

CHAPTER 4 – PROGRESS ON 2007 MITIGATION STRATEGIES

This chapter identifies the progress of mitigation strategies for each hazard identified in the original 2007 Plan. The adopted goal for each Hazard is also listed.

For each strategy recommended, a brief progress report is provided, along with recommendations for this updated Plan.

Tornadoes/High Winds

Goal: Protect the safety and property of Portage County residents, landowners, visitors, and public infrastructure by lessening the negative impacts of tornadoes and high winds.

2007 Plan Recommendations	Progress	Recommendation for 2012 Plan
Tornado/High Winds		
Develop and maintain a database that records natural hazard events and damage associated with them.	County Hazard Analysis NWS maintains information	Continue to update
Implement additional public education such as; add additional weather radios, encourage businesses to have emergency plans for severe weather, and continue education regarding electrical wires and power lines.	Public education campaign during Tornado Awareness Week. Public Service has an ongoing campaign for education regarding electrical wires and power lines.	More public education for CodeRED needed.
Recommend stronger building codes for mobile homes such as tie down. Investigate a countywide (Towns, Villages, and City) standards for mobile homes. Meet with mobile home park owners and local municipal leaders to discuss the tie down standards and possible ordinance.	P&Z – No change in ordinances – currently no requirements.	Continue to look into recommendations to include tie downs for mobile/manufactured homes.
Designate signage, at public places, to direct people to shelters.	Schools = yes Other public building = no	Continue
Study the feasibility and work toward the development of safety shelters for campgrounds and mobile home parks. Work with local municipalities and mobile home park owners in discussing safety shelters.	Mitigation grant proposal submitted for audio warning system in County campgrounds.	Continue

Severe Storms

Goal: Protect the safety and property of Portage County residents, landowners, visitors, and public infrastructure by lessening the negative impacts of severe storms.

Hazards in this category have been broken down into predominately winter events: Heavy Snow, Blizzard, Ice and summer events: Thunderstorms, Hail Storms, Lightning Storms.

Current Plan Recommendations	Progress	Recommendation for 2012 Plan
Winter Storms		
Continue to maintain and evaluate the priority of providing services, such as plowing, to areas as development patterns change.	General policy ongoing	Continue
Adhere to standards for ice and snow load bearing through proper building code enforcement.	General policy ongoing	Continue to work with municipalities and local building inspectors regarding this recommendation.
Investigate a more efficient means of snow removal and clearing within the urban area.	On-going	Continue
Recommend local municipalities to increase amount of brush and vegetation cleared in the right-of-way.	On-going	Continue
Burying utility lines when rebuilding roads to prevent from freezing and snapping.	General policy ongoing	Continue to identify areas of high concern to prioritize and work with incorporating into new developments.

Current Plan Recommendations	Progress	Recommendation for 2012 Plan
Summer Storms		
Increase available public education about severe storms by evaluating current severe storm weather safety information and update as needed. Expand signage at public places such as parks, campgrounds, beaches, sport facilities, etc. to direct the public in case of an emergency. Include in weather radios and EAS warnings when hail is possible to put vehicles/pets in	Generator back-up system developed for communication towers. Proposed project for audio warning in County Park campgrounds.	Continue to educate and create awareness

covered locations. Promote back up power systems for pharmacies, hospitals, etc. along with local volunteer fire departments.		
Build and maintain a data base of specific hazard events, primarily with location and damage amount. Include where power outages have occurred.	Not Completed	Recommended to be included with EAS (CodeRED)
Working in conjunction with Portage County Planning and Zoning Department, Emergency Management Department, and Law Enforcement Departments to identify potential growth areas that would facilitate the need for expansion of warning systems such as: higher concentrations of development in rural areas, the outward expansion of incorporated communities, etc.	City siren system expanded in 2010 to cover growth areas of the City. Some municipalities cannot afford to repair current systems e.g. Village of Junction City and Village of Whiting	Work with local municipalities to update/repair siren system. Along with continuing for all other areas of the County
The Emergency Management Department, along with related departments, will continue to maintain and evaluate distribution of National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios, while continuing training sessions.	Previous warning system has been converted to narrow-band system per FCC mandate. During 2009 planning project, Weather radios were encouraged at all elderly housing, assisted living, and group homes.	Look into if EAS (CodeRED) would be more reliable for this. Continue Education
Evaluate the need for adding on additional dispatchers during severe weather events.	If we have the lead time for a storm, we currently do.	Currently a joint dispatch is being considered.
Work with utility companies, builders, and municipalities on encouraging the burying of utility lines where feasible.	One mitigation grant was secured in 2006 for this purpose	
Advocate placement of lightning rods on all structures.	Not completed	Remove
Create additional severe weather shelter locations around higher risk areas such as: mobile home parks and campgrounds.	P&Z – Currently not required but strongly encouraged through BOA approval – all campgrounds go through BOA approval	Continue
Evaluate the need to expand weather spotter training classes.	Severe weather spotter classes are offered every two years or more often if needed.	Continue

Flooding

Goal: Protect the health, safety, and property of Portage County residents, landowners, visitors, and public infrastructure by lessening the negative impacts of flood events.

