

Executive Summary

For the purpose of this Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan, the entirety of Lyon County and all jurisdictions within the County comprise the planning area. The ten jurisdictions within Lyon County that will participate in this plan are City of Admire, City of Allen, City of Americus, City of Bushong, City of Emporia, City of Hartford, City of Neosho Rapids, City of Reading, City of Olpe, and unincorporated Lyon County. Lyon County is vulnerable to many natural hazards including but not limited to drought, extreme temperature, floods, tornadoes, winter storms, dam failure, foreign animal disease, and severe storms.

Lyon County has experienced such natural hazards in the past. In the future such events could result in fiscal hardship for local governments, businesses, and citizens. Such events could also result in damages to infrastructure, destruction of homes, and/or physical and emotional suffering for the people of Lyon County.

In writing this Hazard Mitigation Plan some natural hazard events have been combined. Extreme heat and extreme cold are combined in to one category of Extreme Temperatures. Winter Storms includes snow, ice, and sleet. The category for Flooding includes flooding, flash flooding, and also discusses levee failure. The category for Severe Storms includes thunderstorms, lightening, and windstorms. Our Hazardous Materials category has been renamed Chemical to fit in with the limitations of www.mitigationplan.com.

In writing this plan it was decided that some natural hazards did not pose a significant risk in Lyon County. We ran a HAZUS analysis of an earthquake model for Lyon County. A magnitude 5 once-in-2500-year event earthquake only caused significant damage to 3 residential structures and at the most caused only slight damage to roads, bridges, and facilities. In other parts of Kansas there are fault lines. In Lyon County there are no fault lines and we did not include earthquakes in our Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Based on knowledge of local events, historical information, and interviews with local officials other natural hazards were also eliminated from the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Land Subsidence has not been an issue in Lyon County. There are no records of significant dust problems going back over the last 50 years. Expansive soils have not posed a problem in Lyon County.

We have had grass fires here in Lyon County. This is difficult to quantify for data analysis. Data about economic losses from grass fires doesn't seem to exist. In many cases farmers and ranchers start the fires deliberately to burn the grasslands. We decided not to include grass fires in this mitigation plan. At a later date if data on economic loss from grass fires becomes available we will review the data and consider adding grass fires as a category during the next annual review of the plan. In the section on drought it is discussed that we put burn bans in place during a drought.

A hazard mitigation plan has been prepared for all areas and jurisdictions within Lyon County in accordance with Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Having a hazard mitigation plan in place will assist to:

- Better predict future trends by analyzing historical hazard trends.
- Build support for mitigation activities.
- Increase cooperation between the many jurisdictions and agencies.
- Incorporate mitigation into post-disaster recovery activities.
- Make all jurisdictions within Lyon County eligible to apply for various types of pre-disaster mitigation grants for buy outs and other projects.
- Increase amount of eligible disaster related grant sources in the aftermath of a disaster.

Project Team Manager

Rick Frevert
Lyon County Emergency Manager

Planning Team Members

The Lyon County Emergency Planning Committee became the Planning Team for this hazard mitigation plan. For more information on the Planning Team see section **1.2**. Input also came from various local officials and the public outside of the Planning Team.

Introduction

The Lyon County Hazard Mitigation Plan is designed as a resource for County residents, organizations, agencies, and others interested in mitigating the effects of natural hazards. This plan was written based on information provided by knowledgeable County Officials, data from National Climatic Data Center, State of Kansas, and branches of Federal Government such as Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Agriculture. After compiling this information the following hazards have been identified for this plan.

Hazardous Materials/Chemical
Dam Breach
Drought
Extreme Temperature
Flood
Foreign Animal Disease
Snow and Ice
Storm and Wind
Tornado
Terrorism

Plan Development

The Lyon County Emergency Management Department prepared this plan in collaboration with multiple other departments, community officials, and input from State and Federal Officials. This plan could not have been written without assistance from a number of sources. See section **1.3** for additional information on the development of this plan and involvement of various agencies.

Early drafts of the hazard mitigation plan were made available to Lyon County Emergency Planning Committee members and officials from all jurisdictions. A number of businesses were consulted. Open public meetings were held in every community in Lyon County. Public outreach included newspaper coverage and a radio talk show.

Plan Mission

The mission of the Lyon County Hazard Mitigation Plan is to provide a resource which Lyon County can use for creating and implementing future mitigation projects. Mitigating the effect of future hazards and to protect public health, safety, and welfare are the

primary goals of this plan. Public outreach and acquisition of structures from hazardous areas are ways to achieve those goals of mitigation.

Plan Adoption

The Lyon County Hazard Mitigation Plan will be officially adopted by the Mayors and City Councils of the cities of Admire, Allen, Americus, Bushong, Emporia, Hartford, Neosho Rapids, Olpe, and Reading as soon as it is approved by Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Lyon County Board of County Commissioners will also approve the Lyon County Hazard Mitigation Plan at earliest scheduled meeting once plan has had preliminary State and Federal approvals.

How was the plan written?

The plan was written by first gathering information from local, state, and federal sources. Economic and population information came from the U.S. Census. U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics were used for agriculture areas of the County. Weather service information was used for hazard summaries. Flood Insurance Study from FEMA provided information on flood risks. From this information an early draft plan was created.

This early draft was made available to a variety of agencies, local officials, and community members. Copies of the plan were sent by email to a number of local, State, and Federal Agencies. Those agencies provided input on ways to improve the plan and/or provided data they had access to. Public input was asked for in a radio talk show on KVOE with Chuck Samples. Brandy Nance and Bobbi Mylnar attended meetings and wrote stories about the plan in the Emporia Gazette during the early stages of public meetings. The first draft of the plan was posted on the web site www.lyoncounty.org for additional public input.

Geographic Information Systems were used to create maps to accompany the plan. Lyon County conferred with State of Kansas Hazard Mitigation Officer. Meetings were held with the Planning Team. The entire plan was read and discussed by the planning team. Additional meetings took place in every community within Lyon County over a three-week period. Data was entered into the web site www.mitigationplan.com . And then reentered again.

At every step of the process the plan was reviewed, updated as needed, revised, and checked for accuracy. The 'crosswalk' provided by

FEMA was used as a guideline for final review of the written plan. Even in this final version the Lyon County Hazard Mitigation Plan is not complete. This document will undergo periodic reviews and be updated as new information becomes available. After each future disaster event consideration will be given to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Lessons learned will be incorporated into the plan so we don't make the same mistakes twice.