

APPENDIX B:

Koochiching County Community Survey Results

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As part of the hazard mitigation planning process, a community survey was sent to every local jurisdiction within Koochiching County, as well as selected agencies that have an interest in emergency preparedness. A total of 13 surveys were returned completed. The answers to these surveys are summarized in the tables and bulleted lists below.

Within past 5 years has your community experienced a natural disaster?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	9	69.2
	No	2	15.4
	Missing	2	15.4
Total		13	100.0

As shown in the table above, 69.2-percent of the communities in Koochiching County that returned their hazard mitigation survey indicated that they have experienced some kind of natural disaster within the past five years.

1a) If yes, please indicate which of the following has impacted your community?

Natural Event	Frequency
Thunderstorms	7
Hailstorms	8
Lightning	4
Wildfires	2
Windstorms	7
Extreme Heat	0
Flooding	9
Tornadoes	6
Winter Storms	3
Ice Storms	7
Extreme Cold	2

As the table above shows, the hazards that have impacted communities with the greatest frequency include flooding, hailstorms, thunderstorms, and windstorms respectively.

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2) Please rate your level of concern, with one being “extremely concerned” and five being “not concerned”, regarding the following disasters affecting your community.

Hazard Type	Extremely Concerned (%)	↔	Moderately Concerned (%)	↔	Not Concerned (%)	Missing
Thunderstorms	0.0	15.4	53.8	23.1	7.7	0.0
Hailstorms	0.0	30.8	46.2	23.1	0.0	0.0
Lightning	7.7	7.7	46.2	38.5	0.0	0.0
Wildfire	15.4	15.4	38.5	23.1	7.7	0.0
Windstorms	7.7	7.7	46.2	38.5	0.0	0.0
Extreme Heat	0.0	0.0	23.1	46.2	23.1	0.0
Flooding	30.8	7.7	38.5	15.4	7.7	0.0
Tornadoes	23.1	7.7	23.1	38.5	7.7	0.0
Winter Storms	23.1	15.4	30.8	30.8	0.0	0.0
Ice Storms	15.4	30.8	30.8	23.1	0.0	0.0
Extreme Cold	23.1	15.4	15.4	30.8	7.7	0.0

3) Of the hazards listed in question 2, which do you consider to be the greatest risk to your community?

- Tornadoes/Windstorms
- Ice storms
- Tornadoes this suddenness & potential for loss of life
- Haz-Mat incident we have railroad line that goes through our County int. Canada that carries extremely dangerous materials.
- Flooding since it can hinder access to homes for EMS personnel
- Extreme fluctuations of flake levels due to drought conditions followed by excessive rainfall
- Human caused hazards because I think we are the least prepared for these
- Windstorms
- Human caused hazards pose the most threat.
- Winter Storms, ice storms, an extreme cold have always been a very high concern and high risk for our area
- Any, especially in the heating season. That may result in extended power outage, but also power loss at any time and inability to access drinking water.
- Human caused hazards at some level one is prepared for the natural disaster. Human caused hazards cannot be forecasted.

4) Please describe any programs, capabilities, or policies your community has in place to reduce or prevent losses from natural disasters.

- County wide emergency management team city emergency response program
- 911 system siren notification in surrounding communities, trained EMS and fire personnel
- Have warning sirens in International Falls, Littlefork & Big Falls
- Weather forecasting and alerts as to dangerous weather conditions. FEMA response to flooding. Sirens, alarms and notification of public on leaks/spills
- We have an early warning system. We have collaboratively practiced disaster drills including a drill that required decontamination of victims
- Warning system for severe weather
- Koochiching Co and International Falls have updated Emergency SOG's. Combined Response Team, certified clan/meth lab technician, decontamination trail and hazmat decontamination team
- Co. and city emergency plans
- Warning systems
- Sheriff can provide

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5) What additional methods need to be taken by your community to reduce/prevent damages?

- Communication improvement
- Deal with rule curve on Rainy Lake. Federal agency sets the curve which has proven to be costly
- Further collaborative emergency preparedness training
- Continue training with agencies to improve cooperation communication and understanding of ICS and response to our emergency
- Identify and assess key areas for accident prevention measures, rapid ingress and egress. Establish security procedures. Public awareness and education measures. Improve communications capabilities. Hazard recognition and awareness training for personnel
- Continue education and table top discussions on possible events
- Identify sources of drinking water that do not need electricity
- Koochiching County is large and remote 2 hours from next largest service city. Communications within the County and to the outside world

6) What Federal, State, local, or private agencies does your unit of government currently work with in developing strategies to decrease the risks associated with hazards

- Department of homeland security, sheriff's dept. police dept, area fire departments, DNR etc.
- FEMA, NOAA Red Cross, MPCA, EPA
- We cooperate with the local and other community fire dept. with DNR areas, Voyageurs National Park and Indian affairs
- We coordinate with Koochiching Co. Sheriff's dept., I-Falls Fire and Ambulance services, I-Falls and Koochiching Co. public works, Boise Cascade Corporation, Voyageurs National Park, Ontario law enforcement and fire services, State of MN and FEMA
- Our dept. works with the local police and sheriffs departments to manage emergency planning
- Sheriff can provide

7) What are the roles and responsibilities that your local unit of government has in decreasing the vulnerability of the community to the impacts of hazards?

- We are the emergency management coordinator and have developed a local plan with all groups and agency's within our jurisdiction
- I believe local government has done a good job in informing the public of potential hazards
- I-Falls police dept. is the first responder to all incidents within the corporate limits of the City. Role is to protect life and property through recognition, evacuation, perimeter establishment, and traffic control.
- Very high responsibility to the community and surrounding area
- Responsible to provide warm housing in case of extended power outages in winter and drinking water throughout the year, possible storm shelter/basement for tornadoes

8) Describe any problems your community has had in coordinating with Federal, State, and local government officials with regard to hazard assistance programs/responsibilities?

- Now that I'm aware of the new homeland security dept. is a great step
- With regards to the rule curve, the feds don't seem to want to listen to the locals
- Communication know what other agencies are capable of doing

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APPENDIX C:

Local Jurisdictions - Resolutions of Participation

