



2021 Update: Dakota County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dakota County Planning Commission
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Presentation Overview



1. All-Hazard Plan Needs and Purpose - Recap
2. Status of the Plan Update
3. Public Engagement
4. Potential New Draft County Goals and Strategies for Discussion
5. Next Steps

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Plan Needs and Purpose *Dakota*
COUNTY




Plan Requirements:

- Disasters incur loss of life, damage, economic disruption.
- Disaster Management Act of 2000: FEMA began a national disaster mitigation program to reduce vulnerability and to save funds
- Approved Plans are required for federal disaster relief and hazard mitigation funding

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Plan Needs and Purpose *Dakota*
COUNTY



Mitigation:

Actions intended to eliminate or reduce long term risks to human life and property from natural and technological hazards

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Plan Needs and Purpose







Mitigation:

- Can occur in all phases of emergency management: preparedness, response, recovery
- Breaks the repetitive “disaster-repair-disaster” cycle by increasing resilience, moving vulnerabilities out of harm’s way, and being prepared

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Plan Needs and Purpose






Hazards Addressed:

- Violent storms, extreme temperatures
- Tornado
- Structural Fire
- Floods
- Drought
- Hazardous materials release
- Infectious disease outbreak
- Terrorism
- Water supply contamination
- Dam and structural collapse
- Landslide
- Cyber-Attack
- Wildfire
- Civil Disturbance (added in 2021)

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Status of the Plan Update *Dakota* COUNTY

Multi-jurisdictional Plan
14 Urban and 6 Rural Cities
 (individual chapters):

- Meetings started in January
- Progress on 2016 plan
- Updating hazards, vulnerabilities, goals, strategies, and implementation

County:

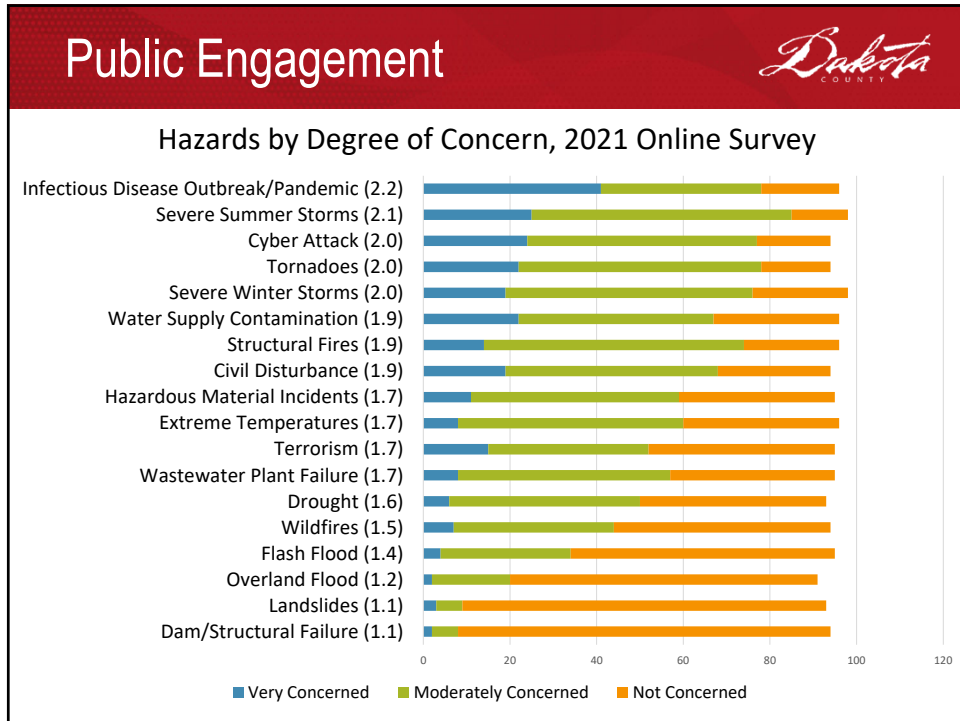
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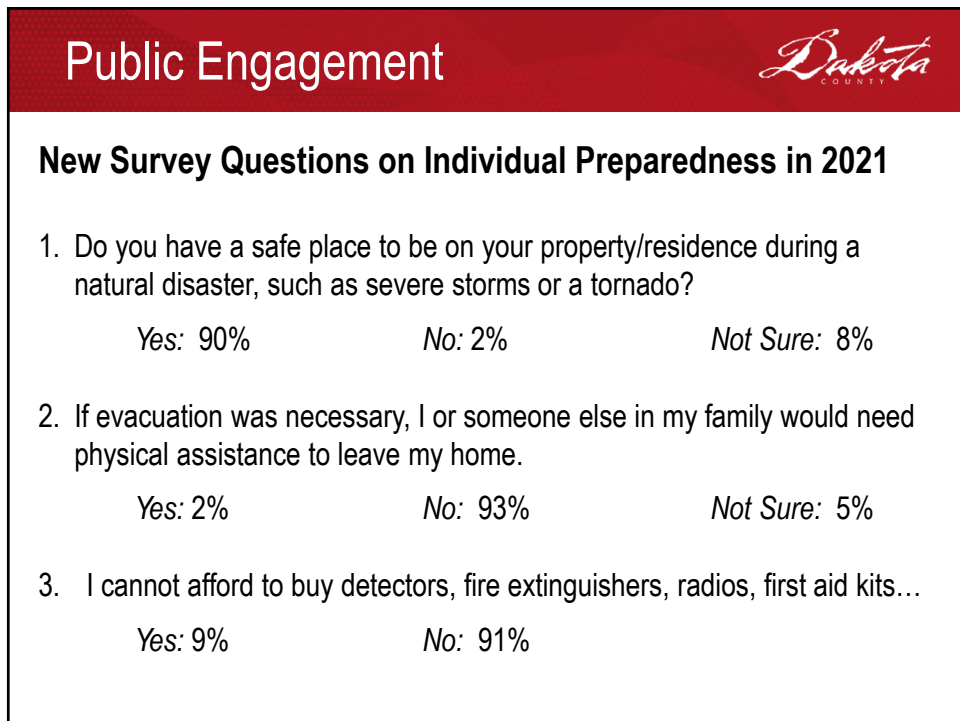
Public Engagement *Dakota* COUNTY

