not limited to: All primary and secondary transportation infrastructure, municipal water pumps and wells, water treatment plants, water storage, sewage treatment facilities, lift stations, water and sewer mainlines, substations, electric power generating and transmission infrastructure, retail and wholesale fuel transmission infrastructure and transport and storage facilities, telecommunications, repeater stations, radio stations and towers, aviation control towers, standby power-generating equipment, and grocery stores.
- Hazardous Facilities:
 - Major Dams and Levees—Major dams including: Copco Dam, Iron Gate Dam, Lewiston Dam, Trinity Dam, Matthews Dam, and Scott Dam.
 - RMP Hazmat Sites—Hazmat sites are structures or facilities that produce, use, or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic and/or water-reactive materials. This includes all Risk Management Plan (RMP) Hazmat sites including but not limited to facilities that use, or store acutely hazardous materials as defined by California Code of Regulations Title 19, Division 2, Chapter 4.5, Section 2770.5.
 - Additional Hazmat Sites—Hazmat sites may additionally include: Nuclear materials storage sites, wholesale fuel facilities, hazardous materials yards, industrial facilities i.e. the pulp mills.

City of Roseville, CA Definition:

A critical facility is vital to the City’s ability to provide essential services and protect life and property. Loss of a critical facility would result in a severe economic or catastrophic impact. Under the Roseville Hazard Mitigation Plan (RHMP) definition, critical facilities include the following:

- Police stations, fire stations, vehicle and equipment storage facilities, and emergency operations centers needed for disaster response before, during, and after hazard events
- Public and private utilities and infrastructure vital to maintaining or restoring normal services to areas damaged by hazard events
- Hospitals, nursing homes, and housing likely to contain occupants who may not be sufficiently mobile to avoid death or injury during a hazard event

- Structures or facilities that produce, use, or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic, and/or water-reactive materials

Mendocino County, CA Definition:

A critical facility is defined as a local (non-State or Federal) facility in either the public or private sector that provides essential products and services to the general public, such as preserving the quality of life in Mendocino County and fulfilling important public safety, emergency response, and disaster recovery functions. The critical facilities profiled in his plan include the following:

- Government facilities, such as departments, agencies, and administrative offices
- Emergency response facilities, including police, fire, and Emergency Operations Centers
- Educational facilities, including K-12
- Care facilities, such as congregate living health, residential care, and continuing care retirement facilities
- Community gathering places, such as parks, museums, libraries, and senior centers

ACTION ITEM

One of the first action items for this Steering Committee will be to define “critical facilities” as they pertain to Kittitas County. Some key points to keep in mind during this exercise:

- What are those facilities that you would consider vital to being able to provide essential services during and after a hazard event?
- Is there a good inventory of these facilities? This will be needed for incorporation into HAZUS.
- Identified critical facilities are a priority for hazard mitigation grants under FEMA mitigation programs. So think of facilities that you would want to mitigate. Are they critical? If so, let’s make sure your definition includes those types of facilities.

The Planning Team will prepare a definition for your approval based on the feedback you provide. What we will need from you is a list of those facilities you would deem critical. This is a very simple exercise. Just provide us with a list of those type of facilities (ie: hospitals, schools, police, fire, etc) that you feel need to be covered by this definition. If you list a “non-traditional” type facility (ie: campground, community center, library) please explain why. The Planning Team will take this list and craft a definition that you will review and approve at the next SC meeting. Please provide this list of facilities to Laura Hendrix by ***Friday, October 8, 2010***. Should you have any questions about this exercise, please call Laura Hendrix at (206) 883-9344. We do expect some redundancy with your answers. That is OK. This will only confirm the criticality of the facility.