

12. HAZARD MITIGATION

A key goal of this Plan is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Adams County's inhabitants. The following policies and strategies are intended to reduce injuries and loss of life; trauma; damage to property, equipment and infrastructure; community disruption; and economic, environmental, and other losses caused by natural and industrial hazards that are likely to impact the County resulting in a more resilient and sustainable Adams County.

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These policies and strategies are intended to be applied in conjunction with the Capabilities Assessment in Appendix B of this Plan and the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) contained in Appendix C of this Plan as well as other policies and strategies contained in this Plan.

POLICY 12.1: REDUCE RISK AND EFFECTS OF NATURAL AND INDUSTRIAL HAZARDS

Reduce risk and effects of natural hazards and minimize loss of life and property from natural and industrial hazard events and protect public health and safety.

Strategies

12.1.a. Natural Resource Protection—Protect and enhance Adams County natural resources by adopting and implementing sustainable policies that have few or no negative impacts and have positive environmental effects whenever possible.

12.1.b. Preventive Measures—Expand mapping, regulations, and loss prevention programs in areas with high risks and catastrophic potential where additional safety considerations are warranted.

12.1.c. Protect Public Health and Safety—Take proactive steps to protect Adams County inhabitants through the development of improved Safe Rooms, and warning and communication systems.

POLICY 12.2: INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HAZARD RISKS

Increase public awareness of risk from natural and industrial hazards through public education and awareness campaigns as well as proactive warnings.

Strategies

12.2.a. Public Information and Education—Improve public awareness of natural and industrial hazards in general and at specific high risk locations; and give people knowledge about measures they can use to protect themselves, their property, and their community.

12.2.b. Emergency Services—Identify the needs and implement

additional emergency operation plans and services for areas at high risk including additional prediction forecasting capability, emergency alerts, and education and outreach activities.



Proactive risk-reduction measures such as underground tornado shelters can help minimize loss of life due to natural hazards.

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POLICY 12.3: LIMIT BUILDING IN HIGH-RISK AREAS AND IMPROVE DISASTER PREVENTION

Limit building in high-risk areas and improve disaster prevention through regulations and design standards for hazardous materials facilities.

Strategies

12.3.a. Structural Projects—Obtain funding for and implement projects that can reduce the impacts of natural and industrial hazards with consideration for comprehensive solutions in accord with resilient and sustainable implementation and management plans.

12.3.b. Property Protection—Identify and protect people, structures, critical facilities, and critical infrastructure that are vulnerable to natural and industrial hazards.

12.3.c. Regulations and Design Standards—Evaluate and strengthen County regulations related to hazardous materials facilities to minimize potential conflicts with other uses and to define hazardous materials thresholds that trigger additional requirements.