

Section 1 – Plan Development

Plan Purpose

The 2021 Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) revision is threefold in its purpose. Strictly speaking, the Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan provides guidance to substantially and permanently reduce Cedar County and its communities' vulnerability to natural hazards.



This plan revision encompasses the continuation and updating of this original mission by incorporating new GIS technologies, improving its risk assessment methodologies, and recalibrating its mitigation strategies based on an assessment of the previous plan (approved in January of 2016) and the previous plan's usefulness over the past five years.

Secondly, participation in and the adoption of this plan grants the adopting entity the ability to apply for multiple grant funding programs through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Additionally, a tertiary purpose of the plan is to promote sound public policy and support other local, regional, and state planning efforts which have the effects of protecting citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the natural environment. The development of this plan revision does so by increasing public awareness and education, collaborating with other planning organizations and governments engaged in planning efforts, serving as a reference and resource for the public, various governments, and other entities.

Plan Organization

The Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed and organized within the rules and regulations established under the 44 Code of Federal Regulation 201.6. This plan contains sections detailing the planning process, Cedar County's communities, other participating entities and the planning area, a hazard vulnerability and risk assessment, capabilities assessment, and a mitigation strategy designed for the purpose of guiding Cedar County and the plan's participants to become more disaster-resilient communities.

Plan Financing

The Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been financed by Cedar County and a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Grant (HMGP-4386) administered through the State of Iowa's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (IA HSEMD), and matching contributions by IA HSEMD. The federal grant provided 75% of the total plan's cost while Cedar County contributes 15% and IA HSEMD provides 10%.

Plan Participation

The Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed as the result of an ongoing collaborative effort between the full range of stakeholders in the planning area, local authorities, public school district, municipal jurisdictions, and the State of Iowa. This effort was led by the Cedar County Emergency Management Agency under the Cedar County Emergency Management Commission.

Concerns, capabilities, interests and historical data were gathered through interviews with stakeholders from within the communities, along with a number of electronic datasets, and ongoing planning committee work sessions. The public were granted opportunities to provide their input, influence, share knowledge, and be active participants in the plan’s development. This was accomplished through a number of public outreach campaigns in the form of an on-site meeting and internet accessible surveys. Any comments, questions, and discussions resulting from these activities were given consideration in the development of this plan.

Approval & Adoption

The Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted for review to the IA HSEMD on December 8th, 2020. Following the state’s review, the plan was submitted to the FEMA Region VII office for federal review. FEMA Region VII granted “Approval Pending Adoption” on February 23rd, 2021.

This plan has officially been adopted by all participating municipalities and school districts.

1.1 – Planning Process

Cedar County’s revision process began in November of 2019, when Cedar County contracted Two Rivers Emergency Management (TREM) to facilitate the plan’s development under a performance contract.

Two planning events were held throughout the planning process. Plan development kicked-off on 19 December 2019. Stakeholders from every municipality, and public-school district in the county and members of the public were invited to attend and participate. Additionally, neighboring EMAs were invited. The meetings were advertised for period of two weeks in advance.

This meeting delivered an understanding of the planning processes and steps required to update, including the organizing of resources, assessment of hazards, development of a mitigation plan, and steps to implementing the plan and monitoring its progress. Most jurisdictions in the county actively participated in the process through solicitation, providing input, or participation in meetings. Details and documentation of stakeholder participation can be found in Section 1.2 and Appendix A – Plan Participation.

Throughout the process the public was given opportunities to review plan drafts, ask questions, and provide input on hazards. They were also invited to provide feedback on mitigation project prioritization, hazard identification, and hazard ranking. This was accomplished through their inclusion in the on-site meetings as well as an extensive online outreach campaign that yielded 12 responses. Details and documentation of the public’s participation can be found in Section 1.3 and Appendix A – Plan Participation.

The 2021 Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan encompasses the following 14 jurisdictions:

Cedar County
City of Bennett
City of Clarence
City of Durant
City of Lowden
City of Mechanicsville
City of Stanwood
City of Tipton
City of West Branch

Bennett Community School District
Durant Community School District
North Cedar Community School District
Tipton Community School District
West Branch Community School District

1.2 – Stakeholder Engagement

The Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan includes the governmental and education entities within Cedar County working together for the development and ongoing maintenance of this plan. The participants are grouped into four categories.