- County Webpage Update
- Publicized with Cities
 - City Managers
 - Emergency Personnel
 - City Communications
- 2021 Online Survey
 - Promoted to Community Liaisons
 - COVID Vax Clinic flyers
 - Social Media
- Intercepts at Libraries
- County Fair (planned)

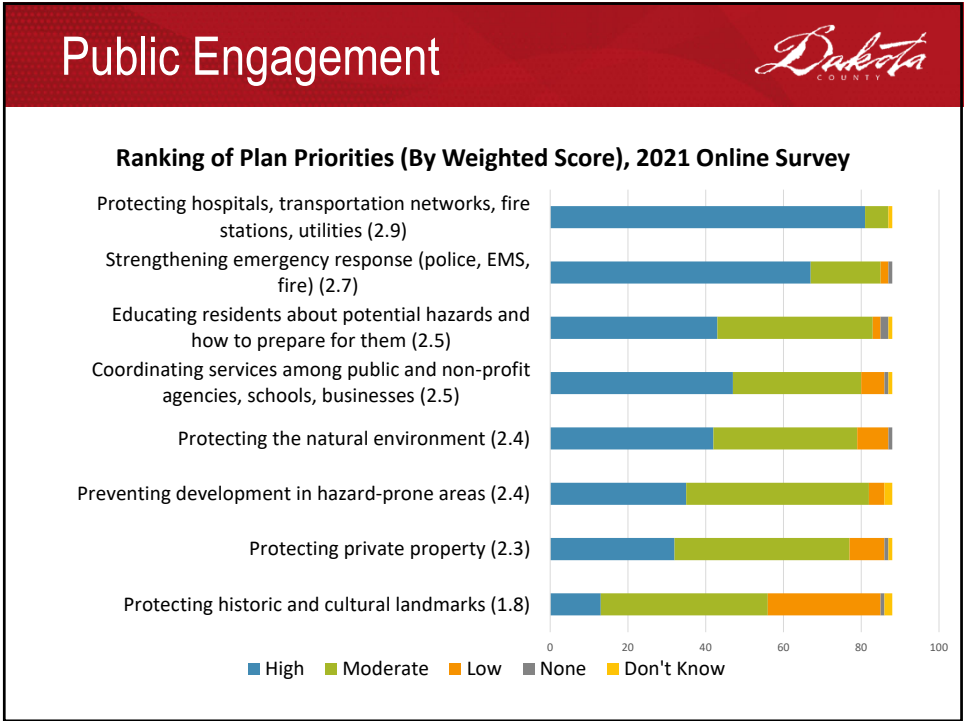
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Public Engagement *Dakota* COUNTY

Does the Commission have questions or comments on public engagement and preliminary findings?

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Potential New Goals-Strategies



Flood Goal 3 (new): Use land protection and natural resource management to mitigate flood risks.