Current Plan Recommendations	Progress	Recommendation for 2012 Plan
Flooding		
Public education on how to minimize the affects/damage due to flooding.	Flood awareness campaign annually.	Continue
Build GIS data system on past events; location, damage, amount of precipitation, etc. associated with hazard.	Not completed	Continue
Minimize filling wetlands	P&Z – still do this	Completed
Continue the requirement for dry land access to new residences. Encourage standard across County.	P&Z – County’s Shoreland and Subdivision Ordinances	Completed
Work with FEMA to re-designate floodplains maps through updated hydrology data.	P&Z - We received updated Floodplain Maps from FEMA in July 2009, mostly remapped using existing data. The Wisconsin River and Rocky Run received some additional attention due to new bridges in the area.	Completed
Recommend buildings not be placed in natural drainage ways.	County Ordinance created	Completed
Recommend County standards for placement of structures new natural drainage ways.	County Ordinance created	Completed
All incorporated areas need to include shoreland and floodplain zoning.	County has both Shoreland and Floodplain Zoning for unincorporated areas of the County. The County is currently in the process of updating its shoreland Zoning Ordinance.	Continue to work with and follow up with incorporated municipalities for shoreland and floodplain zoning
Incorporated areas should evaluate their stormwater management plans.	P&Z – the County started to require Stormwater permits Summer of 2010 for unincorporated areas of	

	the County	
Recommend the installation of back flow valves for public and private structures located in floodplain and flood prone areas.	P&Z – County Sanitary Ordinance, which references State Code, would automatically require specific guidelines, more of a City, Village issue.	Complete
Recommend elevating mechanicals in public and private structures such as furnaces and water heaters.	This is addressed by the Building Code, which individual municipalities regulate/oversee	Complete
Incorporate recommendations of Hazard Mitigation Plan into local Comprehensive Plans.	On-going	Continue
Create and maintain a Comprehensive Management Plan for the Wisconsin River Flowage with better communication and coordination between entities to alleviate water problems downstream.	On-going	Continue
Work with Consolidated Water and Paper Company (CWPCo) and Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation to develop early warnings and strategies to minimize damage from flooding.	CWPCo is a Portage County partner in County's Emergency Management notification system. Pre-scripted messages are developed. Pre-designated maps are developed based on 2010 flood experience.	Continue
Recommend raising certain roads to eliminate flooding and flood damage. Work with local municipalities to identify those roads.	On-going	Continue. Create inventory and recommended to be improved to a certain standard. Review how these changes will affect areas downstream.
Perform cost analysis of removing homes within the floodplain and floodway.	On-going	Continue. Create list of structures

Extreme Temperatures

Goal: Protect the health and safety of Portage County residents and visitors by lessening the negative impacts of extreme temperatures.

Current Plan Recommendations	Progress	Recommendation for 2012 Plan
Extreme Temperatures		
Additional public service announcements in the event of extreme temperatures.	Heat Awareness public education campaign is conducted annually. A system for information dissemination is in place.	Continue
Coordinate severe weather alerts with additional local agencies and elderly care facilities. Coordinate better linkage between regular business hours and weekends to disseminate severe weather information.	On-going. A system already exists through the County Heat Plan.	Continue
Contact local internet providers to see if they could disseminate information via email.	On-going. Create relationship with providers	Continue
Work with local government units, identify and designate structures as shelters from extreme temperatures.	On-going	Continue
Designate and open public buildings (with air conditioning) for those residents that do not have such amenities during extreme heat advisories.	On-going. Many buildings have been identified.	Continue

Fire

Goal: Protect the safety and property of Portage County residents, landowners, visitors, and public infrastructure by lessening the negative impacts of fires.

Current Plan Recommendations	Progress	Recommendation for 2012 Plan
Fire – Wild Land		
Get local neighborhood watch programs into effect again, and let municipalities be aware that funding is currently available. Incorporate fire protection into local neighborhood watch programs.	Low-priority, DNR is available to train groups as needed.	Remove
Adhere to standards for clearing trees	WI Fire Wise has	Continue

around new or existing residential developments. Provide more information to new home owners regarding "clear zones" for fire protection.	adopted similar information. Need to review and assemble for distribution for communities/groups	
Create and maintain a map that identifies high risk areas.	WI DNR has completed this.	Continue
Maintain agreements with individuals who have high capacity wells to refill fire trucks.	On-going	Continue
Develop a map of high capacity wells for use, and expand programs to allow fire vehicles access to high capacity wells.	Information on location of High Capacity wells is available through the County GIS system. Coordination with agreements for fire vehicles use is still needed.	Continue
Work with railroads and other utility to maintain right-of-ways to prevent fires.	On-going	Continue

Drought

Goal: Minimize crop yield loss through periods of drought.

Current Plan Recommendations	Progress	Recommendation for 2012 Plan
Drought		
Build and maintain a database specific to drought events.	NWS maintains this information; the NRCS also has flood information	Continue. Look for ways to get Annual updates of information
Encourage the adoption of water usage regulations throughout the County.	On-going, Municipality specific regulations	Continue to review and discuss with Municipalities
Encourage the use of crop insurance for farmers in Portage County.	On-going, work with NRCS and UW- Ag Extension Office	Continue