Municipalities

This group consists of representatives from municipal governments within the planning area.

Education Entities

This group consists of representatives from the public-school districts serving Cedar County.

Other Stakeholders

This group consists of representatives from the local community, regulatory authorities, emergency services, commercial interests, neighboring EMAs, and other relevant organizations.

The Public

FEMA requires this planning effort to be open to constant input from interested citizens in compliance with the Sunshine Laws. In Iowa, public meetings must comply with Iowa Open Meetings Law, unless established by statutory exemption. Therefore, any individual citizens who wish to be involved in this effort to mitigate future disasters were encourage to attend the on-site meetings and complete the online mitigation survey to solicit relevant comments and concerns to be incorporated into the content of this plan.

Representatives from each group took part in periodic planning meetings, public meetings and events and individual meetings with TREM and Cedar County EMA staff. Their specific involvement included activities such as collection and development of planning information, providing input into the planning process, reviewing draft editions of the plan and providing written documentation demonstrating their commitment to mitigation and intent to adopt the final approved plan. The neighboring EMAs of Clinton, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Muscatine, and Scott Counties were notified of the project and the kick-off meeting, but none attended.

Each participating entity was expected to attend at least one of the on-site meetings, submit required data as requested, participate in the development of general information for the plan as well as their own individual planning information, mitigation strategies and initiatives, participate in a public review process, and submit the plan for formal adoption through their respective governing body. Information was kept on attendance, input and providing requested documentation. In the event an entity did not provide representation to a meeting, individual outreach was conducted to garner their inclusion.

1.2 – Stakeholder Engagement

The following table details the plan participants who participated in the hazard mitigation planning process. This list contains relevant local and state agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, agencies that have the authority to regulate development, and any appropriate neighboring communities that chose to participate in the plan.

Table 1.1 – Stakeholders

Name	Organization	Position
Tony Gertz	Two Rivers Emergency Management	Mitigation Planning Manager
Jodi Freet	Cedar County Emergency Management Agency	EMA Director
Tim Malott	Cedar County Emergency Management Agency	EMA Director (Former)
Kate Ehlers	Cedar County Emergency Management Agency	EMA Office Coordinator
Steve Agne	Cedar County Board of Supervisors	Chairperson
Brad Gaul	Cedar County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor
Dawn Smith	Cedar County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor
Jeff Kaufmann	Cedar County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor
Jon Bell	Cedar County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor
Sandy Delaney	Cedar County	Treasurer
Cari Dauber	Cedar County	Auditor
Mike Dauber	Cedar County	Conservation Director
Rob Fangman	Cedar County	Engineer
Joe Sparks	City of Bennett	Mayor
Nicole Wolf	City of Bennett	City Council Member
Michael Anderson	Bennett Fire Department	Fire Chief
Kevin Rasdon	Bennett Fire Department	Assistant Fire Chief
Brittany Rogers	Clarence Ambulance	Ambulance Director
Francis Fisher	Clarence Ambulance Board	Ambulance Member
Randy Burken	Clarence Fire Department	Fire Chief
Deana Calvin	City of Durant	City Operations Officer/City Clerk
Jared Semsch	Durant Fire Department	Fire Chief
Orville Randolph	Durant Police Department	Police Chief
Mike Meyer	Durant Police Department	Sergeant
Jill Cinkovich	City of Lowden	Mayor
Kirk Steinke	City of Lowden	Public Works Director
Sarah Carlson	City of Lowden	City Clerk
Andrew Oberbreckling	City of Mechanicsville	Mayor
David Furry	City of Mechanicsville	Mayor (Former)
Amy Miller Bishop	City of Mechanicsville	City Council Member
Linda Coppess	City of Mechanicsville	Finance Officer/City Clerk
Lonni Koch	Mechanicsville Ambulance	Ambulance Director
Jacob Koch	Mechanicsville Fire Department	Fire Chief
Dan Koch	Mechanicsville Fire Department	Firefighter
Dustin McAtee	City of Stanwood	Mayor
Greg Wagner	City of Stanwood	Mayor (Former)
Stephanie VonBerhen	City of Stanwood	City Clerk
Michael Tharp	City of Stanwood	Council Member
Ryan Pierce	Stanwood Fire Department	Fire Chief
Bill Klawiter	Stanwood Fire Department	Fire Chief (Former)
Dakota Adams	Stanwood Fire Department	Firefighter
Brian Carney	City of Tipton	Mayor
Brian Wagner	City of Tipton	City Manager
Floyd Taber	City of Tipton	Director of Electric Operations
Jon Walsh	City of Tipton	Utilities Director
Virgil Penrod	City of Tipton	Public Works
Brad Ratliff	Tipton Ambulance	Ambulance Director
Sean Paustian	Tipton Fire Department	Fire Chief
Reece Hall	Tipton Fire Department	Fire Training Officer
Don Villhauer	Tipton Fire Department	Firefighter
Mike Rekemeyer Jr.	Tipton Fire Department	Firefighter
Roger Laughlin	City of West Branch	Mayor
Mike Horrihan	West Branch Police Department	Police Chief (Former)
John Hannah	West Branch Police Department	Police Officer
Lonnie Luepker	Bennett Community School District	Superintendent
Jeremiah Costello	Bennett Community School District	Principal

