

# Safety

## Element 14



### INTRODUCTION

There are both natural and human-caused hazards: natural hazards include floods, severe weather, wildland fires, earthquakes, and drought. Human-caused hazards include hazardous material incidents, accidents, and terrorism.

### BACKGROUND

The City's Emergency Response and Recovery Plan, adopted in 1998, established how the City will respond to emergencies and disasters. The purpose of this plan is to provide for effective, comprehensive emergency management within the City of Sierra Vista by using existing governmental organization and resources to the maximum extent possible.



The Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (1) seeks to mitigate the effects of a hazard, (2) prepares measures to take to preserve life and minimize damage, (3) identifies response during emergencies and major disasters and provides necessary assistance, and (4) establishes a recovery system in order to return the community to its normal state.

### GOALS AND STRATEGIES

#### Goal 14-1 Mitigate or minimize the impacts of a disaster

- Strategies**
1. Biennially update and prioritize the City's portion of the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.  
*Working with the city's Emergency Response plan along with Cochise County Multi-jurisdictional Mitigation Plan and the Cochise County Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (CCERRP) is designed to address the consequences of any*

disaster or emergency situation in which there is a need for response assistance at any and all levels of government. This plan is applicable to natural disasters, technological emergencies and other incidences requiring assistance.

2. Ensure mitigation measures are consistent with Cochise County and the state of Arizona requirements.

Our mitigation efforts are consistent with Cochise County. Area public safety agencies work with County Emergency Manager.

3. Continue to educate the public on hazard mitigation issues and public awareness of potential hazards.

Our county is kept informed on mitigation efforts through the Whats App, Phone messages, and radio announcements. These potential hazards vary according to the time of year (monsoon, fire).

4. Maintain, update, and upgrade the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan.

SVPD Deputy Chief along with SVFMS Deputy Chief maintain, update the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan for the city. The planning group for the county will do the same in conjunction with all the jurisdictions within the county.

5. Conduct annual training on the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan.

The county along with individual agencies within the county conduct annual training on emergency response (active shooter, wildland table tops) to ensure operational readiness. There is also a statewide mutual aid plan in place to assist agencies if resources are needed.

6. Encourage coordination and exchange of disaster and safety information and resources between appropriate governmental and private agencies.

Public safety agencies meet on a monthly basis for coordination and decimation of information. Cochise County area Fire Chief and Cochise County EMS for example meet to ensure information of all types is passed on to each other.

7. Construct buildings that adhere to the most current building codes.

SVFMS uses the International Building Code 2015 Edition, International Fire Code 2015 Edition. In addition, there are several NFPA guidelines that are used.

8. Conduct inspections and stabilize or demolish damaged structures immediately following an emergency.  
Community Development, Fire Department and Police Department work together to inspect/stabilize and or demolish structures as quick
9. Locate critical facilities away from areas of significant, identified hazards.  
All new emergency service facilities are constructed away from areas of significant, identified Hazards. Critical facilities are located in areas that would reduce response times.
10. Identify and mitigate potential flooding hazards.  
There is a flooding section in the Cochise County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Three seasonal atmospheric events (tropical storm remnants, winter rains and summer monsoons) are identified.
11. Maintain current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood hazard data.  
The county would maintain current FEMA flood hazard data. There are flood zone designations on FEMA maps. The Engineering and Natural Resources Department has responsibility for the survey, design, engineering, planning and management of the **County's floodplains** ..FEMA floodplain maps are available on County GIS maps and FEMA.gov
12. Coordinate with appropriate governmental and private agencies to minimize dangers from hazardous materials.  
Cochise County has a Hazardous Materials Team that consists of members of agencies throughout the county. They train on specific target hazards in our county.
13. Develop public awareness programs on natural and man-made hazards and ways of minimizing the effects of these disasters.  
All Public Safety agencies have public awareness programs on natural and man-made hazards. In addition, agencies have specific programs to mitigate natural and man-made disasters. Example is mitigation efforts and awareness programs aimed at wildfires called the Community WildFire Protection Plan.
14. Develop programs to train volunteers to assist public safety personnel during and after disasters.

The county and several agencies have CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams ) volunteers. SVPD and CCSO also have volunteers who work in different capacities to assist.

15. Work with appropriate state and county agencies to establish specific hazardous material truck routes through the City  
The City/County works with ADOT to establish specific hazardous materials truck routes.

## STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS

Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 9-461.05-E8

*“A safety element for the protection of the community from natural and artificial hazards including features necessary for such protection as evacuation routes, peak load water supply requirements, minimum road widths according to function, clearances around structures and geologic hazard mapping in areas of known geologic hazards.”*

## ATTACHMENTS

None

## REFERENCES

The following references used in this element are City approved documents.

- Emergency Response and Recovery Plan- November 2008
- Cochise County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2012