1. Protect and restore wetlands to retain water on the land and reduce flood severity.
2. Use Conservation Focus Areas to prioritize, protect, and restore wetlands, shoreland, headwaters and significant groundwater recharge areas to reduce flood impacts.

Drought Goal 3 (new): Preserve existing groundwater resources.

1. Promote and support water conservation and water reuse projects.
2. Protect and improve high quality groundwater recharge areas.

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Potential New Goals-Strategies



Water Supply Goal 1 (existing): Protect the quality of Dakota County's groundwater. (new strategies follow)

1. Strategically restore drained wetlands to enhance filtration and recharge of groundwater
2. Partner to improve groundwater recharge by promotion and assistance of water quality improvement practices such as low impact development, wetland restoration and permanent vegetation
3. Use Conservation Focus Areas to prioritize, protect, and restore wetlands, shoreland, headwaters and significant groundwater recharge areas for water quality and supply

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Potential New Goals-Strategies



Water Supply Goal 2 (existing): Protect residents from contaminated groundwater. (new strategies follow)

1. Facilitate the installation of appropriate, effective drinking water treatment systems for low-income private well households with contaminated groundwater.

Water Supply Goal 3 (existing): Protect drinking water supplies. (new strategies follow)

1. Conduct feasibility study for establishment of a rural water supply.
2. Advocate for state and federal funding for local water infrastructure improvement projects and encourage municipal projects that improve drinking water quality.

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Potential New Goals-Strategies



Pandemic Goal 1 (existing): Maintain public health response preparedness. (new strategies follow)

1. Maintain adequate level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
2. Conduct after action reviews to identify needs and update response, Continuity of Operations (COOP), and mitigation plans accordingly
3. Develop and maintain a communication strategy for hard-to-reach/ limited English proficiency populations/ ADA accessible communications
4. Ensure that Dakota County COOP Plans address potential needs during a long-term pandemic with adequate technological systems, individual staff ability to effectively work remotely, supplies and vehicles, and new service delivery methods.

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Potential New Goals-Strategies



Cyber-Attack Goal 1 (existing): Reduce Risk to County Network Infrastructure and Software Applications (new strategies)

1. Continue completing cyber security exercises as part of COOP planning
2. Regularly develop programs and projects to identify and address cyber-security weaknesses and new threats (e.g., USB lockdown, vendor management)
3. Continue ongoing staff training in cyber security and new threats
4. Invest in hardware and IT infrastructure improvements (e.g., encrypted storage)
5. Periodically review best practices through the IT Advisory Team

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Potential New Goals-Strategies



Civil Disturbance Goal 1 (new): Improve situational awareness and monitoring efforts.

1. Monitor situations with potential for inciting civil disturbance across a wide range of communication channels, including social media.

Civil Disturbance Goal 2 (new): Build community partnerships to promote timely response.

1. Build agreements for coordinated multi-agency joint emergency operation center (EOC) operations to improve response.
2. Refine communications and pre plans with impacted groups (County administration, SO, Local Chiefs)
3. Work with County Social Services to identify and develop key community liaisons.
4. Build partnerships and agreements to enhance communications, with cities and community groups.
5. Work with communities on curfew plans, restrictions and enforcement.

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Potential New Goals-Strategies



Civil Disturbance Goal 3 (new): Increase preparedness training to reduce injuries and damages from civil disturbance.

1. Train response personnel to protect health and safety of public in events, including de-escalation and non-lethal methods of riot control.
2. Train response personnel to protect their own health and safety in responding to events.
3. Enhance 2-way communications between public authorities and participants and strengthen outgoing public communications including social media.
4. Develop and exercise multi-agency EOC plans that address responses to civil disturbance.

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Potential New Goals-Strategies



Civil Disturbance Goal 4 (new): Reinforce security and resilience of County facilities and infrastructure likely to be targeted during civil disturbance.

1. Strengthen building security infrastructure, including windows, doors, and entry points
2. Develop and update a facility preparedness checklist for civil disturbance situations
3. Make improvements to facilitate rapid deployment of security barriers, such as pre-placement of fence post sleeves

Civil Disturbance Goal 5 (new): Restore and maintain public confidence in County governance in the aftermath of civil disturbance.

1. Evaluate civil disturbance causes and the County's response through after-action review with partner agencies and community groups
2. Promote timely prosecution of perpetrators who caused injuries or property damage.

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Does the Commission have questions or comments on potential new hazards, goals, and strategies?

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Next Steps



- Conclude work with cities to update their chapters
- Build out implementation for new County strategies
- Complete the updated draft document (Fall 2021)
- Planning Commission and County Board review and release for public review of draft plan (Fall 2021)
- Submit draft to FEMA and MN HSEM

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Thank you!