1.2 – Stakeholder Engagement

Tom Wuestenberg	Durant Community School District	Maintenance Director
Bob Dohmen	North Cedar Community School District	Buildings & Grounds Director
Jason Wester	Tipton Community School District	Superintendent
Loren Mohr	Tipton Community School District	Maintenance Director
Marty Jimmerson	West Branch Community School District	Superintendent
Ruben Galvan	West Branch Community School District	Maintenance Director
Mike Dauber	Cedar County Conservation	Conservation Director
Jennifer Fencil	Lower Cedar Watershed	Environmental Services Director
Sam Becker	Unknown	Unknown

1.3 – Public Engagement

The Cedar County EMA provided the opportunity for neighboring communities, agencies, businesses, academia, nonprofits, and other interested parties to be involved in the planning process. The public was notified of open meetings via Cedar County EMA's website, their Facebook page, and a local newspaper, The Tipton Conservative. Additionally, advertisements for the online public survey were put out on their website and Facebook page.

Relevant federal, state, and local governments, private, non-profit, regional organizations, and agencies with the authority to regulate development were invited to provide input and technical expertise through the public notices. They were contacted directly when their expertise was deemed necessary to the success of the plan.

At the public on-site meeting, TREM presented and outlined the mitigation plan update process to the public. During the first stakeholder meeting, TREM presented and outlined the mitigation plan update process and discussed stakeholder participation and expectations. In this meeting, the public and other stakeholders were encouraged to ask questions and provide their input. The final draft of this plan was available for public review via a TREM hosted project for the website. Any and all questions asked were answered.

TREM held a virtual questions and answer session for stakeholders and citizens to comment and provide input on the draft plan on November 12th, 2020. This occurred to launch the draft plan's review period that went on for 2 weeks. The draft of this plan was available for public review via a TREM hosted project for the website. Any and all questions asked were answered.

Continued Public Involvement

Cedar County is dedicated to involving the public in the continual shaping of its hazard mitigation plan and development of its mitigation projects and activities.

The Cedar County EMA will continue to keep the public informed about its hazard mitigation projects and activities through its website. Additionally, it will work to update its website and eventually provide a "comments/suggestions" option for the public to submit their input.

In the event that this hazard mitigation plan undergoes any major developmental changes over its 5-year life cycle, Cedar County EMA will inform the public of these changes via a publicized and open forum meeting.

Copies of the Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan will be available on their website for public distribution.

1.4 – Planning Resources

This plan's content includes and was influenced by numerous documents and technical resources provided by the plan's stakeholders and other relevant entities. The following documents and technical resources were reviewed for applicable information to the development of this plan:

Documentation Resources

Cedar County Emergency Management Agency Situation Report – 2020 Derecho

The Cedar County EMA's situation report following the 2020 derecho was reviewed to bolster the severe storms section of the risk assessment. Additionally, information within the report provided ideas for bolstering the mitigation strategy as it pertained to mitigating against wind damage.

Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2016)

Cedar County is currently covered by a FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plan. The plan was thoroughly reviewed and components have been updated and incorporated throughout.

