

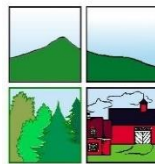
# Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022



*Westmoreland Flood 2012*

FEMA Approved (date)

Prepared by the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group  
and Southwest Region Planning Commission



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan serves as a means to reduce future losses from natural or man-made hazard events before they occur. The Plan was developed by the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group.

Natural hazards are addressed as follows:

- Inland Flooding
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Extreme Temperatures
- High Wind Events
- Infectious Disease
- Landslide
- Lightning
- Severe Winter Weather
- Solar Storms & Space Weather
- Tropical Storms & Hurricanes
- Wildfire

The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group, as shown per Chapter 5, identified *Critical Facilities* and *Areas at Risk* as follows:

### Critical Facilities

- Town Hall
- Schools and Day Cares
- Fire stations
- Fuel storage areas
- Town Garage
- Town Library
- Churches/Religious Facilities

### Areas at Risk

- Town Hall and Town Village
- Maplewood Nursing Home
- Park Hill Area
- Corner School
- Westmoreland United Church
- Union Church
- Schools & Day care centers
- Westmoreland School Recreation Field
- Pioneer School Playground
- Ballfields at NH 12/Mount Gilboa Road

The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group identified existing hazard mitigation programs as follows:

- Westmoreland Emergency Operations Plan

- FERC/ North Walpole Dam Action Plan
- Radiological Evacuation Plan
- Best Management Practices
- Flood Warning System
- Emergency Power Backup Program
- Local Road Design Standards
- Shoreland Protection Program
- Emergency Snow Removal Plan (informal)
- Hazardous Material Plan
- Town Adopted Building Code
- Town Radio System
- Tree Maintenance Program
- Town Master Plan
- Town Capital Improvements Plan
- Mutual Aid
- Bridge Design Standards
- Local Bridge Maintenance Program
- School Evacuation Plan
- State and Federal Dam Programs
- Town Warning System
- River Stewardship Program
- Code Enforcement Officer
- Mutual Aid
- Member of NFIP
- Evacuation Plan of Maplewood Nursing Home

The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group prioritized newly identified hazard mitigation strategies as follows:

- Provide public education & outreach about the importance of NFIP. Encourage participation.
- Provide public outreach & education on the River Stewardship Plan- Connecticut River Joint Commission (CRJC).
- Continue ongoing monitoring, by Town & NHDOT, of State roads and culverts. Maintain communications with NH DOT, NH DES, and NH HSEM.
- Update the Westmoreland Operations Plan (2015)
- Continue hazardous materials training for Fire Dept.
- Install a generator at Town Hall.
- Continue to update and educate the public on hazard mitigation, preparedness, evacuation, shelters. Add links to NH HSEM and FEMA on the Town website.
- Update the list of potential local resources (sand, backhoes, chainsaws, etc.) in the event of a hazard.
- Create and maintain a list of special needs residents.
- Respond to concerns of erosion that have the potential of physical or property impact. Seek actions to address the situation.
- Maintain updated local road design standards as needed.
- Upgrade the culvert at McAdam Road.
- Upgrade the culvert at Hunt Road/NH 63.
- Upgrade the culvert at Spofford Road.
- Upgrade other problem culverts

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

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### Methodology and Public Involvement

#### Purpose

The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022 is a planning tool to be used by the Town of Westmoreland, as well as other local, state and federal governments, in their efforts to reduce the effects from natural and man-made hazards. By maintaining an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Town is eligible to receive grant funding for mitigation projects.

#### Authority

This Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was prepared pursuant to Section 322, Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Act), herein enacted by Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA) (P.L. 106-390). This Act provides new and revitalized approaches to mitigation planning. Section 322 of DMA 2000 emphasizes the need for State, local and tribal entities to closely coordinate mitigation planning and implementation efforts. The development and periodic update of this plan satisfies the planning requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 which amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act).

#### Funding Source

This Plan was funded by the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management, with grants from FEMA's Pre-disaster Mitigation Program.

#### Scope of the Plan

The scope of this Plan includes the identification of past and potential natural and manmade hazards affecting the Town of Westmoreland, the determination of vulnerability of existing and future structures to the identified potential hazards, and the identification and discussion of new strategies aimed at mitigating the likely effects of potential hazards before they occur.

#### Methodology

Using the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2015, the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group updated the content of the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022. The Work Group held five meetings, open to the public.

Task 1 Determine the Planning Area & Resources: This task was conducted by town staff and the Regional Planning Commission. The results of this research were shared with the Work Group and can be found in Chapter 2, Community Profile.

Task 2 Building the Planning Team: The Emergency Management Director contacted town officials, department heads, and residents who might wish to volunteer their time and serve on a Work Group. The Westmoreland Board of Selectmen appointed the Work Group members.

Task 3 Create an Outreach Program: This task was used throughout the plan and is a vital part of the plan's

success. Many of the proposed actions involve a community outreach component for individuals to use as a means to reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future natural and man-made hazards.

Task 4 Review Community Capabilities: The Work Group brainstormed on the type of hazards and locations that have sustained or could be susceptible to each hazard within the Town.

The Work Group then identified and catalogued all of the critical facilities within the Town. The result is found in Chapter 5, Critical Facilities Analysis, with a location map at the end of the Plan.

Task 5 Conduct a Risk Assessment: The Work Group conducted several assessments to help determine the gaps in coverage. These include Vulnerability Assessments and Assessing Probability, Severity, and Risk (Chapter 3). In addition to the assessments, the existing mitigation strategies were reviewed to determine where gaps in coverage exist and areas that need improvement.

Task 6 Develop a Mitigation Strategy: The Work Group identified plans and policies that are already in place to reduce the effects of man-made and natural hazards. Then the Work Group evaluated the effectiveness of the existing measures to identify where they can be improved. The results are found in Chapter 7, Mitigation Strategies. The Work Group then developed the Mitigation Action Plan (Chapter 8), which is a clear strategy that outlines who is responsible for implementing each project, as well as when and how the actions will be implemented and the funding source.

Task 7 Keep the Plan Current: It is important to the Town of Westmoreland that this plan be monitored and updated annually or after a presidentially declared disaster. Chapter 9 addresses this issue.

Task 8 Review & Adopt the Plan: The Work Group members reviewed and approved each section of the plan as it was completed. After acceptance by the Work Group, the Plan was submitted to the New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Agency Region 1 Office, for review. On (add date) the Westmoreland Board of Selectmen held a duly-noticed public hearing to adopt the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022. Copies were made available at the Town Hall and the Town website for public review.

Task 9 Create a Safe & Resilient Community: The Work Group discussed the mitigation actions in the Action Plan and the ways in which the implementation of the actions will be beneficial to the community. Annual reviews of the Action Plan by the Work Group are needed to maintain the timeframes identified for completion of activities. Incorporation of the plan into other land use plans help to ensure that the goals of the plan are met. Implementation of the actions prior to a hazardous event can be funded through a variety of resources found at the end of this plan in Appendix D.

A final draft of this Plan was made available to the Work Group and the public for review and comment. The document was also provided to the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management for their review.

## Public Work Group Meetings

Work Group meetings were held at the Westmoreland Town Hall and via Zoom on the following dates: October 13, 2021, November 10, 2021, December 1, 2021, January 6, 2022 and February 10, 2022.

An email was sent to each Work Group member, prior to each meeting that contained an agenda (Appendix E), and information to be covered. Agendas were posted at the Town Hall to encourage public participation.



## Public Participation

In addition, an article was printed in the Southwest Region Planning Commission Newsletter prior to the first meeting to inform the members of the community as well as surrounding communities and other interested stakeholders in participating in this Plan update. Copies of the newsletter were sent to the 34 towns within the region, the Cheshire County Office, businesses, and other interested parties. It is also available on the Southwest Region Planning Commission website. In addition to the SWRPC newsletter and website, an email of the SWRPC Happenings was sent to more than 430 addresses, including neighboring communities, county, businesses, and academia. The email contains notices of public meetings and events.

A copy of the draft plan was made available for public review and input at the Town Hall from (add dates). In addition, the draft plan was also available for public viewing on the Town website to reach a broad range of interested parties. A copy of the public notice for the public viewing period is in Appendix E. All comments from the public were incorporated into the plan.

## Resource List for the Hazard Mitigation Work Group

Westmoreland’s Emergency Management Director (EMD), or designee, reviewed and coordinated with the following agencies in order to determine if any conflicts existed or if there were any potential areas for cooperation. All agencies were given the opportunity to attend Work Group meetings or provide input and guidance through virtual meeting, telephone conversation or printed material. Training support has been offered by some of those on this resource list.

New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management:			1-800-852-3792
Field Representative: Elizabeth Gilboy			(603) 223-3668
Mitigation Officer: Brian Eaton			(603) 227-8724
Mitigation Planner: John Marcel			(603) 223-3650
New Hampshire Department of Transportation:			
John Kallfelz (District 4)	Swanzey, NH		(603) 352-2302
Eversource Utility:			
Laurel Boivin	Keene, NH		(603) 357-7309
Westmoreland Town Hall:			
Jo Ann LaBarre, Town Administrator	780 Route 63, Westmoreland, NH		(603) 399-4471
Westmoreland School:			
Mark Hayward, Principal	40 Glebe Road, Westmoreland, NH		(603) 399-4421
Keene High School			
Cindy Gallagher, Principal	43 Arch Street, Keene, NH		(603) 352-0640

## Plan Updates

During the planning process, the Work Group reviewed relevant portions of the previous hazard mitigation plan and updated those portions accordingly. Unchanged sections were incorporated into the plan while other sections were amended to reflect changes. Particular attention was given to the previous mitigation strategies that have been completed to give a status update on those that remain on the list. The previous plan was used as a basis to begin the update. Amendments were made in each chapter to reflect changes that have occurred during the five-year period. Included in the changes were:

- Ch. 1 - Introduction - updated Methodology, Acknowledgements, etc., and added Plan Updates;
- Ch. 2 - Community Profile - NFIP policies updated, added Continued Compliance with NFIP;
- Ch. 3 - Assessing Probability, Severity, and Risk - updated risk assessment;
- Ch. 4 - Hazard Identification - updated hazards and their location;
- Ch. 5 - Critical Facilities - updated locations;
- Ch. 6 - Existing Mitigation Strategies and Proposed Improvements - updated chart and other data, updated chart for Status of Previous Mitigation Action Items;
- Ch. 7 - Proposed Mitigation Strategies - updated STAPLEE chart;
- Ch. 8 - Prioritized Implementation Schedule - updated Action Plan;
- Ch. 9 - Adoption, Implementation, Monitoring and Updates - Adoption certificate, updated information;
- Appendices - agendas, resources, public documentation.

This update was prepared with assistance from professional planners at Southwest Region Planning Commission trained in Hazard Mitigation Planning. Data and maps used to prepare this plan are available at their office and should be used in preparing future updates.

## Acknowledgements

The Westmoreland Board of Selectmen extends special thanks to the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group as follows:

Tom Finnegan, *Westmoreland Emergency Management Director*  
William Chase, *Westmoreland Deputy Emergency Management Director*  
Richard Meyer, *Westmoreland Deputy Emergency Management Director*  
Lauren Bresett, *Westmoreland Planning Board, Chair*  
Graham Gitchell, *Westmoreland Deputy Fire Chief*  
Mark Hayward, *Westmoreland School Principal*  
Jo Ann LaBarre, *Westmoreland Town Administrator*  
David Poklemba, *Westmoreland Road Agent*  
Clayton Stalker, *Westmoreland Board of Selectmen*

The Westmoreland Board of Selectmen offers thanks to the New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management for developing the State of New Hampshire Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2018 which served as a model for this plan. In addition, special thanks are extended to the staff of the Southwest Region Planning Commission for professional services, process facilitation and preparation of this document.

## Hazard Mitigation Goals

The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group reviewed the goals set forth in the New Hampshire Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - 2018. The Work Group generally concurs with those goals and has amended them to better meet the goals of the Town.

The overall Goals of the Town of Westmoreland with respect to Hazard Mitigation are stipulated here:

1. To improve upon the protection of the general population, the citizens of the Town of Westmoreland and guests, from all natural, technological and human-caused hazards.
2. To reduce the potential impact of natural, technological and human-caused hazards on the Town of Westmoreland's emergency response services, critical facilities and infrastructure.
3. To reduce the potential impact of natural, technological and human-caused disasters on the Town of Westmoreland's economy, natural resources, historic/cultural treasures, and private property.
4. To improve the Town of Westmoreland's Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response and Recovery Capability.
5. To reduce the Town of Westmoreland's risk with respect to natural, technological and human-caused hazards through outreach and education.
6. To identify, introduce and implement cost-effective hazard mitigation measures so as to accomplish the Town's goals and objectives, and to raise the awareness of and acceptance of hazard mitigation opportunities generally.
7. To address the challenges posed by climate change as they pertain to increasing risks in Westmoreland's infrastructure and natural environment.
8. To work in conjunction and cooperation with the State of New Hampshire's Hazard Mitigation Goals and with FEMA.
9. To provide a safe educational environment to students of Westmoreland's public schools.

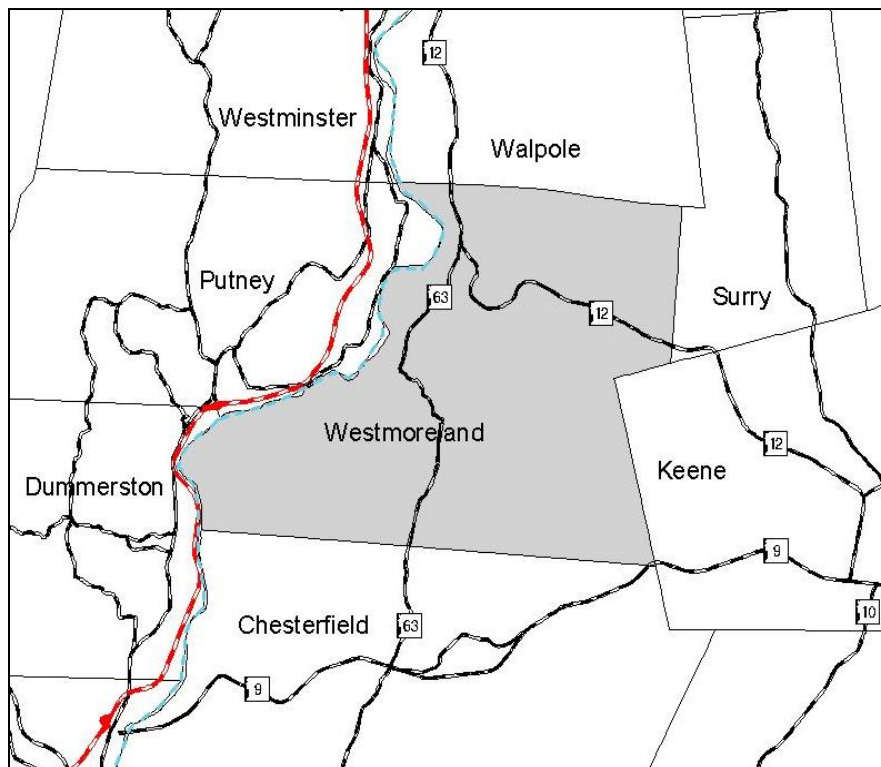
# Chapter 2

## Community Profile

### Town Overview

The Town of Westmoreland is located in the western portion of Cheshire County, in Southwest New Hampshire. Westmoreland is bounded on the north side by Walpole, easterly by Surry and Keene, southerly by Chesterfield and westerly by the Connecticut River. The Town has a population of 1,874 (including Maplewood Nursing Home).

Location Map of Westmoreland, NH



Source: SWRPC GIS Database

The Town of Westmoreland consists of 35.9 square miles and .9 square miles of inland water. There are several small first order streams in the Town of Westmoreland. The vast majority of these streams drain small valleys into the Connecticut River to the west.

The topography of Westmoreland consists of rolling hills interrupted by narrow valleys. The higher areas vary from very stony loam to rock outcrops. Westmoreland's elevation starts at 220 feet on the Connecticut River at the Chesterfield Town Line and rises to 1,500 feet in the eastern side of Town at the Surry border.

According to U.S. Climate Data, the average high temperature in 2015 was 31°F in January and 83°F in July. The annual precipitation in 2015 was 43.6 inches of rainfall and 55 inches of snowfall.

A three-member Board of Selectmen governs the Town of Westmoreland. The Town maintains a Town Administrator and Fire Chief, with a volunteer Fire Department. There is a full-time Road Agent. The

Cheshire Medical Center and the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic are located in Keene, 10 miles east of Westmoreland and the Brattleboro Hospital is located to the west in Vermont.

## Existing Land Uses

The total land area of Westmoreland is roughly 23,100 acres or approximately 35.9 square miles. Of this, approximately 22 percent is presently devoted to residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, agricultural, governmental, and road use. The remaining acreage is occupied by woodland, wetlands, surface water, or undeveloped open land.

Agriculture is the most predominant active use of land in Westmoreland. Farms, pastures, and fields for growing corn and hay are scattered throughout the Town, with major concentrations along the Connecticut River and in the central and southern portions of Town.

Industrial use represents the second largest land use category in Westmoreland. Included are a large crushed stone operation (1082 acres), the Hubbard Farms Research Center and several small manufacturing enterprises that account for approximately 1,200 acres of the Town's current land inventory.

Residential is the next most predominant use of land in Westmoreland. There is approximately 618 acres of residential land scattered throughout the Town with major concentrations in and around the South Village, East Westmoreland, Westmoreland Depot and Park Hill areas.

Roads account for approximately 63.5 miles of town and state roads in Westmoreland. This translates into approximately 278 acres of land in the community.

Commercial land activity accounts for an estimated 96 acres, and is concentrated in and around South Village and along NH Route 12 corridor with other small-scale commercial uses scattered throughout the town. The source for this acreage is based upon a list of 48 businesses provided by the town office.

Institutional and governmental uses account for approximately 31 acres. These land uses include churches, schools, cemeteries and town buildings, and are concentrated primarily in the Town's villages. The Maplewood Nursing Home and the Cheshire County Jail building are also included in this category; however the "County Farm" is considered an agricultural use. There appears to be no noticeable increase in these acres. The Cheshire County Jail was closed in 2010 and the future use of the building has not yet been determined.

In total, approximately 5,003 acres, or 22 percent of Westmoreland's area, is actively and regularly used for the above-mentioned categories of land use. This leaves some 18,097 acres, or 78 percent, open and potentially available for future development. Much of this land is probably unsuitable for future development for a variety of reasons. Large sections of Westmoreland are still remote and relatively inaccessible due to a lack of roads. Other areas are incompatible with intensive development due to the physical constraints of the land itself which include steep slopes, wetlands, seasonal high-water tables, floodplains, and shallow to bedrock soils. Finally, the future land use policies of the Town itself may preclude the intensive development of certain areas. The preservation of farmland or major aquifers are possible examples of land that could be preserved under such a policy. In order to develop a realistic future Land Use Plan, each of these factors must be carefully considered.

## Consideration for Development

Several factors have played, and will continue to play, an important role in the development of Westmoreland. These include: the existing development pattern and availability of land for future development; the present road network; physical factors such as steep slopes, poor soil conditions; and the availability of utilities. These factors have an impact, both individually and cumulatively, on where and how development occurs.

## Population Trends

The following table shows the population in Westmoreland, Cheshire County and New Hampshire between the years of 1970 and 2020 based on US Census data. The most significant growth occurred between 1970 and 1990. The information on this table indicates that the population in Westmoreland increased each decade between 1970 and 2010, but experienced a decline of 168 people between 2010 and 2020. The population change from 1970 to 2020 in Westmoreland outpaced Cheshire County as indicated in the last column below.

**Population Trend 1970-2010**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	% Change 1970-2020
<b>Westmoreland</b>	998	1,452	1,596	1,747	1,874	1,706	58%
<b>Cheshire County</b>	52,364	62,116	70,121	73,825	77,177	76,458	46%
<b>New Hampshire</b>	737,681	920,610	1,109,252	1,235,786	1,316,256	1,377,529	87%

*Source: US Census 2020*

## Current Development Trends

The Town of Westmoreland continues to experience growth pressures due in large part to the continued commercial and industrial growth of Keene, Brattleboro and Bellows Falls coupled with a decline in the number of available locations to place homes and businesses in those areas. Another significant reason is the perceived quality of life to be experienced in Town including a highly regarded school system and strong sense of community. These changes have not been without consequences. To what extent these changes will affect and influence the Town and to what extent the Town will influence changes will depend predominately on how it plans, prepares, and looks ahead to the future.

Westmoreland, in addition to having the same opportunities and challenges as other communities does have many natural attributes that are aesthetically unique assets. If proper planning takes into consideration limiting factors such as topography, these natural attributes can remain an asset rather than a liability to development.

## Changes in Development

The demographic trends in the previous sections indicate that Westmoreland's population and development is increasing at a slower rate than in previous decades. This provides an opportunity to plan for future events rather than react as they occur. As the population continues to grow, new development has been outside of the flood prone areas which has helped to protect the residents from any increase in vulnerability

of hazards. As the intensity of storms continues to increase though, it is important to review the existing programs and strategies, and improve upon areas that are needed. The plan was revised with this in mind and strategies were considered during the Work Group meetings.

## Development in Hazard Areas

Hazards identified in this plan are regional risks and, as such, all new development falls into the hazard area. The exception to this is flooding. Currently, based on the Community Information System (CIS) records of FEMA, there are 10 structures located within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) in Westmoreland.

## National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Westmoreland is a participating member of the National Flood Insurance Program and entered into the program on April 2, 1986. Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) with the effective date of May 23, 2006 are used for flood insurance purposes. The most recent Flood Insurance Study was also done on May 23, 2006. There are approximately 10 structures located in the FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA's), and four NFIP policies; three residential policies and one non-residential policy,. There are currently no "Repetitive Loss Properties" insured under the NFIP within the Town of Westmoreland.

## Continued Compliance with NFIP Requirements

The Town of Westmoreland acknowledges the importance of maintaining requirements set forth in the National Flood Insurance Program. As such, the Town took steps related to continued compliance with the program that will help to reduce or eliminate the potential for loss of life and property due to flooding.

The following actions have been taken since the last Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Maintained and replaced culverts;
- Disseminated information to residents about flooding;
- Participated in NFIP training offered by the State and/or FEMA that addresses flood hazard planning and management;
- Improved public outreach by updating the Town website to include a link to FEMA's website; and
- Continued to enforce the Floodplain Development Ordinance.

While this update continues with structural projects, public outreach and education are also seen as a key to providing information to residents by raising an awareness of measures that they can take. Many of these items will be on-going actions to maintain awareness and continued monitoring

# Chapter 3

## Assessing Probability, Severity and Risk

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### Method for Rating Potential Hazardous Impacts

The Westmoreland Work Group members completed a risk assessment of the types of hazards that could occur in Town. The *Severity* was calculated by determining the average of the human, property and business impacts. *Risk* was calculated by multiplying severity by probability. Low, Medium and High risk was assigned as shown below. Appendix B provides explanations for the risk assessment measures.

Impacts: The Impact is an estimate generally based on a hazard's effects on humans, property, and businesses. The Working Group determined the impact rating for each of the previously identified hazards. The average impact score was calculated by computing the average of the human, property, and business impact scores. The impact ratings were broken down into the following categories:

#### Impact Scoring

- 1 - 2 Inconvenience, reduced service/productivity, minor damages, non-life-threatening injuries (Low)
- 3 - 4 Moderate to major damages, temporary closure and reduced service/productivity, numerous injuries and deaths (Medium)
- 5 - 6 Devastation and significant injuries and deaths, permanent closure and/or relocation of services, long-term effects (High)

Probability of Occurrence: The Probability of Occurrence is a numeric value that represents the likelihood that the given hazard will occur within the next ten years. This value was chosen based on historical information. The Working Group determined the probability of occurrence rating for each of the previously identified hazards. The probability of occurrence ratings was broken into the following categories:

#### Probability Scoring

- 1 - 2 0-33% probability of occurring within 10 years (Low)
- 3 - 4 34-66% probability of occurring within 10 years (Medium)
- 5 - 6 67-100% probability of occurring within 10 years (High)

Overall Risk: The Overall Risk is a representation of the combined potential impact and probability of occurrence ratings. This is calculated by multiplying the probability of occurrence rating score by the impact rating score (the average of human, property, and business impacts). The goal of identifying the overall risk of each identified hazard is to assist the town in determining which hazards pose the largest potential threat. This will allow the Working Group to use the overall risk ratings to develop targeted mitigation actions that allocate funding and resources to the highest rated hazards first. The overall risk ratings are broken down and color coded into the following categories:

- White: values 1 - 6 Low Risk
- Yellow: values 7 - 12 Medium Risk
- Red: values 13 + High Risk



### Risk Assessment Chart

	Threat/Hazard	Classification	Human Impact	Property Impact	Economic/ Business Impact	Average Impact Score	Probability of Occurrence	Overall Risk
	Inland Flooding	High	3	3	2	2.7	6	16
	Drought	Low	1	1	3	1.7	3	5
	Earthquakes	Low	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Extreme Temperatures	Low	2	1	1	1.3	3	4
	High Wind Events	High	2	4	3	3	6	18
	Infectious Disease	High	3	1	3	2.3	6	14
	Landslide	Low	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Lightning	Low	1	1	1	1	6	6
	Severe Winter Weather	High	3	3	1	2.3	6	14
	Solar Storms & Space Weather	Low	1	1	1	1	3	3
	Tropical Storm and Hurricane	Medium	3	3	2	2.7	3	8
	Wildfire	Low	1	2	1	1.3	1	1
TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS	Aging Infrastructure	High	3	3	1	2.3	6	14
	Conflagration	N/A	----	----	----	----	----	N/A
	Dam Failure out of Town	Low	3	3	1	2.3	1	2
	Dams w/in Town	Low	1	2	1	1.3	1	1
	Known & Emerging Contaminants	Low	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Hazardous Materials	Low	3	2	2	2.3	1	2
	Long-term Utility Outage (1 week)	Low	2	1	1	1.3	3	4
	Radiological	N/A	----	----	----	----	----	N/A
HUMAN-CAUSED	Cyber Event	Medium	1	1	3	1.7	6	10
	Mass Casualty Incident	Low	6	1	1	2.7	1	3
	Terrorism/Violence	Low	6	1	1	2.7	1	3
	Transport Accident	Low	6	1	1	2.7	1	3

# Chapter 4

## Past and Potential Hazards

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### Identification and Assessment

The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group discussed hazard events that have occurred within the last five years. They also looked at the type of hazards that could occur within Town. These hazards were identified by using the New Hampshire Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018), the Federal Emergency Management Agency website, the previous Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the Westmoreland Hazard Risk Assessment. From this list, the Work Group developed a summary for each hazard type to provide information on past and potential events, risk and impact. In some instances, specific locations of hazard events that have occurred within the past five years have been recorded. Estimates of the impact of some of the events is also noted where possible.

Information in this chapter is only given for the medium and high-risk natural hazards identified in the previous chapter. These include: flooding, high wind events/tornados, infectious disease, severe winter weather, tropical storms/hurricanes. Hazards that ranked as low-risk hazards are not included in the remaining chapters of this plan because the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group felt that the risk was so minimal that resources and efforts would be better utilized on the higher-ranking hazards. The low-risk natural hazards include: drought, extreme temperatures, earthquake, landslide, lightning, and solar storms and space weather, and wildfires. The Work Group also identified the following medium and high-ranked technological hazards and human-caused hazards that have occurred in Town or have the potential to occur: aging infrastructure and cyber event.

Existing and future structures have the potential of being affected by some of the hazards identified in this Plan. Some hazards identified in this plan are regional or town-wide risks and, as such, all structures, infrastructure and critical facilities fall into the hazard area. As the population continues to grow, new development has been outside of the flood prone areas which has helped to protect the residents from any increase in vulnerability of hazards. However, as the intensity of storms continues to increase, it is important to review the existing programs and strategies, and improve upon areas that are needed.

#### Flooding

Risk: High

Impact: Medium

Future Probability: High

Floods are defined as a temporary overflow of water onto lands that are not normally covered by water. Flooding results from the overflow of major rivers and tributaries, storm surges, and/or inadequate local drainage. Floods can cause loss of life, property damage, crop/livestock damage, and water supply contamination. Floods can also disrupt travel routes on roads and bridges. Inland floods are most likely to occur in the spring due to the increase in rainfall and melting of snow; however, floods can occur at any time of the year. A sudden thaw in the winter or a major downpour in the summer can cause flooding because there is suddenly a lot of water in one place with nowhere to go.

Floodplains are usually located in lowlands near rivers, and flood on a regular basis. The term 100-year flood does not mean that a flood of this magnitude will occur once every 100 years. It is a statement of probability that scientists and engineers use to describe how one flood compares to others that are likely to

occur. It is more accurate to use the phrase “1% annual chance flood”. What this means is that there is a 1% chance of a flood of that size happening in any year.

### **Past Events:**

July 1-2, 2017: FEMA Disaster Declaration #4329 for Grafton County. Heavy rains occurred and caused some road damage to Aldrich Road, Makinen Road, and London Road. No additional information was recorded.

October 29, 2017 to November 1, 2017: Heavy rains occurred, but no local impact to Town services and no structural damages, injuries, or death were reported due to this event.

March 2, 2018: Heavy rains occurred, but no local impact to Town services and no structural damages, injuries, or death were reported due to this event.

July 17-19, 2021: Westmoreland received approximately five inches of rain in a period of less than sixteen hours. The heavy rainfall caused culverts and drainage systems to become overwhelmed with water and at times plugged with debris which caused NH Route 12 to be closed for approximately 30 minutes. There was also some debris on the rail trail.

July 29-30, 2021:

Heavy rain event only ten days from the previous event causing streams to again rise. There was no local impact to Town services and no structural damages, injuries, or death were reported due to this event.

### **Potential Occurrences:**

Annual events due to heavy rains and snow melt continue to challenge the capacity and integrity of the existing stormwater infrastructure. This is especially a concern in areas along the Mill Brook and Partridge Brook and smaller streams throughout Town.

Areas along NH 12, Poocham Road, Aldrich Road, Makinen Road, and London Road are areas of concern during heavy rain events.

### **Potential Impact:**

- There is a potential for injuries and loss of life, structural damage and interruption of services.
- There is potential for damage/repair to the road surface and flooding of roads due to accumulation of heavy rain and runoff which could cause a delay in the response time of emergency services.

### **Drought**

Risk: Low

Impact: Low

Future Probability: Medium

Droughts are a natural hazard that impacts the entire Town. A greater emphasis is placed on responding to these hazards rather than mitigating for them. Outreach and education on methods of dealing with drought are important. The severity of droughts can be found by referring to the Palmer Drought Severity Index and can be viewed at: [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/monitoring\\_and\\_data/drought.shtml](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/monitoring_and_data/drought.shtml). The chart on the next page shows the intensity scale that is used with the Palmer Drought Severity Index to describe the observed impact with each category.

## Palmer Drought Severity Index

Category	Intensity	Impact
D0	Abnormally Dry	Crop growth is stunted; fire danger is elevated; lawns brown and gardens wilt; surface water levels are lower.
D1	Moderate Drought	Wildfires and brush fires increase; increased use of irrigation for crops; hay and grain yields are lower; honey production declines; trees and fish are stressed making them susceptible to disease; water conservation is recommended.
D2	Severe Drought	Water quality and quantity declines; irrigation ponds are dry and hay crops are impacted causing economic hardship to farms; crop yields and size of fruit are reduced; outdoor burning is limited; air quality is poor; impact on the health of trees and wildlife is observed.
D3	Extreme Drought	Crop loss, farms are stressed and are experiencing a financial impact; extremely reduced flow or ceased flow of water; river temperatures are warm; wildlife disease is increased; many wells are dry; new and deeper wells are needed.
D4	Exceptional Drought	NH has little or no experience in D4, so no impacts have been recorded at this level.

Source: NOAA

### Past Events:

- Summer of 2018 - drought conditions existed throughout New Hampshire. There was no local impact. Impact to agriculture fields causing some crop damage and an increased cost for irrigation.
- Summer of 2020 - drought conditions existed throughout New Hampshire. Impact to agriculture fields causing some crop damage and an increased cost for irrigation.
- Spring 2021 - drought conditions had an impact to the agricultural fields causing small and immature crops.

### Potential Occurrences:

- This is a recurring event that impacts the entire Town. Areas that are most impacted from droughts are farms and residents with wells.

### Potential Impact:

- Drought will increase the risk of wildfire, especially in areas of high recreational use and as more timberland is set aside as non-harvested timberland.
- Some private wells may run dry.
- Minimal impact to Town services.

### Extreme Temperatures

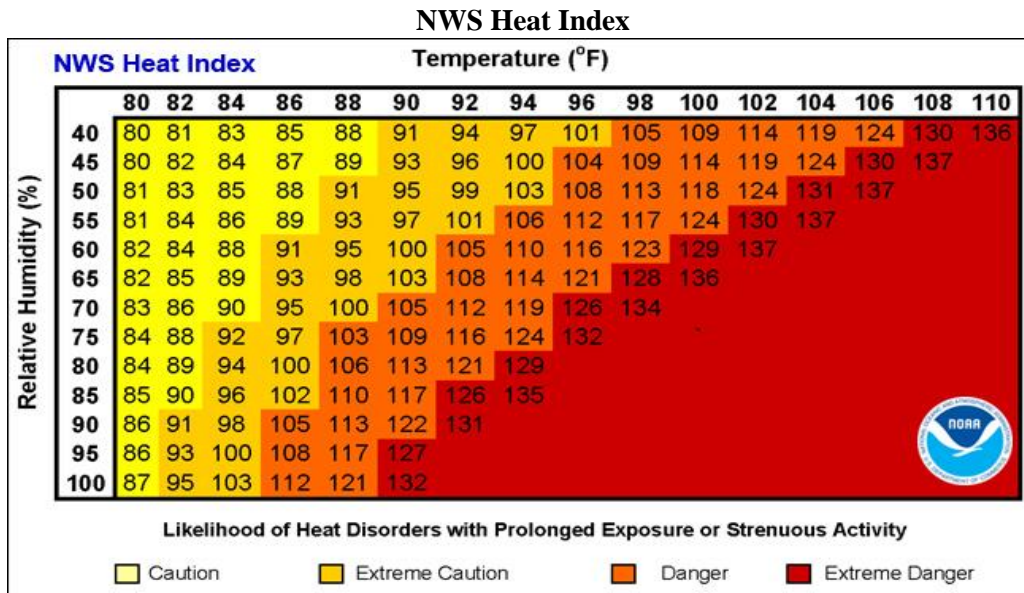
Risk: Low

Impact: Low

Future probability: Medium

**Extreme heat** is characterized by abnormally high temperatures and/or longer than average time periods of high temperatures. Although it is an infrequent event, it usually occurs on an annual basis between late July and August and happens town wide. The severity of extreme heat can be dangerous to those residents with medical conditions and the elderly. It is important to have cooling areas and a good supply of water available. Extreme heat can add to the potential for wildfires and depletion of the water supply for firefighting. The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group did not recall any impact to the Town services due to this hazard. They also did not recall any death, injuries or structural damage as a result of

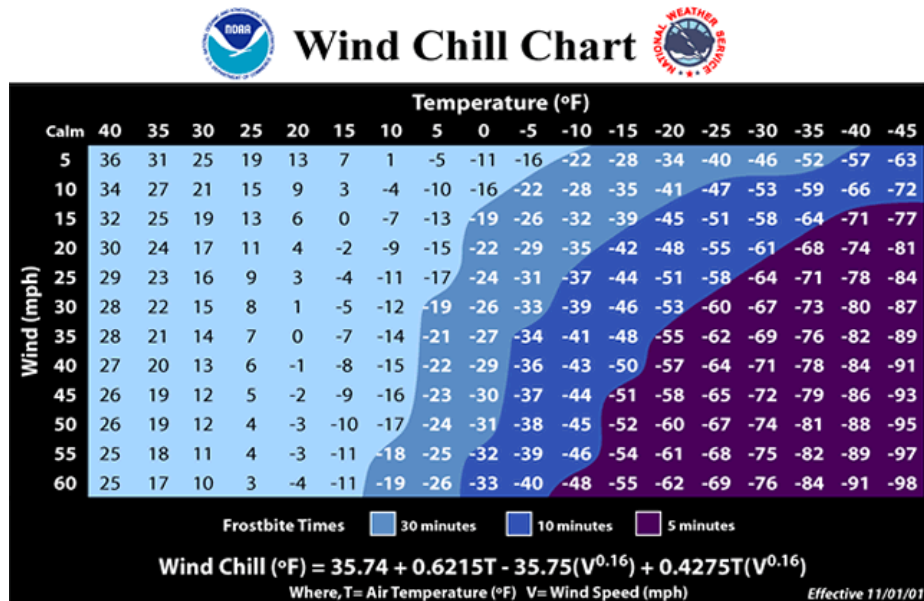
extreme heat. The NWS Heat Index is an indicator of the likelihood of heat disorders with prolonged exposure or strenuous activity, especially for those with a history of stroke and heart issues.



Source: National Weather Service

**Extreme cold** events occur during meteorological cold waves, also known as cold snaps that are caused by the southern transport of arctic airmasses into the Northeast. These events are most common in winter months and increase the likelihood of cold disorders in humans and animals that have prolonged exposure to low ambient temperatures. Cold disorders can include frostbite and hypothermia which can eventually lead to death. Extreme cold can also damage or kill crops and animals (wild, farm, or domesticated), potentially presenting a risk to the economy.

The Wind Chill Chart below shows the impact that wind and cold temperatures can have by indicating the number of minutes until frostbite strikes.



**Past Events:**

- There have been no impactful events of extreme heat or cold that the Work Group recalled since the last plan update.

**Potential Occurrences:**

- Extreme temperatures are a town-wide event.

**Potential Impact:**

- Higher elevations are impacted more by extreme temperatures.
- Vulnerable populations are at greater risk.
- High heat causes an increase in EMS calls.

**High Wind, Tornado, Downburst**

Risk: High

Impact: Medium

Future probability: High

Risk from tornados is considered to be medium in Cheshire County. The Enhanced Fujita Scale is used to determine the intensity of tornadoes. Most tornadoes are in the F0 to F2 Class. Building to modern wind standards provides significant property protection from these hazard events. New Hampshire is located within Zone 2 for Design Wind Speed for Community Shelters, which is 160 mph, and is also noted as being within a hurricane susceptible region.

**Past events (regional):**

The southwestern portion of the state is considered a special wind hazard area as demonstrated by the high proportion of tornadoes and severe wind events that are experienced in this Region annually. On July 3, 1997 several tornadoes struck this section of the State. An F1 tornado caused severe tree loss in Swanzey, destroying a building and damaging the stables at the Cheshire Fairgrounds. Although outside the Southwest Region, the 2008 Barnstead tornado caused significant damage and also involved loss of life. Therefore, this is a real hazard and the damage it could inflict should not to be taken lightly.

**Local events:** There was a microburst in 2019 that caused downed trees and road blockages. Mutual aid was called from Spofford to assist with tree removal on Glebe Road, Hatt Road, Bump Road and River Road. There were no deaths or injuries as a result of this weather event.

**Potential Occurrences:**

- River corridors and hill tops are more susceptible.
- This is a town wide event; therefore, no specific locations are listed.

**Potential Impact:**

- There is a potential for structural damage;
- There is a potential for loss of life and property as well as disruption of utility service; and
- Such events cause small blocks of downed timber.

The **Enhance Fajita Scale** is used to rate the intensity of a tornado by examining the damage caused by the tornado once it has passed.

**EF-0:** Wind speed 65-85 mph.; frequency 53.5%. Minor damage.

**EF-1:** Wind speed 86-101 mph.; frequency 31.6%. Moderate damage.

**EF-2:** Wind speed 111-135 mph.; frequency 10.0%. Considerable damage.

**EF-3:** Wind speed 136-165 mph.; frequency 3.4%. Severe damage.

**EF-4:** Wind speed 166-200 mph.; frequency 0.7%. Extreme damage.

**EF-5:** Wind speed >200 mph.; frequency 0.1%. Total destruction.

## **Infectious Disease**

Risk: High

Impact: Medium

Future probability: High

Epidemics may be caused by infectious diseases, which can be transmitted through food, water, the environment or person-to-person or animal-to-person; and noninfectious diseases, such as a chemical exposure, that causes increased rates of illness. Infectious diseases that may cause an epidemic can be broadly categorized into the following groups:

- Foodborne (Salmonellosis, E. Coli)
- Water (Cholera, Giardiasis)
- Vaccine Preventable (Measles, Mumps)
- Sexually Transmitted (HIV, Syphilis)
- Person-to-Person (TB, meningitis)
- Arthropod borne (Lyme, West Nile Virus)
- Zoonotic (Rabies, Psittacosis)
- Opportunistic fungal and fungal infections (Candidiasis)

### **Extent:**

The magnitude and severity of infectious diseases is described by its speed of onset (how quickly people become sick or cases are reported) and how widespread the infection is. Some infectious diseases are inherently more dangerous and deadly than others, but the best way to describe the extent of infectious diseases relates to the disease occurrence:

- Endemic - Constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infection agent in a population within a geographic area
- Hyperendemic - The persistent, high levels of disease occurrence
- Cluster - Aggregation of cases grouped in place and time that are suspected to be greater than the number expected even though the expected number may not be known
- Epidemic - An increase, usually sudden, in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected
- Outbreak - The same as epidemic, but over a much smaller geographical area
- Pandemic - Epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting many people

### **Past Events:**

January 20, 2020 and continuing; COVID-19 PANDEMIC (DR-4516-NH) Major Disaster Declaration declared on April 3, 2020. The Covid-19 Pandemic that began in 2020 resulted in numerous residents to

become ill and also some deaths in Town. In addition, it created economic hardship for many due to loss of work, school closures and business closures, and a social impact for many, especially the old. Most meetings were switched to remote meetings. This pandemic is still occurring, so data will be forthcoming in the next update of this plan.

**Potential Occurrences:**

- This is a town wide event; therefore, no specific locations are listed.

**Potential Impact:**

- Those with weakened immune systems are at greater risk during these events.
- There is a potential for injury or death to people, domestic animals and wildlife.
- There is a potential for risk to waterbodies and wildlife habitat.
- There is a potential for loss of crops and vegetation, and economic disparity.

**Lightning**

Risk: Low

Impact: Low

Future probability: Low

Lightning is a low-risk hazard; however, the Work Group was aware of a few occurrences worth mentioning and decided to include information in this Plan. Lightning is a natural hazard that is unpredictable. It could strike anywhere during a storm and potentially start a forest fire, especially in periods of drought. High elevations and areas around waterbodies may be more susceptible to lightning strike incidents. The table below categorizes lightning hazards according to the Lightning Activity Level (LAL) using cloud conditions and precipitation, and an estimate of lightning strikes per every 15 minutes.

LAL	Cloud & Storm Development	Lightning Strikes/15 min.
1	No thunderstorms.	---
2	Cumulus clouds are common but few reach the towering cumulus stage. A single thunderstorm must be confirmed in the observation area. Light rain will occasionally reach the ground. Lightning is very infrequent.	1 - 8
3	Towering cumulus covers less than two-tenths of the sky. Thunderstorms are few, but two to three must occur within the observation area. Light to moderate rain will reach the ground, and lightning is infrequent.	9 - 15
4	Towering cumulus covers two to three-tenths of the sky. Thunderstorms are scattered and more than 3 must occur within the observation area. Moderate rain is common & lightning is frequent.	16 - 25
5	Towering cumulus and thunderstorms are numerous. They cover more than three-tenths and occasionally obscure the sky. Rain is moderate to heavy and lightning is frequent and intense.	>25
6	Similar to LAL 3 but thunderstorms are dry.	16 - 25

Source: NOAA



**Past Events:**

There have been two occurrences of lightning strikes that have caused damage to private properties since the previous plan was approved but the Work Group could not recall exact dates.

- River Road - a house was struck which resulted in the loss of some appliances but no injuries or structural damage.
- Owls Hill Road - a house was struck which resulted in a structural fire. No injuries and no estimate of damage were noted.

**Potential Occurrences:**

- Lightning could occur town wide, therefore, no specific locations are identified; however, river corridors and hill tops in Westmoreland are more susceptible.
- Antennas and satellites, church steeples, cupolas, and other upward protruding architectural features are at greater risk for lightning strikes.
- Hikers, fisherman and boaters are at risk during lightning events and should seek safe shelter.

**Potential Impact:**

- Forested areas with a high fuel load are a high risk for forest fire during lightning storms.
- Telephone and power outages often occur when transformers are hit by lightning or when a tree gets struck and falls onto the lines.
- There is a potential for damage to structures.
- There is a potential for injury or death.

**Severe Winter Weather**

Risk: High  
Impact: Low  
Future probability: High

Three types of winter events that cause concern are heavy snow, ice storms and extreme cold. Westmoreland’s recent history has not recorded any loss of life due to the extreme winter weather. These random events are difficult to set a cost to repair or replace any of the structures or utilities affected.

To help prepare for these events, the Sperry Piltz Ice Accumulation Index was created.

<b>THE SPIA INDEX™</b>	
<b>ICE DAMAGE INDEX</b>	<b>DAMAGE AND IMPACT DESCRIPTIONS</b>
<b>0</b>	Minimal risk of damage to exposed utility systems; no alerts or advisories needed for crews, few outages.
<b>1</b>	Some isolated or localized utility interruptions are possible, typically lasting only a few hours. Roads and bridges may become slick and hazardous.
<b>2</b>	Scattered utility interruptions expected, typically lasting 12 to 24 hours. Roads and travel conditions may be extremely hazardous due to ice accumulation.
<b>3</b>	Numerous utility interruptions with some damage to main feeder lines and equipment expected. Tree limb damage is excessive. Outages lasting 1-5 days.
<b>4</b>	Prolonged and widespread utility interruptions with extensive damage to main distribution feeder lines and some high voltage transmission lines/structures. Outages lasting 5-10 days.
<b>5</b>	Catastrophic damage to entire exposed utility systems, including both distribution and transmission networks. Outages could last several weeks in some areas. Shelters needed.

### **Past Events:**

- November 26, 2014: Snowstorm - New Hampshire, Thanksgiving Storm. The 4th largest power outage in NH. Some residents lost power for several hours.
- January 26-29, 2015: Snowstorm - FEMA Disaster Declaration # DR-4049; \$4,939,215. Severe winter storm and snowstorm. Residents experienced minor power outages. There was no local impact to the Town other than snow removal.
- March 14-15, 2017 - Heavy snow and wind occurred throughout the state. There were no injuries or structural damage reported as a result of the storm.
- March 13-14, 2018 - Heavy snow storm but no local impact. FEMA Disaster Declaration # DR-4371 for Carroll, Strafford and Rockingham Counties.

### **Potential Occurrences:**

- This is a town wide event; therefore, no specific locations are listed, however, roads with moderate to steep grades are a concern for driver safety.

### **Potential Impact:**

- There is a potential for interruption of service.
- There is a potential of damage to structures.
- There is a potential for injury or death.
- The freezing and thawing increases repair and maintenance costs on the town budget.

### **Solar Storms and Space Weather**

Risk: Low

Impact: Low

Future probability: Medium

The term space weather is relatively new and describes the dynamic conditions in the Earth's outer space environment, similar to how the terms "climate" and "weather" refer to the conditions in the Earth's lower atmosphere. Space weather includes any and all conditions and events on the sun, in the solar wind, in near-Earth space, and in our upper atmosphere that can affect space-borne and ground based technological systems.

The chart on the next page shows the level of severity of space weather as it relates to the impact on radio communications. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) uses this chart to alert those who depend on radio communications such as first responders and airlines on days that could create life threatening situations if their radios are impacted.

## Radio Blackout

Scale	Description	Effect	Physical measure	Average Frequency (1 cycle = 11 years)
R 5	<b>Extreme</b>	<b>HF Radio:</b> Complete HF (high frequency) radio blackout on the entire sunlit side of the Earth lasting for a number of hours. This results in no HF radio contact with mariners and en route aviators in this sector. <b>Navigation:</b> Low-frequency navigation signals used by maritime and general aviation systems experience outages on the sunlit side of the Earth for many hours, causing loss in positioning. Increased satellite navigation errors in positioning for several hours on the sunlit side of Earth, which may spread into the night side.	X20 ( $2 \times 10^{-3}$ )	Less than 1 per cycle
R 4	<b>Severe</b>	<b>HF Radio:</b> HF radio communication blackout on most of the sunlit side of Earth for one to two hours. HF radio contact lost during this time. <b>Navigation:</b> Outages of low-frequency navigation signals cause increased error in positioning for one to two hours. Minor disruptions of satellite navigation possible on the sunlit side of Earth.	X10 ( $10^{-3}$ )	8 per cycle (8 days per cycle)
R 3	<b>Strong</b>	<b>HF Radio:</b> Wide area blackout of HF radio communication, loss of radio contact for about an hour on sunlit side of Earth. <b>Navigation:</b> Low-frequency navigation signals degraded for about an hour.	X1 ( $10^{-4}$ )	175 per cycle (140 days per cycle)
R 2	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>HF Radio:</b> Limited blackout of HF radio communication on sunlit side, loss of radio contact for tens of minutes. <b>Navigation:</b> Degradation of low-frequency navigation signals for tens of minutes.	M5 ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$ )	350 per cycle (300 days per cycle)
R 1	<b>Minor</b>	<b>HF Radio:</b> Weak or minor degradation of HF radio communication on sunlit side, occasional loss of radio contact. <b>Navigation:</b> Low-frequency navigation signals degraded for brief intervals.	M1 ( $10^{-5}$ )	2000 per cycle (950 days per cycle)

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

This is a new hazard that has been added to this plan. It is anticipated that this will be discussed further in future plans.

### Past Events:

- This is a hazard that is difficult to detect and the Work Group was not aware of any specific dates of occurrence. There have been no incidents of damage or interruption of communication services recorded in Westmoreland.

### Potential Occurrences:

- The entire Town is at risk for solar storms and space weather. There is a concern for disruption in emergency services communications and businesses that rely on the internet.

### Potential Impact:

- There is a potential for interruption of service.
- Solar storms and space weather can impact the connections for emergency services. It can also impact the wells and tanks which communicate by radio.

## Tropical Storm/Hurricane

Risk: Medium

Impact: Medium

Future probability: Medium

There is concern for tropical storms and hurricanes to impact Westmoreland. Westmoreland's inland location in southwestern New Hampshire reduces the risk of extreme high winds that are associated with hurricanes. A major hurricane can cause significant damage to a community. Most of the damage is caused by high water and high winds.

### **Past Events from 2014 to present:**

- August 2020 - remnants of Tropical Storm Isaias - many power outages, for less than 24 hours, monitoring the need for opening the emergency shelter, downed trees and road clean-up.

### **Potential Occurrences:**

- River corridors and hill tops are more susceptible.
- This is a town wide event; therefore, no specific locations are listed.

### **Potential Impact:**

- There is a potential for injury or death;
- There is a potential for structural damage and disruption of utility service.
- There is a potential for flooding of evacuation routes and other roads.

### **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale**

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 rating system based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale estimates potential property damage. Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous, and require preventative measures.

#### Category 1

Wind Speed: 74 - 95 mph, 64 - 82 kts

Very dangerous winds will produce some damage. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.

#### Category 2

Wind Speed: 96 - 110 mph, 83 - 95 kts

Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.

#### Category 3

Wind Speed: 111 - 129 mph, 96 - 112 kts

Devastating damage will occur. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.

#### Category 4

Wind Speed: 130 - 156 mph, 113 - 136 kts

Catastrophic damage will occur. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

#### Category 5

Wind Speed: 157 mph or higher, 137 kts or higher

Catastrophic damage will occur. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

Source: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.php>

## Wildfire

Risk: Low

Impact: Low

Future probability: Low

The Town has minimal risk for wildfires, however, there is a substantial amount of debris on the ground from the ice storms of 1998 and 2008, wind shears, heavy winds, and logging practices. As timber harvesting is reduced, wood roads close and debris builds up on the ground, the potential for wildfire increases town-wide.

### **Past Events:**

- A brush fire occurred on Highland Hill Road that burned approximately 1.5 acres. There were no injuries or structural damage. Mutual aid was needed for this event.

### **Potential Occurrences:**

- The potential for a wildfire is higher in the forested areas of Westmoreland;
- A lack of direct access to many remote areas within Town adds to the danger.

### **Potential Impact:**

- There is a potential for the risk of life and property loss;
- There is a potential for loss of wildlife habitat and timber; and
- There is a potential for disruption of utility service.

Wildfires are classified according to size: Class A - one-fourth acre or less; Class B - greater than one-fourth acre, but less than 10 acres; Class C - 10 acres or more, but less than 100 acres; Class D - 100 acres or more, but less than 300 acres; Class E - 300 acres or more, but less than 1,000 acres; Class F - 1,000 acres or more, but less than 5,000 acres; Class G - 5,000 acres or more. The wildfires in Westmoreland have mostly been small in nature and caused by lightning strikes (Class A or B).

## Dam Failure

Risk: Low

Impact: Low

Future probability: Low

The Work Group considers dam failure to be a low risk with low probability. There is at least one beaver dam off of McAdam Road that could cause damage to Bump Road if it suddenly is damaged.

# Chapter 5

## Critical Facilities

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### Category and Location

A Critical Facility is defined as a building, structure, or location which:

- Is vital to the hazard response effort;
- Maintains an existing level of protection from hazards for the community;
- Would create a secondary disaster if a hazard were to impact it.

The Critical Facilities List for the Town of Westmoreland was initially developed using an identified critical facilities list provided by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer. It has been updated based on input provided by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Work Group. The Critical Facilities Map at the end of this Plan identifies these facilities. Both the critical facilities list and map have been updated to reflect the hazard mitigation plan update process.

Westmoreland's Hazard Mitigation Work Group has broken up this list of facilities into four categories. The first category contains facilities needed for emergency response in the event of a disaster. The second category contains non-emergency response facilities that have been identified by the Work Group as non-essential. These are not required in an emergency response event, but are considered essential for the everyday operation of Westmoreland. The third category contains facilities/populations that the Work Group identified which may need protection in the event of a disaster. The fourth category contains potential resources, which can provide services or supplies in the event of a disaster.

#### **Critical Facilities Within Hazard Areas**

Hazards identified in this plan are regional risks and, as such, all critical facilities fall into the hazard area. The exception to this is flooding. Two identified critical facilities fall within the 100-year floodplain. The facilities are the wastewater treatment facility and a bridge on River Road.

The critical facilities list for the Town of Westmoreland has been identified utilizing a critical facilities list provided by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer. Westmoreland's Hazard Mitigation Planning Work Group has broken up this list of facilities into four categories. The first category contains facilities needed for Emergency Response in the event of a disaster. The second category contains Non-Emergency Response Facilities that have been identified by the Work Group as non-essential. These are not required in an emergency response event, but are considered essential for the everyday operation of Westmoreland. The third category contains Facilities/Populations that the Work Group wishes to protect in the event of a disaster. The fourth category contains Potential Resources, which can provide services or supplies in the event of a disaster. The Critical Facilities Map at the end of this Plan identifies these facilities.

#### **Category 1 - Emergency Response Services:**

The Town has identified the Emergency Response Facilities and Services as the highest priority in regards to protection from natural and man-made hazards.

##### **1. Emergency Operations Center**

Westmoreland Fire Station - 772 NH 63

2. Fire Station

Westmoreland Fire Station - 772 NH 63

3. Emergency Fuel Facilities

Town Municipal Garage - 23 McAdam Road

Jiffy Mart - 1035 NH 12

Big Deal- NH Route 9 in Spofford

4. Emergency Shelters

Westmoreland School - 40 Glebe Road (existing)

Maplewood Nursing Home -201 River Road (existing)

Town Hall - 780 NH 63 (proposed)

Fellowship Hall - 9 South Village Road (proposed)

5. Evacuation Routes

NH Route 63

River Road

NH Route 12

Spofford Road

South Village Road

Glebe Road

6. Bridges Located on Evacuation Routes

NH Route 12 - Aldrich Brook

Beaver Brook

Mill Brook

NH Route 63 - Partridge Brook

Mill Brook

River Road - Ox Brook

Partridge Brook

Spofford Road

7. Town Garage - 23 McAdam Road

8. Communications

Cell Tower - Keene Hill on NH 9

Aldrich Road

Reynolds Road (2)

Highland Hill

Substation - NH Route 63 in Town center

Remote Terminals:

River Road across from 810

Glebe Road around 580

NH Route 63 near Goodrum's Cross Rd.

NH Route 12/Old Rt. 12 intersection  
NH Route 12/Discount Grocery parking lot

### **Category 2 - Non-Emergency Response Facilities:**

The Town has identified these facilities as non-emergency facilities; however, they are considered essential for the everyday operation of Westmoreland.

#### 1. Water Supply

County Facility Water Supply - River Road  
School Water Supply - Glebe Road  
Town Hall - NH Route 63  
Fellowship Hall - NH Route 63  
Pioneer School - Mount Gilboa Road (private)  
Fire Station - NH Route 63  
Natural spring on NH 12 between Aldrich and Goodrum Cross Road

#### 2. Problem Culverts

Hunt Road - NH Route 63  
Thompson Road - Unnamed tributary to Mill Brook  
McAdam Road - Unnamed perennial stream  
Partridge Brook Road - Partridge Brook

#### 3. Watershed Issue (flooding)

Area from the summit of NH Route 12 to South Village Road  
Area from Mount Gilboa Road to NH Route 12  
Heavy runoff from steep grades flows into Old Mill Brook and White Brook

### **Category 3 - Facilities/Populations to Protect:**

The third category contains people and facilities that need to be protected in event of a disaster.

#### 1. Special Needs Population - identified by confidential survey administered by EMS.

Oxygen-dependent people  
People on a lifeline  
People assisted by Home Health  
Shut-ins and disabled  
Mentally challenged  
Elderly  
Hearing impaired  
Sight impaired

#### 2. Recreation Areas

Westmoreland School Recreation Field - Glebe Road  
Pioneer School playground and ballfields - Mount Gilboa Road



### 3. Nursing Homes

Maplewood Nursing Home - 201 River Road

### 4. Churches

Westmoreland United Church - NH Route 63

Union Church- NH Route 12

### 5. Historic Buildings/Sites

Town Hall and Town Village - NH Route 63

Park Hill Area - NH Route 63

Corner School - River Road/Poocham Road

## **Category 4 - Potential Resources:**

Contains facilities that provide potential resources for services or supplies.

### 1. Food/Water

Jiffy Mart - NH Route 12

Maplewood Nursing Home

School cafeteria

United Natural Foods, NH Route 9, Westmoreland

C & S Groceries, Keene

Community Kitchen, Keene

Joan's Pantry, Chesterfield

Big Deal- NH Route 9, Spofford

Grocery stores in Keene, Walpole, and Brattleboro

### 2. Medical Facilities and Supplies

Medical Facilities Located in Keene, Walpole & Brattleboro, VT

### 3. Gravel Pits

Cold River Materials - NH Route 12 (quarry)

Earl McLanning - River Road (sand pit)

Cersosimo - River Road (gravel)

Graves - Old Route 12 N (gravel & quarry)

### 4. Miscellaneous Resources

Emergency Broadcast & Television: WKNE, WMUR

Transportation: Busses - D & L Transit

Trucks - National Guard, Keene

Bus- First Student

Beds, Cots, Blankets: National Guard

Red Cross

Emergency Winter Vehicle: Westmoreland Snowmobile Club

Heavy Equipment: Wesley Staples  
Bill Patnode  
Pat Rawson Construction  
M.E. Matthews  
Art Chickering  
Lyle Hague

# Chapter 6

## Existing Strategies and Proposed Improvements

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### Mitigation Protection Strategies

The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group reviewed each hazard and their related strategies to determine any gaps in coverage. Below is a list and description of the existing mitigation strategies followed by a matrix to determine the area covered, responsible agent, effectiveness, and any changes that are needed.

#### Description of Existing Programs/Strategies

Town Emergency Operations Plan (2015) -The purpose of the EOP is to have a set structure for carrying out necessary functions in order to provide for the common defense and to preserve the lives and property of the people of Westmoreland from the threat of harm in the event of any natural or man-made disaster.

Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission (FERC)/ North Walpole Action Plan (Bellows Falls Hydro Dam) outlines the procedures to be used as a guide in the event that critical conditions develop which may lead to failure of the facility resulting in an uncontrolled release of water resulting in downstream damage.

Erosion & Sedimentation Control Best Management Practices are used as provided by the State. This is used in Site Plan and Subdivision applications.

School Evacuation Plan (2015) – A designated plan to evacuate the school in the event of an emergency or disaster addressing bussing, transportation routes (primary and alternative), traffic & crowd control, end destination and parental notification.

Town-adopted Building Code - Westmoreland maintains a building inspector and has adopted provision of the NH Life Safety Code and the NH State Building Code which includes the International Building Code, International Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code, International Energy Conservation Code and National Electric Code.

Code Enforcement (building and zoning) - This is done by the Westmoreland Board of Selectmen.

Local Road Design Standards - Standards set by the Town and the highway department to ensure a constant construction benchmark.

Local Bridge Maintenance Program - Guidelines and schedules for annual upkeep of local bridges and culverts.

Rescue Services - Provides rescue services to the Town through the fire department.

Town Master Plan (2016) - A guidance document to ensure that overall development in Town is sustainable, meeting the needs of the citizens by setting forth steps and guidelines for a sound living environment through intelligent growth.

National Flood Insurance Program - The Town is a participating member of the NFIP and should continue to comply with NFIP requirements.

Mutual Aid - Provides assistance to all aspects of Westmoreland's Emergency Management Services in Town.

River Stewardship Plan - Guidelines designed to protect the river and its resources developed by the State for towns that border protected rivers throughout New Hampshire.

Emergency Snow Removal Program - An informal plan in place to contract assistance in the event of an excessive snowfall in Westmoreland.

Town Warning System - Town implemented warning system utilizing the town siren.

Town Radio System - The existing system has dead spots along River Road due to antenna placement.

Hazardous Materials Plan - New Hampshire regulations regarding hazardous materials are enforced in the Town of Westmoreland.

Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act - Designates a protective buffer along the shoreline of the Connecticut River in accordance to NH DES Regulations.

Maplewood Evacuation Plan - An evacuation plan to assist residents, employees, and visitors of the nursing home.

Emergency Back-up Power - The school and fire department currently have emergency back-up power and there are plans to install a generator to the Town Hall.

**Existing Protection Matrix**

The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group has developed the summary matrix of existing hazard mitigation strategies presented on the following pages. This matrix, a summary of the preceding information, includes the type of existing protection (Column 1), area covered (Column 2), the responsible local agent (Column 3), the effectiveness and or enforcement of the strategy (Column 4), and comments or recommended changes (Column 5). Recommended changes will be considered for priority mitigation strategies in the next chapter.

Effectiveness of the existing protection is rated Fair, Average, Good or Unknown: Fair- needs improvements; Average- meets general expectations; Good- meets and sometimes exceeds expectations; Unknown- not yet used or unable to quantify effectiveness.

**Existing Protection Matrix**

Existing Protection	Area Covered	Responsible Local Agent	Effectiveness (Poor, Avg, Good)	Comments/ Recommended Changes
Westmoreland Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)	Townwide	EMD	Good	Implementing in progress.
FERC/North Walpole Dam Action Plan	Towns that are down stream of the dam	Owner of Hydro Facility and FERC	Unknown	Unable to obtain a copy of the plan.
Erosion & Sedimentation Control Best Management Practices (BMPs)	Townwide	State and local Conservation Commission	Average	Continue using Best Management Practices for Town projects.
School Evacuation Plan	Elementary School	School Principal	Good	No changes needed at this time.

Existing Protection	Area Covered	Responsible Local Agent	Effectiveness (Poor, Avg, Good)	Comments/ Recommended Changes
Town-Adopted Building Code	Townwide	Selectmen/ Building Inspector	Good	No changes needed at this time.
Code Enforcement (building and zoning)	Townwide	Board of Selectmen	Good	Continue inspections and enforcements. No changes needed at this time.
Local Road Design Standards	Townwide	Planning Board and Road Agent	Poor	Updated in 2008. Update as technology changes.
Local Bridge Maintenance Program	All town-owned bridges	DOT	Good	State inspects all red listed bridges annually, and others bi-annually.
Winter Rescue	Townwide	Fire Department	Good	No changes needed at this time.
Town Master Plan (2016)	Townwide	Planning Board	Good	No changes needed at this time.
Member of National Flood Insurance Program	Townwide	Emergency Management Director	Average	Encourage participation/ continue compliance.
Mutual Aid	Townwide	Fire Chief, EMD, Road Agent, and Selectmen	Good	Continue Mutual Aid for Services.
River Stewardship Plan	Connecticut River	Connecticut River Joint Commission (CRJC)	Good	Consider adding a representative from Westmoreland to the CRJC.
Emergency Snow Removal Program	Town roads	Road Agent	Good	No changes needed at this time.
Town Warning System	Townwide	Fire Chief and EMD	Good	No changes needed at this time.
Town Radio System	Townwide	Fire Chief and Road Agent	Average	No changes needed at this time.
Hazardous Materials Plan	Townwide	Fire Chief	Unknown	Training for fire dept; materials needed for fire department.
Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act	Shoreland areas	DES, LAC & Conservation Commission	Good	No changes needed at this time.
Maplewood Evacuation Plan	Maplewood Facility	Maplewood Emergency Coordinator	Good	No changes needed at this time.
Emergency Backup Power Program	Townwide	EMD	Good	Install a permanent generator at the Town Hall.

## Status of Previous Mitigation Actions

The next table provides a status update for the mitigation actions identified in the previous hazard mitigation plan. Previously identified mitigation actions are noted as completed, deleted, or deferred to the updated Plan's new mitigation strategies list. Some actions are deferred or are ongoing actions that have been prioritized with new actions in Chapter 7 and added into the Action Plan in Chapter 8.

Mitigation Action	Status	Comments
Provide public education & outreach about the importance of NFIP. Encourage participation.	Complete & Ongoing	Continue as a new mitigation action.
Provide public outreach & education on the River Stewardship Plan.	Complete & Ongoing	Continue as a new mitigation action.
Continue ongoing monitoring, by Town & NHDOT, of State roads and culverts. Maintain communications with NHDOT, NHDES, and NHHSEM.	Complete & Ongoing	Continue as a new mitigation action.
Update the Westmoreland Operations Plan (2015)	Defer	This will be updated beginning in March 2022.
Continue hazardous materials training for Fire Dept.	Complete & Ongoing	Continue as a new mitigation action.
Install a generator at Town Hall.	Defer	Currently being acted on.
Continue to update and educate the public on hazard mitigation, preparedness, evacuation, shelters. Add links to NH HSEM and FEMA on the Town website.	Complete & Ongoing	Continue as a new mitigation action.
Update the list of potential local resources (sand, backhoes, chainsaws, etc.) in the event of a hazard.	Defer	Continue as a new mitigation action.
Create and maintain a list of special needs residents.	Defer	Continue as a new mitigation action.
Respond to concerns of erosion that have the potential of physical or property impact. Seek actions to address the situation.	Delete	Delete as it is currently written and reword as a new mitigation action.
Maintain updated local road design standards as needed.	Defer	Continue as a new mitigation action.
Upgrade the culvert at McAdam Road.	Defer	Continue as a new mitigation action.
Upgrade the culvert at Hunt Road/NH 63.	Defer	Continue as a new mitigation action.
Upgrade the culvert at Spofford Road.	Defer	Further study of the problem and solution are needed.
Upgrade other problem culverts.	Complete & Ongoing	Continue as a new mitigation action.

# Chapter 7

## Proposed Mitigation Strategies

### Identifying Gaps in Coverage

In addition to the programs and activities that Westmoreland is currently undertaking to protect its residents and property from natural and manmade disasters, a number of additional strategies were identified by the Local Hazard Mitigation Work Group for consideration. The process of compiling a comprehensive list of all mitigation strategies currently in place throughout the Town helped the Work Group to identify gaps in the existing coverage and improvements which could be made to the existing strategies. Potential new strategies were identified for each general hazard type using the following categories: Prevention (programs and policies), Property Protection, Structural Projects, and Public Information.

The Work Group brainstormed actions for specific potential hazard areas identified in Chapter 3. The section below shows proposed mitigation actions for both general hazard types and specific potential hazard areas. Each strategy was discussed to determine realistic strategies to be included in the STAPLEE chart.

#### Range of Mitigation Options

Hazard Type	Prevention	Property Protection	Structural Projects	Public Information
Flooding	Develop a written storm drain maintenance plan.	Continue to participate in NFIP training offered by the State and/or FEMA (or in other training) that addresses flood hazard planning and management.	Upsize culverts on Hunt Road and McAdam Road.	Continue to provide information to the public about NFIP.
	Document storm drain maintenance.			
Drought	Identify problem wells.	Add a water conservation regulation & water ban if necessary.	Consider locations for a water distribution center.	Provide information to residents on water conservation/drought resistant landscaping and/or rain gardens.
Extreme Temperatures	Maintain an updated list of addresses of the older residents and special needs populations.	Update heating and cooling, insulation, windows, etc.	Consider locations for heating, cooling and charging center.	Post links to the FEMA and NH HSEM website.
High Wind Events	Require tie-downs for structures (such as sheds).	Trim tree branches near critical facilities, town structures and roadways.		Provide information for residents to understand ways to mitigate potential damage during a high wind event.
	Identify hazardous trees and prepare a removal plan.			

Hazard Type	Prevention	Property Protection	Structural Projects	Public Information
Infectious Disease		Work with the Regional Public Health Representative on public education for infectious disease.	Equip the EOC and shelters with materials to handle a wide-spread infectious disease event.	Conduct a public information workshop on emergency preparedness for short-term and long-term quarantine.
Lightning	Consider adding surge protectors to computers.	Investigate the need to install grounding equipment on public & historic buildings.		Provide outreach material on safety during lightning and storm events. Include a link of FEMA's website on the town website.
Severe Winter Weather	Review current and future needs for emergency backup power.	Update the Emergency Snow Removal Plan.		Disseminate information to residents about proper use of generators and the importance of maintaining the heating system to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and fires.
Solar Storms and Space Weather		Become more aware and monitor high impact days.	Consider alternative means of communication.	Post links to the FEMA and NH HSEM website.
Tropical Storms/ Hurricanes	Identify hazardous trees and prepare a written tree removal plan.	Provide information to residents about making an emergency preparedness kit and emergency lists.	Consider requirement for new construction to withstand severe wind speeds.	Provide information for residents to understand ways to mitigate potential damage during a hurricane.
Earthquakes			Retrofit public buildings with earthquake standards.	Provide information to the public about reducing damage due to earthquakes.
Landslide/ Erosion	Inspect road embankments for signs of erosion and undermining of roadway.	Evaluate areas with steep slopes prior to storms.	Stabilize steep slopes with plantings, retaining walls, and rip rap.	



Hazard Type	Prevention	Property Protection	Structural Projects	Public Information
Wild Fires	Install Fire Danger/Risk level sign at trailheads and other locations.	Continue to implement the fire ponds/dry hydrant management plan.		Provide residents with information on fire safety & prevention.
Hazardous Materials		Require better signage from businesses that store hazardous materials.		Disseminate outreach material on proper disposal of hazardous household materials and medicines.
Dams	Consider GPS/GIS mapping of beaver dams.			Provide information to residents about evacuation routes and emergency procedures.
All Hazards	Continue Mutual Aid hazard drills	Incorporate the Hazard Mitigation as an appendix to the Master Plan.		Make outreach efforts to encourage house numbers to be easily seen from the road.

## Prioritization of Proposed Mitigation Strategies

The goal of each strategy identified in the previous list is reduction or prevention of damage from a hazard event. In order to determine their effectiveness in accomplishing this goal, a set of criteria was applied to each strategy. The STAPLEE method analyzes the Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic and Environmental aspects of a project. The following questions were asked about the proposed mitigation strategies and discussed in the table:

- Social: Is the proposed strategy socially acceptable to the community? Are there equity issues involved that would mean that one segment of the community is treated unfairly?
- Technical: Will the proposed strategy work? Will it create more problems than it solves?
- Administrative: Can the community implement the strategy? Is there someone to coordinate and lead the effort?
- Political: Is the strategy politically acceptable? Is there public support both to implement and to maintain the project?
- Legal: Is the community authorized to implement the proposed strategy? Is there a clear legal basis or precedent for this activity?
- Economic: What are the costs and benefits of this strategy? Does the cost seem reasonable for the size of the problem and the likely benefits?
- Environmental: How will the strategy impact the environment? Will the strategy need environmental regulatory approvals?

Each mitigation strategy was evaluated and assigned a score (Good = 3, Average = 2, Poor = 1) based on the above criteria. An evaluation chart with total scores for each strategy can be found in the table below. Each strategy was evaluated and prioritized according to the final score. The highest scoring strategies were determined to be of most importance, economically, socially, environmentally, and politically.

STAPLEE CHART		Is it Socially acceptable?	Is it Technically feasible & potentially successful?	Is it Administratively workable?	Is it Politically acceptable?	Is there Legal authority to implement?	Is it Economically beneficial?	Is it Environ-mentally beneficial?	Total Score
Mitigation Strategy									
Provide public education & outreach about the importance of NFIP.		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Provide public outreach & education on the River Stewardship Plan.		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Continue ongoing monitoring, by Town & NHDOT, of State roads and culverts. Maintain communications with NHDOT, NHDES, and NHHSEM.		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Update the Westmoreland Emergency Operations Plan (2015).		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Obtain additional hazardous response materials and continue hazardous training for the fire department.		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Install a generator at Town Hall.		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAPLEE CHART</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mitigation Strategy</p>	Is it Socially acceptable?	Is it Technically feasible & potentially successful?	Is it Administratively workable?	Is it Politically acceptable?	Is there Legal authority to implement?	Is it Economically beneficial?	Is it Environ-mentally beneficial?	Total Score
Continue to update and educate the public on hazard mitigation, preparedness, evacuation, shelters. Add links to NH HSEM and FEMA on the Town website.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Update the list of potential local resources (sand, backhoes, chainsaws, etc.) in the event of a hazard.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Create and maintain a list of special needs residents.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Maintain updated local road design standards as needed.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Upgrade the culvert at McAdam Road.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Upgrade the culvert at Hunt Road/NH 63.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Investigate stormwater management options near the culvert at Spofford Road.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Upgrade other problem culverts.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Consider adding surge protectors to computers.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Disseminate information to residents about proper use of generators and the importance of maintaining the heating system to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and fires.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Provide information to residents about making an emergency preparedness kit and emergency lists.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Provide residents with information on fire safety & prevention.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Display outreach material on proper disposal of hazardous household materials and medicines.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Obtain a copy of the FERC/North Walpole Dam Action Plan.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Consider adding a Westmoreland representative to the Connecticut River Joint Commission (CRJC).	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Seek agreements with Maplewood and Westmoreland School as sources for drinking water if needed.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Investigate best management practices for the beaver dam in Harvey Pond on Glebe Road.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21
Remove debris from the River Road North bridge prior to and after heavy storm events.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21

# Chapter 8

## Prioritized Implementation Schedule

### Action Plan

The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group developed an action plan that outlines who is responsible for implementing each of the prioritized strategies determined in the previous chapters, as well as when and how the actions will be implemented. The following questions were asked to develop an implementation schedule for the identified priority mitigation strategies:

**WHO?** Who will lead the implementation efforts? Who will put together funding requests and applications?

**WHEN?** When will these actions be implemented, and in what order?

**HOW?** How will the community fund these projects? How will the community implement these projects? What resources will be needed to implement these projects?

A fourth consideration was the cost/benefit of each proposed action. Comments regarding the cost/benefit of each project are included, along with the “who,” “when,” and “how” in the table below.

Mitigation Actions that were identified in Chapter 7 but did not score as a priority, will remain in the plan. As additional funding and staff becomes available, these strategies should be considered in future plan updates.

Once the plan is formally approved by FEMA, the Town will begin working on the actions listed below with an estimated completion date as noted in the Timeframe (When) column. Also, as additional information becomes available regarding project leadership, timeline, funding sources, and/or cost estimates, the plan will be reviewed and amended accordingly.

The Work Group created a prioritized schedule for implementation of the plan. The following terms are used to provide a general timeframe to complete the actions: Short-term: 1-2 years; Mid-term: 3-4 years; Long-term: 5 years. Some actions do not have a completion date and are considered to be ongoing actions that will continue through the duration of the plan.

### Action Plan

Mitigation Action	Leadership (Who)	When	How
Provide public education & outreach about the importance of NFIP. Encourage participation.	Emergency Management Director	Short-term	Town budget; Website and brochures
Provide public outreach & education on the River Stewardship Plan.	Conservation Commission	Short-term & Ongoing	Town budget
Continue ongoing monitoring, by Town & NHDOT, of State roads and culverts. Maintain communications with NHDOT, NHDES, and NHHSEM.	Road Agent	Short-term & Ongoing	Town budget

Mitigation Action	Leadership (Who)	When	How
Update the Westmoreland Emergency Operations Plan (2015).	Emergency Management Director	Short-term	Town budget/grants
Obtain additional hazardous response materials and continue hazardous training for the fire department.	Fire Chief	Short-term & Ongoing	Town budget/grants
Install a generator at Town Hall.	Board of Selectmen	Short-term	Town budget
Continue to update and educate the public on hazard mitigation, preparedness, evacuation, shelters. Add links to NH HSEM and FEMA on the Town website.	Emergency Management Director	Short-term & Ongoing	Town budget
Update the list of potential local resources (sand, backhoes, chainsaws, etc.) in the event of a hazard.	Emergency Management Director	Short-term & Ongoing	Town budget
Create and maintain a list of special needs residents.	Emergency Management Director	Short-term	Town budget
Maintain updated local road design standards as needed.	Planning Board	Short-term	Town budget/grants
Upgrade the culvert at McAdam Road.	Road Agent	Short-term	Town budget/grants
Upgrade the culvert at Hunt Road/NH 63.	Road Agent	Short-term	Town budget/grants
Investigate stormwater management options near the culvert at Spofford Road.	Road Agent	Mid-term	Town budget/grants
Upgrade other problem culverts.	Road Agent	Long-term	Town budget/grants
Consider adding surge protectors to computers.	Board of Selectmen	Mid-term	Town budget/grants
Disseminate information to residents about proper use of generators and the importance of maintaining the heating system to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and fires.	Emergency Management Director	Short-term	Town budget
Provide information to residents about making an emergency preparedness kit and emergency lists.	Emergency Management Director	Short-term	Town budget
Provide residents with information on fire safety & prevention.	Fire Chief	Short-term	Town budget
Display outreach material on proper disposal of hazardous household materials and medicines.	Town Administrator	Mid-term	Town budget

Mitigation Action	Leadership (Who)	When	How
Obtain a copy of the FERC/North Walpole Dam Action Plan.	Emergency Management Director	Short-term	Town budget
Consider adding a Westmoreland representative to the Connecticut River Joint Commission (CRJC).	Conservation Commission	Short-term	Town budget
Seek agreements with Maplewood and Westmoreland School as sources for drinking water if needed.	Emergency Management Director	Short-term	Town budget
Investigate best management practices for the beaver dam in Harvey Pond on Glebe Road.	Emergency Management Director	Long-term	Town budget
Remove debris from the River Road North bridge prior to and after heavy storm events.	Road Agent and Emergency Management Director	Mid-term	Town budget

# Chapter 9

## Adoption, Implementation, Monitoring & Updates

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### Plan Maintenance

#### Adoption

The Westmoreland Board of Selectmen adopted the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan on (date). A copy of the resolution can be found at the end of this chapter. Adopted policy addresses the actions for implementation set forth in the prioritized implementation schedule (action plan) in the previous chapter and in the “Monitoring & Updates” sub-section contained in this Chapter. All other sections of this Plan are supporting documentation for information purposes only and are not included as the statement of policy.

A copy of the public hearing notice for the Board of Selectmen meeting at which the Plan was adopted is included in Appendix E. The Plan was available to the public via a hard copy at the Town offices prior to the Selectmen’s meeting. Any comments were considered and addressed prior to adoption of the Plan.

#### Implementation

The top priority mitigation strategies that were identified by the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group will be implemented through the Board of Selectmen with assistance from the Emergency Management Director, to ensure that the appropriate person or group that was identified in the plan in Chapter 8 succeeds in the implementation of the activity. These activities will be reviewed to ensure that they correspond to the existing programs and land use regulations. This will ensure that the actions taken are done in the best interest of the Town. It is their responsibility to make sure the mitigation strategies when implemented conform to the master plan and land use regulations of the Town.

#### Monitoring and Updates

Recognizing that many mitigation projects are ongoing, and that while in the implementation stage communities may suffer budget cuts, experience staff turnover, or projects may fail altogether, a good plan needs to provide for periodic monitoring and evaluation of its successes and failures and allow for updates of the Plan where necessary.

In order to track progress and update the mitigation strategies identified in the Action Plan (Chapter 8), it is recommended that the Town revisit the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022 annually, or after a hazard event. The Emergency Management Director is responsible for initiating this review and should consult with the Board of Selectmen and other key local officials. Changes should be made to the Plan to accommodate for projects that have failed or are not considered feasible after a review for their consistency with STAPLEE, the timeframe, the community’s priorities, and funding resources. Priorities that did not make the implementation list, but identified as potential mitigation strategies, should be reviewed as well during the monitoring and update of this Plan to determine feasibility of future implementation. The public will continue to be invited and involved during this process. The Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022 must be reviewed, revised as appropriate, and resubmitted to FEMA for approval every five years in order to maintain eligibility for all Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding. Approval of this Plan was granted by FEMA on (date).

## Implementation of the Plan Through Existing Programs

In addition to work by the Hazard Mitigation Work Group and town departments, several other mechanisms exist which will ensure that the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan receives the attention it requires for satisfactory use.

### Master Plan

Implementation of the Master Plan has been ongoing since its most recent adoption in 2016, and will soon be updated, therefore, the previous Hazard Mitigation Plan was not incorporated into it. Recommendations from the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022 will be considered for insertion into future updates of the Master Plan. The Local Hazard Mitigation Work Group will oversee the process to begin working with the Planning Board to ensure that the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022 is adopted as a chapter or appendix of the Master Plan.

### Capital Improvements Program

The Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is reviewed and updated annually by the CIP Work Group. Each town department refers to the CIP when developing its annual budget. Strategies or purchases requiring capital improvements from the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022 will be inserted into the Capital Improvements Program. A Capital Reserve Fund for Hazard Mitigation Program Projects will be established to set aside funding for the projects identified in the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022. The Local Hazard Mitigation Work Group will oversee the process to begin working with the CIP Committee to incorporate the various projects into the yearly CIP. Projects that have a substantial cost, such as bridges, culverts and road work will be included in the CIP.

### Zoning Ordinance and Regulations

Some of the implementation strategies proposed involve review and possible revisions to the road and driveway regulations and the building codes. The Local Hazard Mitigation Work Group will oversee the process to begin working with the Planning Board to develop appropriate language for the modifications.

## Continued Public Involvement

On behalf of the Hazard Mitigation Work Group, the Emergency Management Director (EMD), under direction of the Board of Selectmen, will be responsible for ensuring that town departments and the public have adequate opportunity to participate in the planning process. Administrative staff may be utilized to assist with the public involvement process. For the yearly update process, techniques that may be utilized for public involvement include:

- Provide personal invitations to Budget Committee members;
- Post notices of meetings at the Town Office, Library, Town website, and local businesses;
- Post flyers of the project at the Town Office, Library, and local businesses; and
- Submit newspaper articles for publication to the Keene Sentinel and the Monadnock Ledger.

A number of Implementation Action items which will be undertaken relate to public education and involvement. Additionally, members of the public including area business owners, communities, and organizations will be invited to participate in the yearly process of updating the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan. These outreach activities will be undertaken during the Plan's annual review and during any Hazard Mitigation Work Group meetings the Board of Selectmen calls to order. For all meetings



regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the public will be noticed per New Hampshire's Right-to-Know Law, RSA 91-A, and the meetings will be open to the public.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION  
WESTMORELAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE  
WESTMORELAND HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE 2022

WHEREAS, the Town of Westmoreland has developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022 under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, public and Work Group meetings were held between October 13, 2021 and February 10, 2022 regarding the development and review of the Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies and Plan maintenance procedure for the Town of Westmoreland; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions/projects that will provide mitigation for specific hazards that impact the Town of Westmoreland, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the Town of Westmoreland eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it RESOLVED by the Board of Selectmen:

1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of Westmoreland;
2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;
3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has affixed his/her signature and the corporate seal of the Town of Westmoreland this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, (year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Westmoreland Board of Selectmen, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Westmoreland Board of Selectmen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Westmoreland Board of Selectmen

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendices

# Appendix A: Hazard Descriptions

## Natural Hazards

**Inland Flooding:** Inland flooding is generally defined as a high flow, overflow, or inundation by water, which causes or threatens damage. Flooding results from the overflow of rivers, their tributaries and streams primarily from high precipitation events. Flash flooding is defined as a flow with a rapid rise in water level and extreme velocities in a river or stream, beginning within six hours of the causative event (e.g., intense rainfall, dam failure, ice jam). Ongoing flooding can intensify to flash flooding in cases where intense rainfall results in a rapid surge of rising flood waters. Because of New Hampshire's steep terrain in the headwaters of watersheds, particularly outside of the coastal plain, flash floods also lead to river bank and bed erosion. Extreme precipitation events in recent years, such as Tropical Storm Irene, have led to buildings on the edges of streambanks becoming at risk to river erosion, or culvert failures. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has a more specific definition of flooding, which can also be considered and used when looking at floodplain and floodplain mapping.

A flood is defined by the NFIP as:

- A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of 2 or more acres of normally dry land area or of 2 or more properties (at least 1 of which is the policyholder's property) from:
  - Overflow of inland or tidal waters
  - Unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source
  - Mudflow
- Collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or similar body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels that result in a flood as defined above.

Floodplains are usually located in lowlands near rivers, and flood on a regular basis. The term 100-year flood does not mean that flood will occur once every 100 years. It is a statement of probability that scientists and engineers use to describe how one flood compares to others that are likely to occur. It is more accurate to use the phrase "1% annual chance flood". What this means is that there is a 1% chance of a flood of that size happening in any year.

Areas that have been identified as part of the 1% annual chance floodplain in support of the NFIP simply represent those areas for which mapping has been performed. With sufficient rainfall, snowmelt, or through the result of ice jam formation or in the event of dam failure, all areas that are floodplain adjacent to rivers and streams are prone to flood inundation. Developed areas are susceptible to poor drainage flooding during episodes of heavy rain that falls within a short duration. Such flooding is the result of the concentration of impervious surfaces where the amount of concrete, asphalt, rooftops, and other minimally or non-porous materials concentrates flow to stormwater systems that, during heavy rain, cannot always handle the input, causing flooding conditions on streets and parking lots.

**Drought:** A drought is basically the absence of water in an area that occurs slowly due to below-average precipitation over an extended period, resulting in low stream flows, low surface water, and low groundwater levels. Mitigation for drought is difficult, however, preparedness can help to reduce the impacts that a drought can have. During a drought, water stored in aquifers and surface reservoirs becomes increasingly important to offset the lack of rain, especially in areas of high agricultural production.

Conservation of water usage prior to, and during a drought can help reduce the potential water shortages that often occur during a drought.

**Earthquakes:** The United States Geological Survey (USGS) defines an earthquake as a sudden slip on a fault. Tectonic plates are always slowly moving, but can get stuck on edges due to friction. When the stress on the plates overcomes the friction, there is an earthquake that releases an energy wave that travels through the earth's crust. The earthquake hazard is anything associated with an earthquake that may affect the normal activities of people; such as, surface faulting, ground shaking, landslides, tsunamis, structural damage, etc. There are two primary ways in which earthquakes are measured, magnitude (the size of the earthquake) and intensity (measure of the shaking and damage, which can vary from location to location). Magnitude is measured in the Moment Magnitude scale (based off the obsolete Richter scale). The Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) classifies the perceived feeling of the earthquake.

**Extreme Temperatures:** Extreme temperatures are a period of prolonged and/or excessive hot or cold that presents a danger to human health and life.

**Extreme heat** is characterized by abnormally high temperatures and/or longer than average time periods of high temperatures. These event conditions are typically infrequent. When they do occur, however, they are usually in late July and August. The severity of extreme heat can be dangerous to those residents with medical conditions and the older population. It is important to have cooling areas and a good supply of water available. Extreme heat can add to the potential for wildfires and depletion of the water supply for firefighting. Extreme heat can also damage or kill crops and animals (wild, farm, or domesticated), potentially presenting a risk to the economy.

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides the following definitions (northeast ranges):

- **Heat Advisory:** Two or more consecutive hours of Heat Index values of 95-99 degrees Fahrenheit for two or more days OR any duration of Heat Index values of 100-104 degrees Fahrenheit. A Heat Advisory is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions.
- **Excessive Heat Warning:** Two or more hours with Heat Index values of 105 degrees Fahrenheit or greater. An Excessive Heat Warning is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions.
- **Excessive Heat Watches:** Heat watches are issued when conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event in the next 24 to 72 hours. A Watch is used when the risk of a heat wave has increased but its occurrence and timing is still uncertain.
- **Excessive Heat Outlooks:** Issued when the potential exists for an excessive heat event in the next 3-7 days. An Outlook provides information to those who need considerable lead-time to prepare for the event.

**Extreme Cold** events occur during meteorological cold waves, also known as cold snaps that are caused by the southern transport of arctic airmasses into the Northeast. These events are most common in winter months and increase the likelihood of cold disorders in humans and animals that have prolonged exposure to low ambient temperatures. Cold disorders can include frostbite and hypothermia which can eventually lead to death. Extreme cold can also damage or kill crops and animals (wild, farm, or domesticated), potentially presenting a risk to the economy.

The National Weather Service provides the following definitions (northeast ranges):

- Wind Chill Watch: NWS issues a wind chill watch when dangerously cold wind chill values are possible. As with a warning, adjust your plans to avoid being outside during the coldest parts of the day. Make sure your car has at least a half a tank of gas, and update your winter survival kit.
- Wind Chill Advisory: NWS issues a wind chill advisory when seasonably cold wind chill values but not extremely cold values are expected or occurring. Be sure you and your loved ones' dress appropriately and cover exposed skin when venturing outdoors. A Wind Chill Advisory is issued for New Hampshire if wind chill values are expected to be -20°F to -29°F and winds are greater than 5 mph.
- Wind Chill Warning: NWS issues a wind chill warning when dangerously cold wind chill values are expected or occurring. A Wind Chill Advisory is issued for New Hampshire if wind chill values are expected to be -30°F and winds are greater than 5 mph.
- Freeze Watch: NWS issues a freeze watch when there is a potential for significant, widespread freezing temperatures within the next 24-36 hours. A freeze watch is issued in the autumn until the end of the growing season and in the spring at the start of the growing season.
- Frost Advisory: A frost advisory means areas of frost are expected or occurring, posing a threat to sensitive vegetation.
- Freeze Warning: When temperatures are forecasted to go below 32°F for a long period of time, NWS issues a freeze warning. This temperature threshold kills some types of commercial crops and residential plants.
- Hard Freeze Warning: NWS issues a hard freeze warning when temperatures are expected to drop below 28°F for an extended period of time, killing most types of commercial crops and residential plants.

**High Wind Events:** The State of New Hampshire experiences two types of high wind events that may result from other severe storms and may occur at any time of the year:

Tornadoes: A tornado is a narrow, violently rotating column of air that extends from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground. Because wind is invisible, it is hard to see a tornado unless it forms a condensation funnel made up of water droplets, dust and debris. Tornadoes are the most violent of all atmospheric storms.

Straight-line winds: This term describes any thunderstorm wind that is not associated with rotation, and is usually used to differentiate from tornadic winds. There are several sub-types of straight-line winds:

- Downdraft - small-scale column of air that rapidly sinks towards the ground.
- Downburst - result of a downdraft, referred to as a macroburst when the area affected is greater than 2.5 miles and microburst when less than 2.5 miles.
- Gust Front - leading edge of rain-cooled air that clashes with warmer thunderstorm inflow. Characterized by wind shift, temperature drop and gusty winds in front of a thunderstorm.
- Derecho - widespread, long-lived wind storm that is associated with a band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms. A typical derecho consists of numerous microbursts, downbursts and downburst clusters. By definition, if the wind damage swath extends more

than 240 miles and includes wind gusts of at least 58 mph or greater along most of its length, then the event may be classified as a derecho.

**Infectious Disease/Pandemic:** Infectious diseases are illnesses caused by organisms - such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites. Many organisms live in and on our bodies. They're normally harmless or even helpful, but under certain conditions, some organisms may cause disease. Some infectious diseases can be passed from person to person, some are transmitted by bites from insects or animals and others are acquired by ingesting contaminated food or water or being exposed to organisms in the environment. Signs and symptoms vary depending on the organism causing the infection, but often include fever and fatigue. Mild infections get better on their own without treatment, while some are life-threatening infections and may require hospitalization. Wide-spread infectious diseases may cause mass causality regionally and world-wide.

**Landslide:** A landslide is the downward or outward movement of earth materials on a slope that is reacting to a combination of the force of gravity and a predisposed weakness in the material that allows the sliding process to initiate. The broad classification of landslides includes mudflows, mudslides, debris flows, rockslides, debris avalanches, debris slides, and earth flows. Landslides may be formed when a layer of soil atop a slope becomes saturated by significant precipitation and slides along a more cohesive layer of soil or rock. Although gravity becomes the primary reason for a landslide once a slope has become weak through a process such as the one just described, other causes can include:

- Erosion by rivers or the ocean that creates over-steepened slopes through erosion of the slope's base. In the case of rivers, this can occur as a result of flash flooding.
- Rock and soil slopes are weakened through saturation by snowmelt or heavy rains.
- Wildfires (loss of vegetation).
- Excess weight from accumulation of rain or snow, stockpiling of rock or ore and other material.

**Lightning:** Lightning is a visible electric discharge produced by a thunderstorm. Thunder always accompanies lightning, but may or may not be heard depending on the position of the observer. As lightning passes through the air, it heats the air to a temperature of 18,000-60,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This causes the air to rapidly expand and contract creating a sound wave known as thunder. Thunder can be heard up to 10 miles away from the strike. At longer distances thunder sounds like a low rumble as the higher frequency sounds are absorbed by the environment.

**Severe Winter Weather:** The State of New Hampshire experiences four types of severe weather during the winter months, which usually bring snow, high winds and/or rain depending on temperatures.

Heavy snow - Heavy snow is generally defined as:

- Snowfall accumulating to 4" or more in depth in 12 hours or less; or
- Snowfall accumulating to 6" or more in depth in 24 hours or less.

Blizzard - A blizzard is a snowstorm with the following conditions that is expected to prevail for a period of 3 hours or longer:

- Sustained wind or frequent gusts to 35mph or greater and considerable falling and/or blowing snow that frequently reduces visibility to less than ¼ mile.



Nor'easter - A Nor'easter is a large cyclonic storm that tracks north/northeastward along the East Coast of North America. It is so named due to the northeasterly prevailing wind direction that occurs during the storm. While these storms may occur at any time of the year, they are most frequent and severe during the months of September through April. Nor'easters usually develop off the east coast between Georgia and New Jersey, travel northeastward, and intensify in the New England region. Nor'easters nearly always bring precipitation in the form of heavy rain and/or snow, as well as gale force winds, rough seas, and coastal flooding.

Ice Storm - Ice storms typically occur with warm frontal boundaries, where warm air rises up and over a shallow mass of cold air near the earth's surface. When snow falls from clouds near just north of the warm frontal boundary, it will fall through the deep warm layer aloft first and melt completely into a liquid water droplet. As it passes through the shallow cold layer near the surface, the water droplet cools to the point of being supercooled (a liquid raindrop that remains a liquid at the freezing point). When these supercooled water droplets make contact with freezing surfaces on the ground, such as streets and walkways, they freeze on contact forming layers of ice. This process of freezing rain, when persistent over a long period of time, will form layers that may exceed over an inch thick in extreme cases. Any accumulation of ice can present hazards; however, significant accumulations of ice (1/4" or greater) can pull down trees and utility lines resulting in loss of power and communications. Walking and driving also becomes very dangerous to almost impossible during an ice storm.

**Solar Storms and Space Weather:** The term space weather is relatively new and describes the dynamic conditions in the Earth's outer space environment, similar to how the terms "climate" and "weather" refer to the conditions in the Earth's lower atmosphere. Space weather includes any and all conditions and events on the sun, in the solar wind, in near-Earth space, and in our upper atmosphere that can affect space-borne and ground based technological systems.

The entire State of New Hampshire is at risk for solar storms and space weather. Space weather affects Earth due to the sun sending energy across the Earth in the form of light and electrically charged particles and magnetic fields. Although space weather has occurred since the beginning of time, little was understood about the causes and impacts of these instances on the planet. As society becomes increasingly reliant on electronics and technology, the hazards presented by space weather are not to be underestimated. The magnetic disturbances that solar storms can bring can disrupt communications, damage or destroy electronic components, corrode gas and oil pipelines, and cause significant damage to spacecraft and satellites. Radio operators have long been aware of the effects of space weather and how it impacts radio communications, especially those in the High Frequency (HF) band (3-30MHz). Depending on atmospheric conditions from space weather, radio signals can be partially or completely blocked.

**Hurricane and Tropical Storm:** A *hurricane* is a tropical cyclone in which winds reach speeds of 74 miles per hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center. The eye of the storm is usually 20-30 miles wide and may extend over 400 miles. High winds and flooding are primary causes of hurricane-inflicted loss of life and property damage. *Tropical Storms* are typically storms that have been downgraded from a hurricane as it reaches further inland. These storms often have large amounts of rain and severe wind, but wind speeds do not reach the level to be classified as a hurricane.

**Wildfire:** A wildfire is any non-structural fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the Wildland. Wildland here is defined as consisting of vegetation or natural fuels. Wildfires can be referred to as brushfires, wildland fires, or grass fires depending on the location and what is burning.

## Technological Hazards

**Aging Infrastructure:** The continued regression of the States'/towns' physical systems including, but not limited to roads and bridges, culverts, utilities, water, and sewage.

**Conflagration:** A large and destructive fire that threatens human life, animal life, health, and/or property. It may also be described as a blaze or simply a (large) fire. A conflagration can begin accidentally, be naturally caused (wildfire), or intentionally created (arson). Conflagrations have the potential to cause loss of life, property devastation/destruction and potential negative economic impacts.

**Dam Failure:** Dam failure is defined as the sudden, rapid, and uncontrolled release of impounded water.

**Known & Emerging Contaminants:** Contaminants in drinking water include naturally occurring contaminants associated with the geology in a given region and known man-made contaminants associated with nearby land use activities. Some contaminants are considered emerging contaminants.

Man-made Contaminants - Man-made chemicals that have been historically recognized to impact some groundwater and surface water sources of drinking water include volatile organic compounds, pesticides, semi-volatile compounds, radionuclides, nitrates/nitrites, metals, and radionuclides.

Emerging Contaminants - *Emerging contaminants* are chemicals that historically have not been monitored in drinking water due to the lack of laboratory capabilities to detect the compounds or a lack of knowledge about the use of certain compounds and their potential to cause human health impacts. Emerging contaminants have been detected in surface and groundwater that are sources of drinking water in the State of New Hampshire. The latest incidents in New Hampshire to garner widespread media and public attention were related to the discovery of poly and perfluoroalkyl substances, more commonly referred to as PFAS. Historically, other emerging contaminants have spiked public concern, including Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MtBE), which is a manufactured chemical used to increase the octane rating of gasoline. MtBE degrades slowly and is highly soluble in water, allowing it to spread further and last longer in groundwater than many other contaminants.

**Hazardous Materials:** A hazardous material is any item or agent (biological, chemical, radiological, and/or physical), which has the potential to cause harm to humans, animals, or the environment, either by itself or through interaction with other factors. Hazardous materials spills or releases can cause damage or loss to life and property. Short or long-term evacuation of local residents and businesses may be required, depending on the nature and extent of the incident.

**Long-term Utility Outage:** A long-term utility outage is defined as a prolonged absence of any type of public utility that is caused by infrastructure failure, cyber-attack, supply depletion, distribution disruption, water source contamination, or a natural, human-caused or technological disaster. This plan considers a long-term utility outage as one lasting two weeks more, or a prolonged outage that causes extreme cascading impacts.

**Radiological:** Radiological hazards can range from relatively localized incidents involving small amounts of radioactive materials to large-scale catastrophic events. Smaller sources of radiation hazards may be found in medical facilities, industrial and laboratory facilities where radioactive materials and/or radiation producing devices are used. Some radiation is produced naturally from decomposition of radioactive isotopes in soils and underlying strata.

## Human-Caused Hazards

**Cyber Event:** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) defines a cyber incident as an event occurring on or conducted through a computer network that actually or imminently jeopardizes the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of computers, information or communications systems or networks, physical or virtual infrastructure controlled by computers or information systems.

**Mass Casualty Incident:** Any large number of casualties (sick, injured, or dead) produced in a relatively short period of time, usually as the result of a single incident such as a military aircraft accident, hurricane, flood, earthquake, or armed attack that exceeds local logistic support capabilities.

**Terrorism/Violence:** Premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents.

**Transport Accident:** A transport accident is any accident that occurs during transportation that has multiple injuries or deaths, or has significant impact to the roadways and surrounding area. Specifically, for this plan, it refers to an aviation, tractor trailer, or vehicle accident.

# Appendix B: Risk Assessment

## Risk Assessment

The Hazard Mitigation Work Group met to discuss the towns' risk assessment and assign rating scores. Consideration was given to climate change, current capabilities, town assets and critical infrastructure, and previous occurrences when determining the scale of impacts and overall risk. The following terms were used to analyze the hazards:

**Impacts:** The Impact is an estimate generally based on a hazard's effects on humans, property and businesses. The Working Group determined the impact rating for each of the previously identified hazards. The average impact score was calculated by computing the average of the human, property and business impact scores. The impact ratings were broken down into the following categories:

### Impact Scoring

- 1 - Inconvenience, reduced service/productivity, minor damages, non-life-threatening injuries.
- 3 - Moderate to major damages, temporary closure and reduced service/productivity, numerous injuries and deaths.
- 6 - Devastation and significant injuries and deaths, permanent closure and/or relocation of services, long-term effects.

**Probability of Occurrence:** The Probability of Occurrence is a numeric value that represents the likelihood that the given hazard will occur within the next 10 years. This value was chosen based on historical information. The Working Group determined the probability of occurrence rating for each of the previously identified hazards. The probability of occurrence ratings was broken into the following categories:

- Low: There is little likelihood that this event will occur within the next 10 years (1 event in 10 years).
- Medium: There is moderate likelihood that this event will occur within the next 10 years (1-2 events each 5-10 years).
- High: There is great likelihood that this event will occur within the next 10 years (1-2 events each year).

### Probability Scoring

- 1 - 33% probability of occurring within 10 years (Low)
- 3 - 34-66% probability of occurring within 10 years (Medium)
- 6 - 67-100% probability of occurring within 10 years (High)

**Severity:** Severity is calculated by taking the average of the vulnerability for human, business and property impacts of each hazard type.

**Risk:** Risk is an adjective description (High, Medium, or Low) of the overall threat posed by a hazard over the next 10 years. It is calculated by multiplying the probability of occurrence and severity.

Low: There is little potential for a disaster during the next 10 years. The threat is such as to warrant no special effort to prepare for, respond to, recover from, or mitigate against this hazard. This hazard does not need to be specifically addressed in the town's emergency management training and exercise program except as generally dealt with during hazard awareness training.

Medium: There is moderate potential for a disaster of less than major proportions during the next 10 years. The threat is great enough to warrant modest effort to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against this hazard. This hazard should be included in the town's emergency management training and exercise program.

High: Risks that are considered to be high were likely ranked so due to (1) a strong potential for a disaster of major proportions during the next 10 years; or (2) history suggests the occurrence of multiple disasters of moderate proportions during the next 10 years. The threat is significant enough to warrant major program effort to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against this hazard. This hazard should be a major focus of the towns' emergency management training and exercise program.

**Overall Risk:** The Overall Risk is a representation of the combined potential impact and probability of occurrence ratings. This is calculated by multiplying the probability of occurrence rating score by the impact rating score (the average of human, property and business impacts). The goal of identifying the overall risk of each identified hazard is to assist the town in determining which hazards pose the largest potential threat. The overall risk ratings are broken down and color coded into the following categories:

White: values 1 - 6, Low Risk

Yellow: values 7 - 12, Medium Risk

Red: values 13 - 18, High Risk

# Appendix C: Resources

## Resources Used in the Preparation of this Plan

NH HSEM’s State of New Hampshire Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (2018)  
FEMA’s Understanding Your Risks: Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses  
Local Mitigation Planning Handbook  
Town of Westmoreland, NH’s Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016

### Agencies

<b>New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)</b> .....	603-271-2231
Field Representative Hillsborough County: Liz Gilboy.....	603-223-3613
Mitigation Planner: David Eaton.....	603-223-3655
<b>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</b> .....	877-336-2734
<b>NH Regional Planning Commissions:</b>	
Central NH Regional Planning Commission .....	226-6020
Lakes Region Planning Commission .....	279-8171
Nashua Regional Planning Commission .....	883-0366
North Country Council .....	444-6303
Rockingham Planning Commission .....	778-0885
Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission .....	669-4664
Southwest Region Planning Commission .....	357-0557
Strafford Regional Planning Commission .....	742-2523
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission .....	448-1680
<b>NH Executive Department:</b>	
Governor’s Office of Energy and Community Services .....	271-2611
<b>NH Department of Cultural Resources:</b> .....	271-2540
Division of Historical Resources .....	271-3483
<b>NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES):</b> .....	271-3503
Air Resources .....	271-1370
Air Toxins Control Program .....	271-0901
Asbestos Program .....	271-1373
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.....	271-5733
Environmental Health Tracking Program.....	271-4072
Environmental Toxicology Program .....	271-3994
Health Risk Assessment Program.....	271-6909
Indoor Air Quality Program.....	271-3911
Occupational Health and Safety Program.....	271-2024
Radon Program .....	271-4764
Geology Unit .....	271-3503
Pollution Preventive Program.....	271-6460
Waste Management .....	271-2900
Water Supply and Pollution Control .....	271-3414
Rivers Management and Protection Program .....	271-8801
<b>NH Office of Planning and Development (OPD)</b> .....	271-2155
<b>NH Municipal Association (NHMA)</b> .....	224-7447
<b>NH Fish and Game Department</b> .....	271-3421
Region 1, Lancaster.....	788-3164
Region 2, New Hampton.....	744-5470
Region 3, Durham.....	868-1095
Region 4, Keene.....	352-9669



<b>NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (NHDBEA):</b> .....	271-2411
Economic Development.....	271-2629
Travel and Tourism.....	271-6870
<b>NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NHDNCR):</b> .....	271-2411
Division of Forests and Lands .....	271-2214
Division of Parks and Recreation .....	271-3556
Design, Development, and Maintenance .....	271-2411
<b>NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT)</b> .....	271-3734
<b>Northeast States Emergency Consortium, Inc. (NESEC)</b> .....	(781) 224-9876
<b>US Department of Commerce:</b> .....	(202) 482-2000
NOAA: National Weather Service; Taunton, Massachusetts .....	(508) 824-5116
<b>US Department of the Interior:</b> .....	202-208-3100
US Fish and Wildlife Service .....	225-1411
US Geological Survey .....	225-4681
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) .....	(978) 318-8087
<b>US Department of Agriculture:</b>	
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) .....	868-7581
Cheshire County, Walpole.....	756-2988
Sullivan County, Newport .....	863-4297
Hillsborough County, Milford .....	673-2409 Ext. #4

### Mitigation Funding Resources

404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) .....	NH HSEM
406 Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation .....	NH HSEM
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).....	NH HSEM, NH OPD, also refer to RPC
Dam Safety Program.....	NHDES
Emergency Generators Program by NESEC <sup>‡</sup> .....	NH HSEM
Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program .....	USDA, NRCS
Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) .....	NH HSEM, NH OPD
Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS).....	USACE
Mitigation Assistance Planning (MAP) .....	NH HSEM
Mutual Aid for Public Works.....	NHMA
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) <sup>†</sup> .....	NH OPD, NH HSEM
Power of Prevention Grant by NESEC <sup>‡</sup> .....	NH HSEM
Project Impact .....	NH HSEM
Roadway Repair & Maintenance Program(s) .....	NHDOT
Section 14 Emergency Stream Bank Erosion & Shoreline Protection.....	USACE
Section 103 Beach Erosion.....	USACE
Section 205 Flood Damage Reduction.....	USACE
Section 208 Snagging and Clearing.....	USACE
Shoreline Protection Program.....	NHDES
Various Forest and Lands Program(s).....	NHDNCR
Wetlands Programs .....	NHDES

NESEC - Northeast States Emergency Consortium, Inc. is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit natural disaster, multi-hazard mitigation and emergency management organization located in Wakefield, Massachusetts. Please, contact NH HSEM for more information or visit the Consortium's website at <http://www.nesec.org/index.cfm>.

† Note regarding **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** and **Community Rating System (CRS)**: The National Flood Insurance Program has developed suggested floodplain management activities for those communities who wish to more thoroughly manage or reduce the impact of flooding in their jurisdiction. Through use of a rating system (CRS rating), a community's floodplain management efforts can be evaluated for effectiveness. The rating, which indicates an above average floodplain management effort, is then factored into the premium cost for flood insurance policies sold in the community. The higher the rating achieved in that community, the greater the reduction in flood insurance premium costs for local property owners. The NH Office of Strategic Initiatives can provide additional information regarding participation in the NFIP-CRS Program.

## FEMA Region 1 Mitigation Planning Webliography

### Regulatory Information

Final Rule: 44 CFR 201.6 <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/help/fr02-4321.pdf>

Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2K) <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1935>

### Disasters and Natural Hazards Information

FEMA-How to deal with specific hazards <http://www.ready.gov/natural-disasters>

Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): Information on various projects and research on climate and weather. <http://www.websites.noaa.gov>

National Climatic Data Center active archive of weather data. <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>

Northeast Snowfall Impact Scale <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/rnk/Newsletter/Fall%202007/NESIS.htm>

Weekend Snowstorm Strikes the Northeast Corridor Classified as a Category 3 "Major" Storm  
<http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2006/feb06/noaa06-023.html>

### Flood Related Hazards

FEMA Coastal Flood Hazard Analysis & Mapping

<http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-0/fema-coastal-flood-hazard-analyses-and-mapping-1>

Floodsmart <http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) <http://www.fema.gov/nfip>

Digital quality Level 3 Flood Maps <http://msc.fema.gov/MSD/statemap.htm>

Flood Map Modernization

<http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-flood-hazard-mapping/map-modernization>

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Reducing Damage from Localized Flooding: A Guide for Communities, 2005 FEMA 511

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1448>

### **Fire Related Hazards**

Firewise <http://www.firewise.org>

NOAA Fire Event Satellite Photos <http://www.osei.noaa.gov/Events/Fires>

U.S. Forest Service, USDA <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wfas/welcome.htm>

Wildfire Hazards - A National Threat <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3015/2006-3015.pdf>

### **Geologic Related Hazards**

USGS Topographic Maps <http://topomaps.usgs.gov/>

Building Seismic Safety Council <http://www.nibs.org/?page=bssc>

Earthquake hazard history by state <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/states/>

USGS data on earthquakes <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/monitoring/deformation/data/download/>

USGS Earthquake homepage <http://quake.wr.usgs.gov>

National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program (NCGMP) <http://ncgmp.usgs.gov/>

Landslide Overview Map of the Conterminous United States

<http://landslides.usgs.gov/learning/nationalmap/>

Kafka, Alan L. 2008. Why Does the Earth Quake in New England? Boston College, Weston

Observatory, Department of Geology and Geophysics

[http://www2.bc.edu/~kafka/Why\\_Quakes/why\\_quakes.html](http://www2.bc.edu/~kafka/Why_Quakes/why_quakes.html)

Map and Geographic Information Center, 2010, "Connecticut GIS Data", University of Connecticut

[http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/connecticut\\_data.html](http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/connecticut_data.html)

2012 Maine earthquake

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/17/maine-earthquake-2012-new-england\\_n\\_1972555.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/17/maine-earthquake-2012-new-england_n_1972555.html)

### **Wind Related Hazards**

ATC Wind Speed Web Site <http://www.atcouncil.org/windspeed/index.php>

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U.S. Wind Zone Maps <http://www.fema.gov/safe-rooms/wind-zones-united-states>

Tornado Project Online <http://www.tornadoproject.com/>

National Hurricane Center <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

Community Hurricane Preparedness Tutorial <http://meted.ucar.edu/hurricane/chp/hp.htm>

National Severe Storms Laboratory, 2009, "Tornado Basics",

[http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/primer/tornado/tor\\_basics.html](http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/primer/tornado/tor_basics.html)

## **Determining Risk and Vulnerability**

HAZUS <http://www.hazus.org>

FEMA Hazus Average Annualized Loss Viewer

<http://fema.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=cb8228309e9d405ca6b4db6027df36d9&extent=-139.0898,7.6266,-48.2109,62.6754>

Vulnerability Assessment Tutorial: On-line tutorial for local risk and vulnerability assessment

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/products/nchaz/htm/mitigate.htm>

Case Study: an example of a completed risk and vulnerability assessment

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/products/nchaz/htm/case.htm>

## **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Mapping**

The National Spatial Data Infrastructure & Clearinghouse (NSDI) and Federal Geographic Data Work Group (FGDC) Source for information on producing and sharing geographic data

<http://www.fgdc.gov>

The OpenGIS Consortium Industry source for developing standards and specifications for GIS data

<http://www.opengis.org>

Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC): Provides information on various hazards, funding resources, and other information <http://www.nesec.org>

US Dept of the Interior Geospatial Emergency Management System (IGEMS) provides the public with both an overview and more specific information on current natural hazard events. It is supported by the Department of the Interior Office of Emergency Management. <http://igems.doi.gov/>

FEMA GeoPlatform: Geospatial data and analytics in support of emergency management

<http://fema.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html> Hilliard 2/20/2014 Pg. 4

## **Data Gathering**

National Information Sharing Consortium (NISC): brings together data owners, custodians, and users in the fields of homeland security, public safety, and emergency management and response. Members

leverage efforts related to the governance, development, and sharing of situational awareness and incident management resources, tools, and best practices <http://nisconsortium.org/>

The Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC), an organization within the Institute for Water Resources, is the designated Center of Expertise for the US Army Corps of Engineers <http://www.hec.usace.army.mil/>

National Water & Climate Center <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/>

WinTR-55 Watershed Hydrology  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/water/?&cid=stelprdb1042901>

USACE Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC) <http://www.hec.usace.army.mil/software/>

Stormwater Manager's Resource Center SMRC <http://www.stormwatercenter.net>

USGS Current Water Data for the Nation <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>

USGS Water Data for the Nation <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/>

Topography Maps and Aerial photos <http://www.terraserver.com/view.asp?tid=142>

National Register of Historic Place <http://www.nps.gov/nr/about.htm>

National Wetlands Inventory <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>

ICLUS Data for Northeast Region [http://www.epa.gov/ncea/global/iclus/inclus\\_nca\\_northeast.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ncea/global/iclus/inclus_nca_northeast.htm)

## **Planning**

American Planning Association <http://www.planning.org>

Planners Web - Provides city and regional planning resources <http://www.plannersweb.com>

## **FEMA Resources**

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) Hilliard 2/20/2014 Pg. 5

National Mitigation Framework <http://www.fema.gov/national-mitigation-framework>

Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA) <http://www.fema.gov/fima>

Community Rating System (CRS) <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system>

FEMA Building Science <http://www.fema.gov/building-science>

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>

Floodplain Management & Community Assistance Program

<http://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management>

Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC): ICC coverage allows homeowners whose structures have been repeatedly or substantially damaged to cover the cost of elevation and design requirements for rebuilding with their flood insurance claim up to a maximum of \$30,000.

<http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-2/increased-cost-compliance-coverage>

National Disaster Recovery Framework <http://www.fema.gov/national-disaster-recovery-framework>

Computer Sciences Corporation: contracted by FIMA as the NFIP Statistical Agent, CSC provides information and assistance on flood insurance to lenders, insurance agents and communities

[www.csc.com](http://www.csc.com)

Integrating the Local Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan into a Community's Comprehensive Plan: A Guidebook for Local Governments <https://www.fema.gov/ar/media-library/assets/documents/89725>

Mitigation Best Practices Portfolio <http://www.fema.gov/mitigation-best-practices-portfolio>

FEMA Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Website <http://www.fema.gov/multi-hazard-mitigation-planning>

FEMA Resources Page <http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/resources.shtm> Hilliard 2/20/2014 Pg. 6

Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4859>

Local Mitigation Planning Handbook complements and liberally references the Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide above <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7209>

HAZUS <http://www.fema.gov/protecting-our-communities/hazus>

Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=6938>

Integrating Hazard Mitigation Into Local Planning: Case Studies and Tools for Community Officials

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7130>

Mitigation Planning for Local and Tribal Communities-Independent Study Course

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is318.asp>

### **Region 1 Mitigation Contacts**

Marilyn Hilliard, Senior Planner

Phone: (617) 956-7536

Email: [marilyn.hilliard@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:marilyn.hilliard@fema.dhs.gov)

Nan Johnson, Community Planner

Phone: 617-956-7672

Email: [nan.johnson@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nan.johnson@fema.dhs.gov)

Massachusetts; Rhode Island; Vermont

Brigitte Ndikum-Nyada, Community Planner

Phone: 617-956-7614

Email: [brigitte.ndikum-nyada@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:brigitte.ndikum-nyada@fema.dhs.gov)

Connecticut; Maine; New Hampshire

## **Other Federal Resources**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Provides funding for floodplain management planning and technical assistance and other water resources issues. [www.nae.usace.army.mil](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil)

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Technical assistance to individual land owners, groups of landowners, communities, and soil and water conservation districts. [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

NOAA Coastal Services Center <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/>

Rural Economic and Community Development: Technical assistance to rural areas and smaller communities in rural areas on financing public works projects. [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov)

Farm Service Agency: Manages the Wetlands Reserve Program (useful in open space or acquisition projects by purchasing easements on wetlands properties) and farmland set aside programs [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

National Weather Service: Prepares and issues flood, severe weather and coastal storm warnings. Staff hydrologists can work with communities on flood warning issues; can give technical assistance in preparing flood-warning plans. [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

Economic Development Administration (EDA): Assists communities with technical assistance for economic development planning [www.osec.doc.gov/eda/default.htm](http://www.osec.doc.gov/eda/default.htm)

National Park Service: Technical assistance with open space preservation planning; can help facilitate meetings and identify non-structural options for floodplain redevelopment. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

Fish and Wildlife Services: Can provide technical and financial assistance to restore wetlands and riparian habitats. [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

Department of Housing & Urban Development [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)

Small Business Administration: SBA can provide additional low-interest funds (up to 20% above what an eligible applicant would qualify for) to install mitigation measures. They can also loan the cost of bringing a damaged property up to state or local code requirements. [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)

Environmental Protection Agency [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

## **Sustainability/Adaptation/Climate Change**

Why the Emergency Management Community Should be Concerned about Climate Change: A discussion of the impact of climate change on selected natural hazards.

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<http://www.cna.org/sites/default/files/research/WEB%2007%2029%2010.1%20Climate%20Change%20and%20the%20Emergency%20Management%20Community.pdf>

Resilient Sustainable Communities: Integrating Hazard Mitigation& Sustainability into Land Use

<http://www.earth.columbia.edu/sitefiles/file/education/documents/2013/Resilient-Sustainable-Communities-Report.pdf>

U.S. EPA <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/>

NOAA National Ocean Service (NOS) <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/>

The Northeast Climate Research Center (NRCC) folks were heavily involved in climate data in the NCA, below. They have a wealth of historic climate data and weather information, trends, etc.

<http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/>

NOAA RISA for the Northeast (Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments) <http://ccrun.org/home>  
Community and Regional Resilience: Perspectives from hazards, disasters, and emergency management  
[http://www.resilientus.org/library/FINAL\\_CUTTER\\_9-25-08\\_1223482309.pdf](http://www.resilientus.org/library/FINAL_CUTTER_9-25-08_1223482309.pdf)

National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy [www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov](http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov)  
ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability <http://www.icleiusa.org/>

Kresge Foundation Survey

<http://www.kresge.org/news/survey-finds-communities-northeast-are-trying-plan-for-changes-climate-need-help-0>

New England's Sustainable Knowledge Corridor <http://www.sustainableknowledgecorridor.org/site/>

The Strategic Foresight Initiative (SFI)

[http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/programs/oppa/findings\\_051111.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/programs/oppa/findings_051111.pdf)

Northeast Climate Choices [http://www.climatechoices.org/ne/resources\\_ne/nereport.html](http://www.climatechoices.org/ne/resources_ne/nereport.html)

Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment <http://www.northeastclimateimpacts.org/>

Draft National Climate Assessment Northeast Chapter released early 2013

<http://ncadac.globalchange.gov/>

Northeast Chapter of the National Climate Assessment of 2009:

<http://www.globalchange.gov/images/cir/pdf/northeast.pdf>

ClimateNE [www.climatenortheast.com](http://www.climatenortheast.com)

Scenarios for Climate Assessment and Adaptation <http://scenarios.globalchange.gov/>

Northeast Climate Science Center <http://necsc.umass.edu/>

FEMA Climate Change Adaptation and Emergency Management

<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/content/climate-change-adaptation-and-emergency-management-0>

Climate Central <http://www.climatecentral.org>

### **Other Resources**

New England States Emergency Consortium (NESEC): NESEC conducts public awareness and education programs on natural disaster and emergency management activities throughout New England. Resources are available on earthquake preparedness, mitigation, and hurricane safety. [www.nesec.org](http://www.nesec.org)



Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM): ASFPM has developed a series of technical and topical research papers, and a series of proceedings from their annual conferences. [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is a non-profit, nonpartisan membership organization that serves as the forum where organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle - preparation, response, recovery and mitigation. <http://www.nvoad.org/>

#### Additional Websites

Sponsor	Internet Address	Summary of Contents
Natural Hazards Research Center, U. of Colorado	<a href="http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/">http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/</a>	Searchable database of references and links to many disaster-related websites.
National Emergency Management Association	<a href="http://nemaweb.org">http://nemaweb.org</a>	Association of state emergency management directors; list of mitigation projects.
NASA – Goddard Space Flight Center “Disaster Finder:	<a href="http://disasterfinder.gsfc.nasa.gov/Disaster_">http://disasterfinder.gsfc.nasa.gov/Disaster_</a>	Searchable database of sites that encompass a wide range of natural disasters.
NASA Natural Disaster Reference Database	<a href="http://ltpwww.gsfc.nasa.gov/ndrd/main/html">http://ltpwww.gsfc.nasa.gov/ndrd/main/html</a>	Searchable database of worldwide natural disasters.
U.S. State & Local Gateway	<a href="http://www.statelocal.gov/">http://www.statelocal.gov/</a>	General information through the federal-state partnership.
National Weather Service	<a href="http://nws.noaa.gov/">http://nws.noaa.gov/</a>	Central page for National Weather Warnings, updated every 60 seconds.
USGS Real Time Hydrologic Data	<a href="http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt">http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt</a>	Provisional hydrological data
Dartmouth Flood Observatory	<a href="http://www.dartmouth.edu/~floods">http://www.dartmouth.edu/~floods</a>	Observations of flooding situations.
FEMA, National Flood Insurance Program, Community Status Book	<a href="http://www.fema.gov/about/program/s/nfip/index.shtm">http://www.fema.gov/about/program/s/nfip/index.shtm</a>	Searchable site for access of Community Status Books
Florida State University Atlantic Hurricane Site	<a href="http://www.met.fsu.edu/explores/tropical.html">http://www.met.fsu.edu/explores/tropical.html</a>	Tracking and NWS warnings for Atlantic Hurricanes and other links

Sponsor	Internet Address	Summary of Contents
National Lightning Safety Institute	<a href="http://lightningsafety.com/">http://lightningsafety.com/</a>	Information and listing of appropriate publications regarding lightning safety.
NASA Optical Transient Detector	<a href="http://thunder.msfc.nasa.gov/research.html">http://thunder.msfc.nasa.gov/research.html</a>	Space-based sensor of lightning strikes
LLNL Geologic & Atmospheric Hazards	<a href="http://www.llnl.gov/hmc/">http://www.llnl.gov/hmc/</a>	General hazard information developed for the Dept. of Energy.
The Tornado Project Online	<a href="http://www.tornadoproject.com/">http://www.tornadoproject.com/</a>	Information on tornadoes, including details of recent impacts.
National Severe Storms Laboratory	<a href="http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/">http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/</a>	Information about and tracking of severe storms.
Earth Satellite Corporation	<a href="http://www.earthsat.com/">http://www.earthsat.com/</a>	Flood risk maps searchable by state.
USDA Forest Service Web	<a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/land">http://www.fs.fed.us/land</a>	Information on forest fires and land management.

# Appendix D

## Hazard Mitigation Resource Profiles

The following are resources that can be used in Hazard Mitigation projects:

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

John Kennelly, Chief, Special Studies Section (for Flood Plain Management Services activities), Phone: (978) 318-8505, Fax: (978) 318-8080, E-mail: [John.R.Kennelly@usace.army.mil](mailto:John.R.Kennelly@usace.army.mil)

Mike Keegan, Chief, Project Planning Section (for Section 14, 103, and 205 authorities), Phone: (978) 318-8087, Fax: (978)318-8080, E-mail: [Michael.F.Keegan@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.F.Keegan@usace.army.mil)

US Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

### **Description and Mission**

The Corps of Engineers is a multi-disciplinary engineering and environmental organization that has been identifying and meeting the water resources needs of the nation. These needs have been in the areas of flood damage reduction, flood plain information and management, navigation, shore protection, environmental restoration, water supply, streambank protection, recreation, and fish and wildlife resources conservation, as well as technical assistance in other water resources areas.

The New England District (NAE) of the Corps of Engineers is responsible for managing the Corps' civil responsibilities in a 66,000 square-mile region encompassing the six New England states east of the Lake Champlain drainage basin. The District and its leadership are headquartered in Concord, Massachusetts. The missions of the New England District are many and varied. They include:

- flood damage reduction
- navigation improvements and maintenance
- natural resource management
- streambank and shoreline protection
- disaster assistance
- environmental remediation and engineering
- engineering and construction management support to other agencies

### **Flood Mitigation Involvement**

As a result of the catastrophic floods in 1936, 1938 and 1955, the Corps was called upon to undertake a comprehensive flood damage reduction program. Since then the Corps has built many flood control structures throughout New England. These include 35 dams and reservoirs, five hurricane protection barriers (two are operated by the Corps) and approximately 60 local flood protection projects. The New England District has also completed two nonstructural projects involving the relocation of flood prone property and the acquisition of natural flood storage areas. The Corps also provides technical assistance to states and municipalities in locally constructed flood damage mitigation projects and to promote wise and informed use of floodplain and natural retention areas in order to minimize potential future flood damages.

## **Mitigation Goals and Objectives**

The New England District has two primary mitigation objectives with respect to flood damage reduction. The first objective is the operation and maintenance of the 35 flood control reservoirs and two hurricane barriers that provide protection to the Connecticut, Merrimack, Thames, Naugatuck, and Blackstone River Basins. The second objective is to continue to work with the states and communities in New England to address flooding problems affecting the region.

## **Projects Desired**

The Corps of Engineers has several programs available under its Civil Works authorities to address flooding problems. These programs provide assistance either through the construction of structural and nonstructural projects to mitigate the flooding problem or by providing technical information to assist mitigation performed at the state or local level. Flood damage reduction projects constructed by the Corps of Engineers must demonstrate, based on current Federal guidelines, that the flood damages prevented by the project's construction exceed its total cost. The Corps must also demonstrate that the 10-year frequency flood discharge at the point of concern is equal to or greater than 800 cubic-feet per second (cfs). Technical assistance provided by the Corps does not need to meet the above criteria.

## **COE Resources with Respect to Hazard Mitigation**

The New England Division assists in meeting national, regional and local needs through a variety of means. Congressionally authorized water resources investigations have resulted in the planning, design and implementation of many flood control and flood damage reduction projects. Work conducted under a Congressional authorization can be extensive and there is currently no monetary limit of funding. Typically, there is a 1-2 year minimum delay in the identification of a proposed investigation and the funding of that work. The first phase of study, the Reconnaissance investigation, is 100 percent Federally funded and must be completed within twelve months. The second phase, the Feasibility investigations, must be cost-shared with a local sponsor where the sponsor provides 50 percent of the cost of the feasibility study. Congress in a Water Resources Development Act must specifically authorize construction of any project resulting from a General Investigation study. The cost of implementation for flood damage reduction projects is generally 65 percent Federal and 35 percent non-Federal.

Through the Continuing Authorities Programs of the Corps many structural and non-structural local protection project reducing or eliminating damages from flooding have been constructed. Investigations initiated under the Corps Continuing Authorities do not require specific congressional authorization are initiated simply with a request from the State or community to the New England District. The following is a list of Continuing Authorities applicable to flood mitigation:

**Section 14 - Emergency Stream Bank & Shoreline Protection:** This work consists of evaluating alternatives to provide emergency protection to public facilities, such as highways and bridges that are threatened due to erosion. The current Federal limit on Section 14 projects is \$500,000. The local sponsor is required to provide 25 percent of the cost of developing plans and specifications and of construction.

**Section 103 - Beach Erosion:** Investigations conducted under this authority are to determine methods of protecting public facilities that have been threatened by beach erosion. Currently there is a Federal limit of \$2,000,000 and the local sponsor is required to contribute 35 percent of plans, specifications and

construction. The local sponsor is also required to cost-share equally the cost of the feasibility investigation that exceeds \$100,000. The first \$100,000 is at full Federal expense.

**Section 205 - Flood Damage Reduction:** Investigations are conducted under this program to assist local communities to identify flooding problems and to formulate and construct alternatives for flood damage reduction. The local sponsor is required to cost-share equally in the cost of the feasibility investigation that exceeds \$100,000 and the Federal limit is \$5,000,000. The local sponsor is required to contribute 25 percent of the cost of plans, specifications and construction.

**Section 208 - Snagging and Clearing:** This emergency program is designed to reduce flood damage potential by identifying and removing obstructions that contribute to flooding by causing higher flood stages in the floodways. The

Federal limit under this program is \$500,000 and the local sponsor is required to contribute 25 percent of the cost of plans, specifications and construction.

The New England Division also has two Planning Assistance Programs, which provide opportunities for the States to obtain assistance in addressing water resource issues. These programs are the Section 22, Planning Assistance to the States (PAS) program and the Section 206, Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS) program.

**Planning Assistance to States Program (PAS):** The Planning Assistance to States Program is designed to assist the States in developing comprehensive plans to meet State planning goals. The program is extremely flexible in the type and the methodology of investigations. Studies conducted under the PAS program require a 50/50 cost share with a local sponsor. The existing funding limits are \$300,000 per state and a national budget not to exceed \$5,000,000.

**Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS):** The FPMS Program is designed for the Corps to assist States and local communities in improving management of flood plains by performing technical assistance and conducting special investigations. Cost recovery has been implemented in this program effective in FY 1991. Under cost recovery, assistance provided to Federal agencies and private interests must be fully reimbursed by those customers. States and local communities are still provided technical assistance at 100 percent Federal cost. One of the major efforts being conducted under the FPMS program at this time is the preparation of Hurricane Evacuation Studies. These studies are jointly funded with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### **Ice Engineering Research Division**

U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory

Dr. J-C Tatinclaux, Chief, Ice Engineering Research Division

Phone: (603) 646-4187 Fax: (603) 646-4477

E-mail: [Jean-Claude.Tatinclaux@cr102.usace.army.mil](mailto:Jean-Claude.Tatinclaux@cr102.usace.army.mil)

Website: <http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/ierd/>

US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory

Ice Engineering Research Division

72 Lyme Road

Hanover, NH 03755-1290

## **Description and Mission**

The US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) is a Corps of Engineers' research laboratory that is dedicated to multi-disciplinary engineering and research that addresses the problems and opportunities unique to the world's cold regions. CRREL exists largely to solve the technical problems that develop in cold regions, especially those related to construction, transport, and military operations. Most of these problems are caused by falling and blowing snow, snow on the ground, ice in the air and in the ground, river ice, ice on seas and lakes, and ice effects on manmade materials. CRREL serves the Corps of Engineers and its clients in three main areas:

- Traditional military engineering, which deals with problems that arise during conflict;
- Military construction and operations technology, i.e., the building and maintenance of military bases, airfields, roads, ports, and other facilities; and
- Civil works, which involves the Corps in such things as flood protection, navigation on inland waterways and coastal engineering.

CRREL also deals with cold regions problems for the other defense services, for civilian agencies of the federal government, and to some extent for state agencies, municipalities and private industry.

CRREL's Ice Engineering Research Division (IERD) was created to research, analyze and solve ice problems in and around water bodies, including ice jam flooding and ice accumulation in lock chambers, to ice buildup at water intakes and the destructive forces that moving ice exerts on riverine or coastal structures. In cooperation with the New England District (NAE) of the Corps of Engineers (located in Concord, MA), IERD personnel provide technical assistance before, during and after ice jam flood emergencies. IERD research has resulted in the design and construction of a number of low-cost ice control structures as well as nonstructural mitigation measures. IERD also provides instruction on dealing with river ice problems to local emergency management agencies.

## **Flood Mitigation Involvement**

IERD is frequently called upon by the various Corps Districts to provide technical assistance to states and municipalities in the form of emergency mitigation. IERD is also involved with Corps and local agencies in developing locally constructed flood damage mitigation projects and promoting wise and informed use of floodplain areas in order to minimize potential future flood damages.

## **Mitigation Goals and Objectives**

The IERD has two primary mitigation objectives with respect to flood damage reduction. The first objective is to work with the Corps and other federal, state and local agencies to design and implement ice control methods to reduce ice-related flood potential. The second is to work with the states and communities nationwide as well as in New England to address ice-related emergency flooding problems affecting the region.

## **Projects Desired**

CRREL and IERD are a national resource ready to apply our unique facilities and capabilities to solve problems and conduct innovative, state-of-the-art research and technical support. There are a number of mechanisms that enable IERD and the rest of CRREL to partner with various Federal,

non-DoD and private sector entities. The Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 (15 USC 3710a) allows CRREL to collaborate with any non-Federal partner on research and technical support consistent with the mission of the laboratory. The Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (31 USC 6505) lets CRREL work with state and local governments on a broad range of reimbursable projects. Under the "Authority to Sell" (10 USC 2539b), CRREL can provide test and evaluation services to the states and the private sector. This includes the testing and evaluation of materials, equipment, models, computer software, and other items. The laboratory can also provide support to other Federal agencies via the Economy in Government Act (31 USC 1535) through MOUs/MOAs that establish a framework for the partnership and provide a concise description of the planned work. CRREL's 35 active Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) with industry and academia and 17 Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreements with states and local governments in 1998 demonstrate a robust program in this area and the relevance of CRREL's research to many segments of American society beyond DoD.

The Corps of Engineers has several programs available under its Civil Works authorities to address flooding problems. These programs provide assistance either through the construction of structural and nonstructural projects to mitigate the flooding problem or by providing technical information to assist mitigation performed at the state or local level. Flood damage reduction projects constructed by the Corps of Engineers must demonstrate, based on current Federal guidelines, that the flood damages prevented by the project's construction exceed its total cost. The Corps must also demonstrate that the 10-year frequency flood discharge at the point of concern is equal to or greater than 800 cubic-feet per second (cfs). Technical assistance provided by the Corps does not need to meet the above criteria. Through the Corps, IERD has been involved in Section 205 Flood Damage Reduction program, Section 22 Planning Assistance to States Program (PAS)) projects, the Section 206 Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS) program funded jointly with FEMA, and numerous instances of technical assistance.

### **CRREL IERD Resources with Respect to Hazard Mitigation**

**Corps:** CRREL works jointly with the Corps' New England Division to address regional and local ice-related hazard mitigation needs through a variety of means. Congressionally authorized water resources investigations have resulted in the planning, design and implementation of many flood control and flood damage reduction projects. Work conducted under a Congressional authorization can be extensive and there is currently no monetary limit of funding. Typically there is a 1-2 year minimum delay in the identification of a proposed investigation and the funding of that work. The first phase of study, the Reconnaissance investigation, is 100 percent Federally funded and must be completed within twelve months. The second phase, the Feasibility investigations, must be cost-shared with a local sponsor where the sponsor provides 50 percent of the cost of the feasibility study. Congress in a Water Resources Development Act must specifically authorize construction of any project resulting from a General Investigation study. The cost of implementation for flood damage reduction projects is generally 65 percent Federal and 35 percent non-Federal.

Through the Continuing Authorities Programs of the Corps many structural and non-structural local protection project reducing or eliminating damages from flooding have been constructed. Investigations initiated under the Corps Continuing Authorities do not require specific congressional



authorization are initiated simply with a request from the State or community to the New England District. The following is a list of Continuing Authorities applicable to flood mitigation

**Section 205 - Flood Damage Reduction:** Investigations are conducted under this program to assist local communities to identify flooding problems and to formulate and construct alternatives for flood damage reduction. The local sponsor is required to cost-share equally in the cost of the feasibility investigation that exceeds \$100,000 and the Federal limit is \$5,000,000. The local sponsor is required to contribute 25 percent of the cost of plans, specifications and construction.

**Section 22 - Planning Assistance to States Program (PAS):** The Planning Assistance to States Program is designed to assist the States in developing comprehensive plans to meet State planning goals. The program is extremely flexible in the type and the methodology of investigations. Studies conducted under the PAS program require a 50/50 cost share with a local sponsor. The existing funding limits are \$300,000 per state and a national budget not to exceed \$5,000,000.

**Section 206 - Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS):** The FPMS Program is designed for the Corps to assist States and local communities improve management of flood plains by performing technical assistance and conducting special investigations. Cost recovery has been implemented in this program effective in FY 1991. Under cost recovery, assistance provided to Federal agencies and private interests must be fully reimbursed by those customers. States and local communities are still provided technical assistance at 100 percent Federal cost. One of the major efforts being conducted under the FPMS program at this time is the preparation of Hurricane Evacuation Studies. These studies are jointly funded with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

## **Personnel**

IERD was created to research, analyze and solve ice problems in and around water bodies. The technical experience of the staff and their in-depth research and field capabilities combine with CRREL's unique Ice Engineering Facility to form one of the premier ice engineering organizations in the world. IERD has a staff of 15 engineers and technicians experienced in technical analyses, methods and engineering solutions to ice problems -- that is, any situation where the effects of ice cause flooding, increase operational and maintenance requirements of water control projects, impede navigation, or adversely impact the environment in cold regions.

## **Equipment and Facilities**

The Ice Engineering Facility was built to increase the research capabilities of the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory. It is a two-story building approximately 160 by 210 feet containing three primary cold spaces: the test Basin, Flume, and Research Area. They have recently designed and built a new Wind Tunnel Facility. In addition, there is a machine room in the basement, an instrumentation corridor separating the flume and test basin spaces, a shop/storage area, and one sample-storage cold room.

The Test Basin was designed primarily for large-scale work on ice forces on structures, such as drill platforms and bridge piers, and for tests using model icebreakers. The Basin is 30 feet wide, 8 feet deep and 120 feet long. The room is designed to operate at any temperatures between +65° and -10°F with very even temperature distribution, which results in uniform ice thickness. Other studies

conducted in the Test Basin concern the formation of ice pressure ridges, ice problems in and around navigation locks and vertical uplift forces.

The Flume is situated in a room where the temperature can be regulated between +65° and -20° F. The Flume is 2 by 4 feet in cross section and 120 feet long. It can tilt from +2° to -1° slope, have a flow capacity of nearly 14 cubic feet per second and have a refrigerated bottom. Some other studies conducted in the Flume are the formation of ice covers and frazil ice, the hydraulics of ice-covered rivers, the formation of ice jams, and the effect of ice covers on sediment transport and scour.

Possibly the most versatile portion of the Ice Engineering Facility is the Research Area. This room is 80 by 160 feet clear span and has a temperature range of +65° to -10°F. Piping capable of providing a flow of 1, 2, 4 or 8 cubic feet per second is located on one side of the room, and a large drain trough is on the other. The floor is designed for loads up to 400 pounds per square foot. Models of reaches can be constructed in this area to test ways to alleviate ice jams through channel modification. Tests of the bearing capacity of large ice sheets and cold-testing of vehicles and structures are a few of the other potential uses of this space. Tests conducted in this room will help to alleviate much of the flooding caused by ice jams.

#### **USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Gerald J. Lang, Technology Leader; Phone: (603) 868-7581, Fax: (603) 868-5301

E-mail: [gerald.lang@nh.usda.gov](mailto:gerald.lang@nh.usda.gov)

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E-mail: [ehansalik@nh.usda.gov](mailto:ehansalik@nh.usda.gov)

Federal Building, 2 Madbury Road, Durham, NH 03824

#### **Description and Mission**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a Federal agency within the US Department of Agriculture. The mission of the NRCS is to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment. NRCS, formerly the Soil Conservation Service, is the lead federal agency for conservation on private land. NRCS provides conservation technical assistance through local conservation districts and Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils to individuals, communities, watershed groups, tribal governments, federal, state, and local agencies, and others. NRCS has an interdisciplinary staff of professional engineers, planners, biologists, foresters, agronomists, and soil scientists working together to provide the necessary technical assistance to solve resource or environmental problems. NRCS products typically include conservation plans, study reports, engineering designs, and resource maps.

Authorities and Funding:

NRCS state and field offices derive funding from two possible sources, direct Federal appropriations and reimbursable agreements with agencies and units of government. NRCS manages several programs; Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Forestry Incentives Program (FIP), and Farmland

Protection Program (FPP) which provide cost-share assistance to landowners and users (primarily agricultural or forestry land) to install conservation practices to restore and protect natural resources. NRCS can also provide technical assistance ranging from preliminary reviews to complete detail designs to landowners/users solving resource problems even if financial assistance is not being provided for the installation of conservation practices. This assistance is dependent on staff availability and priorities.

NRCS also manages the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, which can provide financial and technical assistance to units of government and groups to repair damages sustained from a natural disaster (flood, fire, hurricane, tornado) creating an imminent hazard to life and property. The restoration efforts must be environmentally and economically cost effective and typically includes clearing debris from clogged stream channels, stabilizing eroded stream banks and restoring vegetation for stabilization purposes. NRCS can also provide technical assistance to watershed associations or groups to develop comprehensive plans for improving or protecting the watershed environment (water quality, flood reduction, wildlife habitat).

### **Mitigation Involvement**

The NRCS can provide technical assistance to conduct inventories, to complete watershed or site-specific plans, or to develop detail engineering and construction designs for conservation applications that will help reduce future damages from natural disasters. Some examples of past mitigation efforts include: floodplain management studies for towns, site assessments of stream flow impairments, stabilization designs to protect structures which could sustain severe damages from another storm event, and small watershed plans addressing flooding problems. Some of these products can be provided through other conservation assistance efforts. However, the major jobs would require a reimbursable agreement with the state or towns to complete the work.

### **Mitigation Goals and Objectives**

With respect to hazard mitigation, the goal of the NRCS in New Hampshire is to meet the needs of the State and local governments by providing timely technical assistance to support recovery and restoration efforts. NRCS can contribute this technical assistance by interacting directly with NH HSEM at the state level and having field staff working directly with Town Emergency Management officials at the local level. Short-term goals are to establish contacts with local officials and the conservation districts at the field office level to facilitate quicker response times. Intermediate and long-term objectives are to improve the cooperative efforts of working with NH HSEM and establish additional contacts for providing timely technical assistance at the local level.

### **Projects/Planning Desired**

NRCS would like to work with local watershed associations to develop comprehensive plans addressing resource and environmental needs and opportunities in the priority watersheds as identified in the Unified Watershed Assessment. These plans can provide the basis for targeting and requesting special funding to meet the needs of the local watershed association. Technical assistance for planning and designing along with public information dissemination are the typical activities the agency can provide in this effort.

## **NRCS Resources with respect to Hazard Mitigation**

### **Personnel**

NRCS in New Hampshire has a workforce of 45 staff members along with 5 multi-state staff members. Approximately 22 staff members consisting of engineers, biologists, foresters, conservation planners, and technicians are available to provide some assistance in mitigation efforts. Support staff of a GIS specialist, computer specialist and public information specialist could assist in providing information for public outreach. This staff is available to provide limited assistance under present program funding authorities. However, larger projects would require reimbursement for planning and design assistance.

### **Equipment, Physical Facilities and Other Capabilities**

All of the field offices and State office have computers and access to the internet. All of the field offices have survey equipment and all engineers have the use of CADD software. All field offices have access to small meeting rooms and access to the Federal Telecommunications System. Government vehicles are located at all field offices for use by government employees and could be made available in emergencies.

### **Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC)**

Edward S. Fratto, Executive Director: Phone: (781) 224-9876, fax: (781) 224-4350 e-mail: [www.nesec.org](http://www.nesec.org)

Kristin M. O'Brien, Assistant Executive Director: Phone: (781) 224-9876; e-mail: [www.nesec.org](http://www.nesec.org)

Northeast States Emergency Consortium, 419 Main Street, Suite 5  
Wakefield, MA 01880

### **Organization Description**

The Northeast States Emergency Consortium, Inc. (NESEC) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit natural disaster mitigation and emergency management organization, located in Wakefield, Massachusetts. NESEC is the only multi-hazard consortium of its kind in the country and is supported and funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The eight Northeast States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont form the consortium. NESEC has a full-time Executive Director, and Assistant. It is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of the Directors of the State Emergency Management Agencies from each of the six New England States and the States of New York and New Jersey.

### **Organization Mission**

NESEC works in partnership with government and private organizations to reduce losses of life and property from natural disasters in the Northeast United States. The Northeast States are vulnerable to most of the natural hazards, including hurricanes, earthquakes, coastal and inland flooding, tornadoes and micro-bursts, forest fires, drought, lightning, blizzards, and other forms of severe

weather. Our developed urban areas and the desire to build and live on waterfront property have increased our degree of risk from natural hazards.

### **Mitigation Programs**

**Grants:** NESEC raises funds from government and private sources to support local mitigation projects. These funds are awarded on a competitive basis in the form of grants in the range of \$500-5,000. The name of this program is called the **Power of Prevention**. All grant programs are administered in cooperation with the New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NH HSEM). Communities interested in participating should contact NH HSEM.

**HAZUS:** NESEC assists FEMA PROJECT IMPACT Communities in the use of HAZUS as a planning platform for incorporating multi-hazard disaster prevention initiatives. NESEC can produce a HAZUS report using default data for each of the initial PROJECT IMPACT Communities. Priority is given to PROJECT IMPACT communities; however, assistance may be provided to other communities as resources allow. This report provides an excellent starting point for communities wishing to utilize HAZUS to identify potential hazards. The NESEC HAZUS Report is multi-hazard and usually contains information on earthquakes, tornadoes, flood and wind.

There is no fee or charge for producing the default HAZUS Report and meeting with the community to discuss the results. All HAZUS support is arranged in cooperation with the New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NH HSEM). Communities interested in participating should contact NH HSEM.

**Emergency Generators:** NESEC assists communities to establish a partnership with their electric utilities and service companies. The partnership would conduct an energy efficiency audit of the community, recommend cost saving measures, and implement a cost saving plan. Monthly savings could be used to fund emergency generator(s) for local critical facilities. The utility or energy service company could then lease, install, and maintain generator(s) in a community.

The community would pay a monthly charge for the lease agreement. This charge would not exceed the savings derived through energy efficiency measures, so there would be no capital outlay or additional cost to the community. In fact, some communities may be able to reduce their monthly electric bills in an amount that exceeds the cost of the generator(s) lease agreement.

Monthly savings and utility participation will vary from state to state and community-to-community depending on present electric power usage and efficiency measures and deregulation. There is no fee or charge for assisting communities in establishing partnerships with electric utilities. NESEC assistance will be provided as resources allow. All emergency generator support is arranged in cooperation with the New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NH HSEM). Communities interested in participating should contact NH HSEM.

### **Federal Mitigation Grant Programs**

#### **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities**

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program provides funds to states, local communities, territories, and tribal governments for hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. Funding these projects reduces overall risks to

the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations.

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

### **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

<http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hmgp/index.shtm>

### **Flood Mitigation Assistance Program**

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program was created as part of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 4101) with the goal of reducing or eliminating claims under the [National Flood Insurance Program](#).

FEMA provides FMA funds to assist states and communities in implementing measures that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes and other structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program.

<http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/fma/index.shtm>

# Appendix E

## Documentation of the Planning Process

# Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Work Group

Meeting #1

## AGENDA

October 13, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Westmoreland Town Office  
780 NH Route 63  
Westmoreland, NH 03467

1. Introduction
  - a. Discuss the process to update the Town's Plan and the addition of recently added hazards to the State of NH Hazard Mitigation Plan
2. Status of Previous Hazard Mitigation Actions
  - a. Review the Action Plan from the existing Plan to determine what has been completed, deleted, or deferred to the updated Plan
3. Risk Assessment
  - Determine the Impact, Probability and Overall Risk of each potential hazard
4. Identify Past and Potential Hazards
  - Review each hazard type and consider weather/hazard events that have occurred in the past five years to be added to the Plan
  - Consider new hazards that have occurred since the previous Plan was adopted
  - Consider potential hazard concerns to be added to the Plan
5. Next Meeting
  - Potential date: November 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.



Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group

October 13, 2021

Meeting #1

Sign-in Sheet

Name	Title
Tom Finnegan	Emergency Management Director
Richard Meyer	Deputy Emergency Management Director
Lauren Bressett	Planning Board Chair
Dave Poklemba	Road Agent
Bill Chase	Deputy Emergency Management Director
Graham Gitchell	Deputy Fire Chief
Lisa Murphy	SWRPC

Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update  
Work Group

Meeting #2

AGENDA

November 10, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Westmoreland Town Office  
780 NH Route 63  
Westmoreland, NH 03467

1. Identify Existing Mitigation Strategies
  - Complete the Existing Mitigation Matrix
2. Critical Facilities
  - Provide address or location information for critical facilities
3. Identify Past and Potential Hazards (additions from previous meeting)
  - Review each hazard type and other information on the chart included in the existing plan
  - Add any new hazards that have occurred since the previous plan was adopted
  - Add any potential hazard concerns
4. Next Meeting

Potential dates: Meeting #3 - December 1, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.  
Meeting #4 - December 22, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.  
Meeting #5 - January 19, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group

November 10, 2021

Meeting #2

Sign-in Sheet

Name	Title
Tom Finnegan	Emergency Management Director
Bill Chase	Deputy Emergency Management Director
Richard Meyer	Deputy Emergency Management Director
Lauren Bressett	Planning Board Chair
Dave Poklemba	Road Agent
Graham Gitchell	Deputy Fire Chief
Lisa Murphy	SWRPC

# Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Work Group

Meeting #3

## AGENDA

December 1, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Westmoreland Town Office  
780 NH Route 63  
Westmoreland, NH 03467

1. Potential Strategies: Filling Gaps in Coverage
  - Review the potential strategies matrix and determine which are needed in the Action Plan.
2. Building a List of New Strategies
  - Consider adding new strategies to the STAPLEE chart.
3. Hazard Mitigation Goals
  - Review hazard mitigation goals.
4. Future Meetings
  - Meeting #4 - December 22, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.
  - Meeting #5 - January 19, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group

December 1, 2021

Meeting #3

Sign-in Sheet

Name	Title
Tom Finnegan	Emergency Management Director
Bill Chase	Deputy Emergency Management Director
Richard Meyer	Deputy Emergency Management Director
Lauren Bressett	Planning Board Chair
Dave Poklemba	Road Agent
Graham Gitchell	Deputy Fire Chief
Lisa Murphy	SWRPC

# **Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Work Group**

**Meeting #4**

## **AGENDA**

**January 6, 2022  
4:00 p.m.**

**Westmoreland Town Office  
780 NH Route 63  
Westmoreland, NH 03467**

- 1. Identify and Prioritize Mitigation Actions for Each Hazard**
  - a. Identify specific locations to be added to the Action Plan
  - b. Use the STAPLEE Chart to identify and rank actions for each hazard
  
- 2. Prepare an Action Plan**
  - a. Determine the *Who*, *When* and *Funding Source* for each action identified in the STAPLEE Chart.
  
- 3. Future Meetings**
  - a. Meeting #5 - February 10, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group

January 6, 2022

Meeting #4

Sign-in Sheet

Name	Title
Tom Finnegan	Emergency Management Director
Lauren Bressett	Planning Board Chair
Graham Gitchell	Deputy Fire Chief
Bill Chase	Deputy Emergency Management Director
Richard Meyer	Deputy Emergency Management Director
Dave Poklemba	Road Agent
Lisa Murphy	SWRPC

# **Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Work Group**

**Meeting #5**

## **AGENDA**

**February 10, 2022  
4:00 p.m.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://bit.ly/Feb10WeHMWG22>

Meeting ID: 816 0661 0235

Passcode: 709919

or

Join by Phone: (646) 558-8656

1. Review Key Chapters of the Draft Plan
  - a. Review and edit chapters 3, 4, 7, and 8
  - b. Review other parts of the Plan as needed
2. Discuss the final steps to FEMA approval



Westmoreland Hazard Mitigation Work Group

February 10, 2022

Meeting #5

Sign-in Sheet

Name	Title
Tom Finnegan	Emergency Management Director
Bill Chase	Deputy Emergency Management Director
Lauren Bressett	Planning Board Chair
Graham Gitchell	Deputy Fire Chief
Dave Poklemba	Road Agent
Richard Meyer	Deputy Emergency Management Director
Liz Gilboy	NHHSEM
John Marcel	NHHSEM
Lisa Murphy	SWRPC

# Appendix F

## Project Status Sheet

The following form can be used to keep track of projects identified in the hazard mitigation plan that are in progress or that have been completed.

Project Title	Page # in Plan	Date of Project Completion	Comments

# Appendix G

## Critical Facilities Map

(The map will be added in PDF)