

**Briefing Paper—October 2012
Crook County, Wyoming
Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

What is a multi-hazard mitigation plan (MHMP)?

A MHMP looks at natural hazards that the county, Sundance, Moorcroft, Pine Haven, and Hulett may be susceptible to and ways to lessen the potential disasters caused by those hazards. The county's existing plan is being updated to make sure the county and its communities are disaster-resistant and less vulnerable to property damage and loss of life from a natural disaster. To remain current, the state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) require that the plan be updated every five years. By getting the plan approved, the county and its local jurisdictions will continue to be eligible to compete for project funds. The county will also be eligible for post-disaster assistance from the state and/or FEMA, in the event of a major disaster. Adoption of the plan is voluntary, but each jurisdiction--the county and the four communities--will need to have at least one mitigation project in the plan and adopt the plan if they wish to qualify for funding and assistance.

What is in the plan?

The plan will contain profiles of natural hazards such as flooding and wildfires, vulnerability to each hazard, and a history of past disasters. Potential losses from future disasters will be estimated. Goals and projects identified by citizens and local governments will be prioritized and included as appropriate. The plan will also have an explanation of how it was developed, a review of other related plans, and copies of news articles and notes from meetings held to discuss the plan.

How will the plan be revised?

Using FEMA funds passed through the state, the county has contracted for the plan update with Barb Beck, of Beck Consulting located in Red Lodge, Montana. Working with Crook County Homeland Security, the county, and the four incorporated communities over the next eight months, Ms. Beck and subcontractor AMEC, Inc. will review other local plans for consistency with this plan, update the hazard profiles, and work with elected officials and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to gather input and identify needed goals and projects. A draft plan will be made available for public review in the spring and comments received will be incorporated. The county will submit the plan to the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security and FEMA for technical review. Finally, Sundance, Moorcroft, Pine Haven, Hulett, and Crook County will have the opportunity to adopt and implement the plan. Plan implementation will be dependent on having the resources to do so.

How do we offer input?

Input is encouraged any time until the plan is adopted. Adoption is targeted for summer 2013. Input from citizens will help make the plan the highest quality possible. Meetings will be designed to gather input and all meetings will be noticed and open to the public. Local newspapers will be provided with meeting information and periodic updates. For more information contact Crook Co. Homeland Security, homelandsecurity@crookcounty.wy.gov, 283-2390 or Barb Beck, 406 446-3628, barbbeck@bresnan.net. Visit the county's website at www.crookcounty.wy.gov for information on the planning process and to view draft documents.