Comprehensive Plans

Comprehensive plans from Cedar County, Durant, and West Branch were reviewed and laid part of the groundwork for this plan's mitigation strategy. It did so by providing insight into planning and development direction of the planning area and its local governments.

County and City Municipal Codes

Each municipality's local ordinances have been reviewed for provisions relevant to hazard mitigation. This information has been incorporated throughout Section 4 of this plan.

Iowa Comprehensive Emergency Plan – Part B. Iowa Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018)

The State of Iowa's current hazard mitigation plan was reviewed for general guidance in the cases of their comparative statewide risk assessment, their initial selection of at-risk hazards, and local planning technical assistance and development strategy.

School District Facility Master Plans

The latest approved update to this plan was reviewed for demographic and community projection information and their planning process.

Technical Resources

FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL)

FEMA's NFHL data was used in mapping floodplain locations and estimating potential flood impacts and loss estimates.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)

Weather data and historical events and their narratives were primarily provided by NOAA's NCDC.

North American Drought Monitor (NADM)

Since 1999, the USDA, NOAA, and the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have partnered to centralize nationwide drought monitor maps, situation reports, drought status, and publish historical data on drought severity. The NADM was the primary source for historical drought data and drought severity assessment used in this plan.

USACE National Inventory of Dams (NID)

The USACE NID is a congressionally authorized database which documents dams in the U.S. and its territories. This database attempts to maintain centralized data for all private and public dams. The NID was consulted and showed no high hazard dams in the planning area.

United States Census Bureau (USCB)

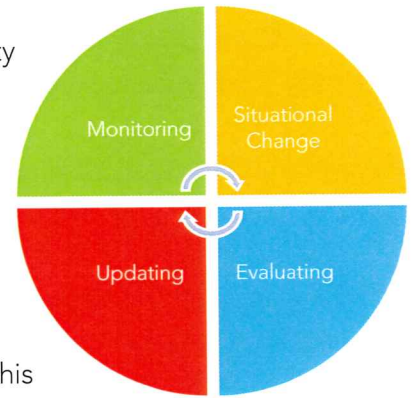
The USCB publicly publishes a number of GIS datasets that were used in developing the basemap layers used throughout this plan.

United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Statistics Service

The USDA provided GIS data that was used in depicting land cover and the agricultural statistics used in developing the planning area’s risk to droughts and grass and wildland fires.

1.5 – Plan Maintenance

The Cedar County EMA has developed a method to ensure monitoring, evaluation, and updating of its HMP. Upon adoption of the Cedar County HMP, the Cedar County EMA will form a subcommittee on mitigation projects comprised of volunteer members from the community. The chair of the subcommittee will be determined by appointment from the Cedar County EMA Director. Additional members may be added based on necessity. The sub-committee will submit an annual report to the Emergency Management Commission.



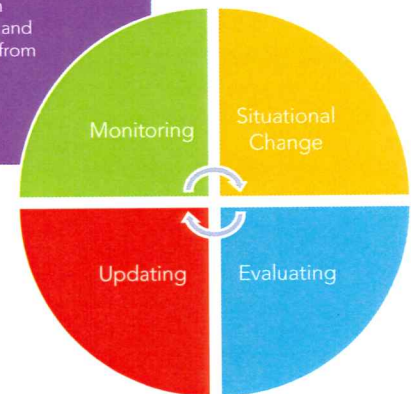
Please see the Cedar County HMP Quarterly Report form at the end of this section.

The Cedar County EMA may request a non-scheduled report on the monitoring, evaluation, or updating of any portion of the HMP due to irregular progress on mitigation actions and or projects, in the aftermath of a hazard event, or for any reason deemed appropriate.

Plan Monitoring

Plan monitoring can be defined as the ongoing process by which stakeholders obtain regular feedback on the progress being made towards achieving their goals and objectives. In the more limited approach, monitoring may focus on tracking projects and the use of the agency's resources. In the broader approach, monitoring also involves tracking strategies and actions being taken by partners and non-partners, and figuring out what new strategies and actions need to be taken to ensure progress towards the most important results.

• Regularly report on mitigation actions' and projects' progress from start to finish.



A monitoring report will be written and submitted to the Emergency Management Commission annually during one of their quarterly commission meetings or when triggered by a situation change. The monitoring report will answer the following questions:

- Is the mitigation project under, over, or on budget?
- Is the mitigation project behind, ahead of, or on schedule?
- Are there any changes in Cedar County's capabilities which impact the HMP?
- Are there any changes in Cedar County's hazard risk?
- Has the mitigation action been initiated or its initiation planned?
- If applicable, has participation in a mitigation action's collaboration been regular?
- If any, what plan updates occurred, why they occurred, and what is their impact?

The plan maintenance process is cyclical and maintenance items can operate simultaneously within the process.

Plan Evaluating

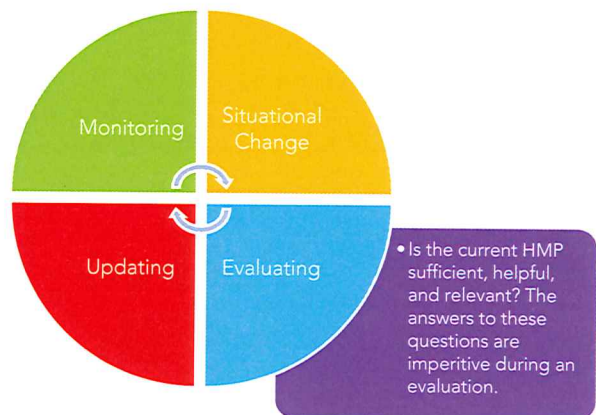
A plan evaluation is a rigorous and independent assessment of either completed or ongoing activities to determine the extent to which they are achieving stated objectives and contributing to decision making.

An evaluation report will be written and submitted to Cedar County EMA’s Director when the situation dictates. The following situations are typical examples of when an evaluation will be necessary:

- Post hazard event
- Post training exercise
- Post tabletop or drill exercise
- Significant change or completion of a mitigation project
- Significant change or completion of a mitigation action

An evaluation report will ask the following questions in response to the previously listed events:

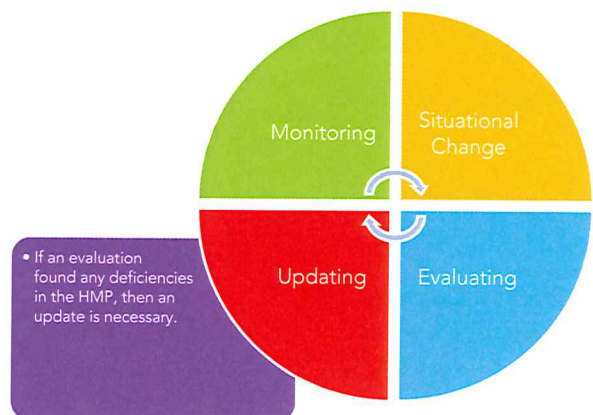
- Do the mitigation objectives and goals continue to address the current hazards?
- Are there new or previously unforeseen hazards?
- Are current resources appropriate for implementing a mitigation project?
- Was the outcome of a mitigation action/project expected?
- Are there implementation problems?
- Are there coordination problems?



Plan Updating

Typically, a HMP update is initiated upon the completion of a plan evaluation and even then, only when the evaluation determines an update is appropriate. Additionally, when new hazard data becomes available it will be added to the HMP. New data will be confirmed or denied along with the annual HMP report. For whatever reason, a HMP update can be written anytime it is deemed necessary by the Cedar County EMA.

Cedar County will begin their update process three years from this plan’s adoption according to FEMA DMA2000 guidelines on local mitigation plan updates under the direction of the EMA’s Emergency Manager.



**Cedar County Mitigation Planning Committee
Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan
Annual Report**

Hazard Mitigation Plan Sub Committee Chair:

Meeting Date:

Plan Approval Date:

Plan Expiration Date:

Have there been any disasters or training events since the last report? If so, list them below:

Disaster Number/Training Event	Hazard Type(s)	Was the hazard expected or unforeseen?	Is a plan update required?
Example: DR-1000	Volcanic Eruption	Unforeseen	Yes
Example: Annual Training	Flash Flooding	Expected	No

Mitigation Projects:

Project Name	Participating Jurisdictions	Proposed/Schedules/In Progress/Completed	Behind/Ahead/On-Schedule	Estimated Completion Date
Example: Floodproofing	Tipton	In Progress	On-Schedule	1/1/2020

Miscellaneous Notes: