

CHAPTER 5 – MITIGATION STRATEGIES

This chapter identifies other preparedness plans to better understand the full scope of what Portage County has in place to be better prepared for Hazards. This chapter also provides updated Goals for the County, and identifies the Mitigation Strategies.

SECTION A: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES/PLANS

Portage County Hazard Analysis

The Portage County Hazard Analysis identifies hazards that have or could occur in Portage County. It includes a description of each hazard, its frequency of occurrence, identifying potential mitigation actions and current actions taken to mitigate the hazard. These hazards are the basis for the development of all county emergency management plans.

Communications

Portage County has two Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs); the Portage County Communications Center located in the Portage County Law Enforcement Center (1500 Strongs Ave, Stevens Point) and the City of Stevens Point Dispatch Center located in the Stevens Point Police Department (1516 Church St, Stevens Point). A landline call placed within the county is selectively routed to the correct PSAP. Wireless calls are answered jointly by both PSAPs. Each PSAP develops and maintains internal SOPs/SOGs, policies and procedures.

The Village of Plover has a mobile command post with limited communication capabilities.

CodeRED: Emergency Notification System & Weather Warning

Portage County has an emergency notification system (CodeRED), an ultra high-speed telephone communications service for emergency notifications. With CodeRED, calls can be place to all or targeted areas of the county in case of an emergency that requires immediate action. It delivers a recorded message to a live person or an answering machine, making three attempts to connect to any number.

This all-hazard notification system is currently being utilized for: drinking water contamination, utility outage, evacuation notice and route, missing persons, fire or floods, bomb threat, hostage situation, chemical spill or gas leak, and is available for other emergency incidents where rapid and accurate notification is essential for life safety. Citizens have the option of signing up for the Weather Alert. With this service, they will be notified in the event there is issued a flash flood warning, a tornado warning or a severe weather warning.

Portage County strongly encourages all citizens to obtain a weather radio. While National Weather Service (NWS) staff prepares and produces Weather Radio broadcasts, the NWS neither manufactures nor sells receivers. Citizens can buy receivers at many retail outlets, including electronics, department, sporting goods, and boat and marine accessory stores and their catalogs. They can also be purchased via the Internet from online retailers or directly from manufacturers. (Source: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm>)

Portage County ARES/RACES members form a network of volunteer Skywarn weather spotters trained by the National Weather Service. These trained volunteers assist local law enforcement, emergency management and the NWS in watching and identifying potentially hazardous severe weather.

Emergency Response and Operations Plans (ERP/EOP)

Within Portage County, the City of Stevens Point, the Amherst Fire District and the Village of Plover have adopted a municipal emergency operations plan.

Portage County Emergency Operation Plan

The purpose of the Portage County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is to:

1. Facilitate the protection of lives, property and the environment in major disasters of any nature.
2. Coordinate response to disasters, assess damages, identify mitigation opportunities and implement recovery efforts.
3. Describe the County's relationship in support of local units of governments during response and recovery.
4. Serve as a coordinating document for supporting Internal Agency Plans (IAP) (i.e., Policy and Procedures.)
5. Reflect information collected, decisions made, and procedures developed in the planning process and during response.
6. Provide a link between the County and municipal plans.

Incident Response Exercises

Portage County plans, coordinates, and exercises disaster drills with local responding agencies.

The Central Wisconsin Disaster Management Group consists of hospitals from Marshfield, Neillsville, Stevens Point, Wausau, and Wisconsin Rapids.

Pandemic Influenza Response Plan

On August 1, 2007, Portage County adopted the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan. This plan outlines planning considerations, concepts of operations, operational functions and tasks required by the Local Health Department/Tribe (LHD/T) during planning, operations and recovery of a pandemic. The tasks outlined for each operational function are based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) levels of response in tandem with levels of a pandemic severity (mild, moderate and severe). CDC levels of response were developed by a wide variety of federal, state, and local partners. The plan does not address outbreaks of avian influenza virus in birds or other animal populations within the jurisdiction. Federal and State Departments of Agriculture are primarily responsible for surveillance and control of influenza outbreaks in domestic animals, although agricultural control measures interface with public health actions to prevent transmission to humans. The Pandemic Influenza Response Plan is an annex to the Public Health Emergency Plan (PHEP) and will be implemented in tandem with other plans found within the PHEP.

It is expected that health care facilities and health care professionals, essential services providers, local governmental officials and business leaders will develop and incorporate procedures and protocols addressing influenza preparedness and response activities into their emergency response plans.

Heat Emergency Plan

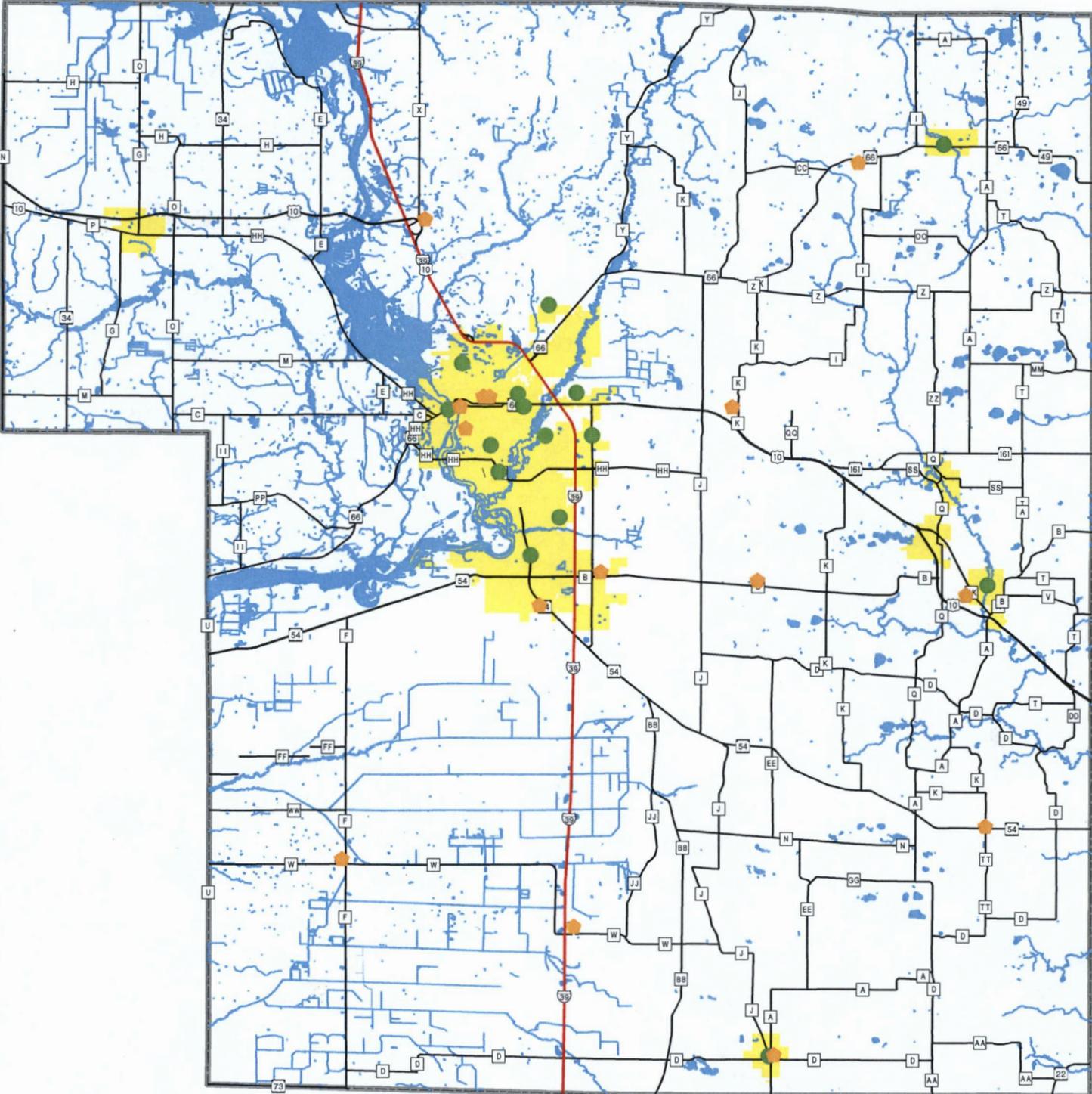
Updated yearly, this plan provides a coordinated response for sustained heat events to minimize morbidity and mortality by facilitating the protection of lives in the event of a heat emergency, providing a link between Portage County government agencies and other community emergency resources, and providing public education and information prior to and during a heat emergency. In June of each year, the Emergency Management Director will review and update the plan, issue a press release on Wisconsin's Heat Awareness Day, and test broadcast fax capability to related agencies and organizations.

During warm weather season, Emergency Management will monitor weather through the National Weather Service and initiate the plan for any level of announced heat advisory as follows:

Upon notice from the National Weather Service, Emergency Management will fax a Hazardous Weather Outlook for the following conditions: Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Watch and Excessive Heat Warning.

Portage County Emergency Management may issue a press release related to the potential heat emergency. The release will include strategies for coping with extreme heat and public locations that are air-conditioned and could be considered as cooling centers. The EM may issue a press release as appropriate for Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Watch and Excessive Heat Warning.

Map 28: Emergency Communication Towers & Warning Sirens



- ◆ Emergency Communication Towers
- Warning Sirens



Source: Portage County Planning & Zoning (2012)
 Portage County Emergency Operations Plan (2010) Map Produced: May, 2012

Portage County Planning & Zoning
 1462 Strongs Ave
 Stevens Point, WI 54481

SECTION B: MITIGATION GOALS AND STRATEGIES

During the creating of the 2007 Hazard Mitigation Plan, one main goal was present for all natural hazards to: **Protect the health and safety of Portage County residents and visitors by lessening the negative impacts of Natural Hazards.**

As we reviewed and worked through the 2012-2017 All Hazard Mitigation Plan, other goals were discussed and established by the Hazard Mitigation Work Group. These goals helped direct us as we continued to discuss mitigation strategies to reduce and if possible to avoid long-term vulnerability to the natural and technological hazards addressed as part of this plan.

Mitigation Goals for Portage County

- To protect the health and safety of Portage County residents and visitors by lessening the negative impacts of natural and technological hazards.
- To continue and to enhance public education and awareness for disaster preparedness and expand public awareness of both natural and technological hazards.
- To lessen the impacts natural and technological hazards have on property and the environment.
- To encourage hazard mitigation planning and incorporation of mitigation strategies into local comprehensive plans and other planning related documents and policies.
- To continue and to encourage additional intergovernmental relationships regarding hazard mitigation and preparedness activities.

Mitigation Strategies

This section will address those natural and technological hazards that received the greatest likelihood of occurrence as identified by local communities from our 2007 mitigation plan, the Portage County Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the Portage County Working Group. This does not mean that other types of hazards have not, or will not occur. The Portage County Hazard Mitigation Work Group focused its attention on those events that are most likely to occur and events that would affect the greatest population.

Hazards are addressed in the order that they appear in Chapter 3. Each identify action strategies recommended to reduce or eliminate long term risk to human life and property. Along with recommended action strategies, this Chapter will also address and describe current strategies in place throughout Portage County. Portage County will implement a cost benefit analysis for each action item prior to implementation.

Prioritization of strategies will be completed regarding identified need and funding availability as identified by lead agency.

Mitigation for all Types of Hazards

All Hazards				
Strategy	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency	Participating Agency	Timeframe
Public Education and Awareness (Revised from 2007)	All	Emergency Management and Local Municipality	Primary Emergency Response Agencies, Municipalities, Media Resources	Ongoing
Mutual Aid/ Interagency Agreements	All	Emergency Medical Service, Law Enforcement , Fire, Dept. of Public Works	Dept. of Public Works, Emergency Medical Service, Fire, Law Enforcement, Municipalities	Ongoing
Emergency Notification Systems (NOAA, Sirens, Park Warning Systems). More education for "CodeRED" needed. Other forms of notifications systems to be identified. (Revised from 2007)	All	Public Safety Answering Points	Emergency Response Agencies, Municipalities	Ongoing
Education and Training of County and municipal staff	All	Emergency Management	Corresponding County Departments and Municipalities	Ongoing
Continue to review and update Communication systems	All	Public Safety Answering Points	Corresponding Departments and Municipalities	Ongoing
Work to find ways to have more consistent communication devices for local fire departments. (New 2012)	All	Dispatch Advisory Group	Local Fire Dept., vendor	Ongoing
Identify evacuation and alternative transportation routes in case of road closures, specifically I-39.	Portage County	Portage County Hwy Dept., Town of Dewey,	Portage County Hwy Dept., Town of Dewey, WI DOT,	Ongoing

(New 2012)		and WI DOT, Portage County Sheriff's Office	Portage County Sheriff's Office, TIM Team	
Work to create Mutual Aid with northern Towns and Marathon County - Fire Protection (New 2012)	Town of Dewey	Local Fire Departments	Local Municipalities, Marathon County and Municipalities	Ongoing
Develop and Maintain a Geographic Information database of hazard events that have occurred in the County, including location, event conditions, and resulting damage, and costs (Revised from 2007)	All municipalities	Emergency Management Department	Planning and Zoning (GIS)	Ongoing
Add local websites for jurisdictions to the County's EM website to provide easy access to individual municipal information. (New 2012)	All municipalities	Portage County EM and County IT Department	Local Municipalities	Ongoing
Explore alternative to increase public warning options for all hazards (New 2012)	All municipalities	EM and Emergency agencies	Local Municipalities	Ongoing
Continue to apply for federal funding to purchase NOAA weather radios for County residents (Revised from 2007)	All municipalities	Portage County Emergency Management	Local Municipalities	On-going
Recommended that Goals and mitigation strategies be incorporated as part of local and County comprehensive planning efforts where appropriate. (New 2012)	All municipalities	Portage County Planning and Zoning	All Municipalities	On-going
Continue to promote information campaigns about severe weather (Revised 2007)	All municipalities	Portage County Emergency Management All Public Safety	All municipalities	On-going
Bury overhead power and utility lines, where feasible, as a way to improve emergency response times, improve safety, and reduce power outages. (Revised 2007)	All municipalities, Specifically – Village of Plover, City of Stevens Point	Individual Municipality to incorporate as part of Subdivision/ Zoning Ordinances	Utilities	Ongoing
Identify ways to reduce power outages throughout the County. (New 2012)	All municipalities,	Utilities	Local Municipalities	On-going
Continue to ensure that new	All municipalities	Individual	Local Building	On-going

development meets applicable development standards: zoning, subdivision, building codes etc. (Revised 2007)		municipality per their adopted regulations	Inspectors, Zoning Regulators	
Identify and pursue funding opportunities to develop and implement local and county mitigation activities. (New 2012)	All municipalities	Individual municipality	Portage County Emergency Management, and Public Safety	On-going
Continue to provide periodic emergency response training exercises. (Revised from 2007)	All Municipalities	Portage County Emergency Management and Public Safety	Individual Municipalities	On-going
Offer information regarding insurance to farm operators due to potential crop loss due to weather related damage... (Revised from 2007)	All Municipalities	NRCS and UW-Extension Office	Local Farmers, Municipalities	On-going
Create additional severe weather shelter locations around higher risk areas such as: manufactured home parks and campgrounds (2007)	Portage County and Incorporated Municipalities	Individual Municipality	Owners of Campgrounds and Manufactured Home Parks	On-going
Continue to host severe weather spotter classes and maintain network of spotters throughout the County (Revised from 2007)	Portage County	Emergency Management & National Weather Service	All citizens and emergency response agencies	On-going
Identification of areas where residents can become land-locked due to transportation infrastructure or related to flooding. (New 2012)	Towns of Grant, Eau Pleine, Carson, Linwood	Individual Municipality	Emergency response agencies	On-going
Continue to review, update and practice the Greater Tomorrow Emergency Management District Plan. (New 2012)	Town of Amherst, Villages of Amherst, Amherst Junction, and Nelsonville	Amherst Fire District, Village of Amherst, Amherst Junction, Nelsonville and Town of Amherst	Portage County Emergency Management	On-going
Continue to support the neighbors helping neighbor group that has been started. Encourage similar neighborhood groups throughout the County. (New 2012)	Town of Amherst	Neighborhood Group	Portage County Emergency Management, and Local Fire/Police Departments	On-going
Create a Village of Junction City Emergency Action Plan (New 2012)	Village of Junction City	Village's Public Protection Committee	-	1-3 years and On-going

Encourage all areas to participate or prepare own Emergency Action Plan (New 2012)	All Municipalities	Individual Municipality	Portage County Emergency Management Surrounding Municipalities, and Local Fire/Police Departments	1-3 years
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Current Mitigation Activities: All Hazards

Tornado				
Strategy	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency	Participating Agency	Timeframe
Continue to review current coverage of outdoor sirens and prepare a schedule for new locations as development happens. (Revised from 2007)	Incorporated municipalities, Village of Plover	Individual MCD	Portage County Emergency Management	On-Going
Work with local municipalities to maintain and keep sirens in working order. (New 2012)	All Villages, and City of Stevens Point	Individual Municipality	Portage County Emergency Management	On-Going
Investigate a countywide (Towns, Villages, and City) standards for manufactured homes. (Revised from 2007)	Incorporated Municipalities and Portage County	Municipality Zoning Ordinances	County	On-Going
Designate signage at public places to direct people to shelters. (2007)	All Municipalities	Owners and Local Municipality	-	On-Going

Current Mitigation Activities:

These current activities should be continued while also pursuing any new action strategies.

An effective warning system is the single most important source to alert the public to a tornado hazard. However, forecasting of tornadoes is difficult because of the suddenness of their onset and their relatively short duration, the extreme variability of a tornado striking area, limited knowledge of tornado dynamics, and the limitations of the weather observing system.

During the past several years, there has been a statewide Tornado Awareness Week in late March or early April. Media information packets are distributed to re-emphasize

and alert the public to tornado warning procedures. Portage County actively promotes tornado safety public information as well as other summer severe weather public awareness/educational efforts. Portage County also assists the National Weather Service in sponsoring tornado spotter training and organizing local tornado spotter networks. There are more than fifty trained spotters in Portage County. Portage County Emergency Management staff assists personnel in schools and businesses, public facility managers, and individuals in determining "best available" tornado safety areas.

Efforts have been made to improve mobile home safety in windstorms and tornadoes. Besides public education efforts, Portage County Zoning Ordinances require tie-downs in mobile home parks. The Village of Plover has adopted a policy that designates their Municipal Building as a severe weather shelter for mobile home occupants.

Portage County has a variety of warning devices/methods. For example, there is an outdoor warning siren system comprised of twelve sirens. This system will reach approximately 50% of the citizens. This system is tested every Saturday morning at 11:00 A.M. throughout the year.

Portage County contracts with a severe weather Emergency Notification System (currently CodeRED), an automated call system to notify residents. In addition, the County has weather alert radios placed in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, senior centers, radio stations and various businesses and most County owned buildings. A total of 40 radios are in place.

During 2003 Portage County, through a pre-disaster mitigation grant, purchased and distributed 150 Weather Alert Radios to special needs facilities including child care centers, elderly housing facilities, camps and campgrounds, parks, and residents of mobile homes.

High Winds				
Strategy	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency	Participating Agency	Timeframe
Right of Way / Easements (trees) (Revised from 2007)	Rural Towns	Department of Public Works	Department of Public Works	On-going
The Town of Belmont specifically identified that they are most vulnerable to high wind events. Further discussion and information on possible strategies should be brought to all Town's attention to reduce the effects of such events. (New 2012)	Town of Belmont, Portage County	Emergency Management	Town of Belmont Wind Shed Partners	On-going

Severe Storm - Winter				
Strategy	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency	Participating Agency	Timeframe
Continue to maintain and evaluate the providing services, such as plowing, to areas as development patterns change. (2007)	All	Individual Municipality	-	On-going
Adhere to standards for ice and snow load bearing through building code enforcement. (2007)	All	Individual Municipality's Building Inspector	-	On-going
Recommend local municipalities to increase amount of brush and vegetation cleared in the right-of-way. (2007)	All	Individual Municipality	-	On-going
Work to identify locations for "living" snow fence. (New 2012)	Town of Lanark	Individual Municipality	Local Farmers, Wind Shed Partners	On-going

Current Mitigation Activities: Winter Storm

Communities prepare for severe winter weather by ensuring that plowing and sanding equipment is operational and available to handle potential emergencies. Also, extra personnel and funding may be necessary to cover extensive overtime hours. Communication lines also need to be established between government, police, fire, EMS, hospitals, and highway departments. The Portage County Emergency Management Plan provides for coordination of public safety, support agencies (such as the American Red Cross), and resource acquisition during emergencies.

Winter safety information is prepared and distributed to the media and public by the Portage County Emergency Management Department. During a storm, the public is advised to monitor local radio, television, weather alert radio and weather forecasts. Emergency information will also be disseminated via the local Emergency Notification System (EAS).

Severe Storm - Summer				
Strategy	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency	Participating Agency	Timeframe
Increase available public education about severe storms by evaluating current severe storm weather safety	All	Emergency Management and Local Municipality	Primary Emergency Response Agencies,	Ongoing

information and update as needed. (Revised from 2007)			Municipalities, Media Resources	
Expand signage at public places such as; parks campgrounds, beaches, sport facilities etc. to direct public in case of an emergency. (Revised from 2007)	All	Emergency Management	Emergency Response Agencies, Municipalities	On-going
Include in weather radios and EAS warnings when hail is possible to put vehicles/pets in covered locations. (Revised from 2007)	All	Emergency Management	Emergency Response Agencies, Municipalities	On-going
Promote backup power systems for critical infrastructure facilities along with local volunteer fire departments. (Revised from 2007)	All	Emergency Response Agencies	All Municipalities	On-going

Current Mitigation Activities: Summer Storm

The Portage County Emergency Management Department has developed and disseminates severe weather safety information to the public. During Tornado Awareness Week there is extensive media coverage of safety tips. Additionally, the Department assists the National Weather Service (NWS) in conducting tornado spotter training programs and organizing local tornado spotter networks.

Portage County also promotes early warning of the public and has established a local Emergency Action System (EAS).

Insurance is the most widely used adjustment for crop and property damages due to hail. Hail crop insurance is available from two sources: commercial stock and mutual companies, and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). Farmers rarely purchase insurance coverage up to the full value of the losses that would result from a severe hail storm.

The County Agricultural Extension Agent and Farm Credit Services office distributes information on various hail insurance options. In the event of major damage, the Portage County Agricultural Extension Agent, county and federal agricultural agency representatives will have primary responsibility for documenting hail damage.

Federal emergency assistance is available in the form of low-interest loans when a Presidential Disaster is declared or when the FEMA declares a county eligible for aid. Damage from hailstorms alone is generally not extensive enough to invoke a disaster declaration.

The two primary ways to effectively reduce lightning losses are protection of structures and modification of human behavior. Damage can be reduced through the use of fire resistant materials when constructing buildings.

The Portage County Emergency Management Department has awareness/educational materials to inform the public of safety procedures to follow regarding the lightning hazard. Severe summer weather safety information is also emphasized during Tornado Awareness Week.

Flooding				
Strategy	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency	Participating Agency	Timeframe
Creation and update of storm water management ordinances for all incorporated municipalities (New 2012)*	Incorporated MCD	Individual MCD	Portage County Planning and Zoning	On-going
Stronger enforcement/oversight in erosion and sediment control ordinances. To control Construction site erosion from construction sites, WI Department of Commerce has adopted construction site erosion control regulations through the state building code. State erosion control regulations are enforced through the local building inspectors. It has come up in discussions that these need stronger review and enforcement throughout the County. (New 2012)	All Municipalities	Individual MCD and their Building Inspector	State Department of Commerce	On-going
Continue to review County's shore land Zoning Ordinance and encourage all incorporated municipalities with shore land to develop and adopt shore land ordinances. (Revised from 2007)*	Portage County, Villages of Plover, Amherst, Rosholt, Nelsonville, and City of Stevens Point	Local Municipality and County	-	On-going
Work to identify local roads, by municipality, that are prone to flooding, culvert issues and other flooding affects that close local roads. (New 2011) Create and maintain a database of bridges and culverts on all roads within the County to include the size of culverts and other valuable data. Find ways to identify which culverts and bridges are undersized or unable to handle expected flood water flows. (New 2012)	Town of Alban, Town of Carson, Town of Linwood, Eau Pleine, Hull, Grant Specifically	Local Municipality	Portage County Emergency Management, and Planning and Zoning Department	On-going
Identify a more effective way to	All Municipalities	Local	EOC	On-going

communicate road closures to all areas of Portage County. Especially when power outages accompany these closures. (New 2012)		Municipality and Portage County Emergency Management		
Continue to enforce flood plan ordinances (New 2012)*	Portage County	Planning and Zoning	Local Municipality	On-going
Support land acquisition and management strategies to preserve open space for flood mitigation purposes. (New 2012)*	All	All	All	On-going
Locate public infrastructure outside of the flood plain. (New 2012)*	All	EM and P&Z	Municipalities	On-going
Work with local municipalities to prepare a strategy to prioritize road improvement for public roadways that are susceptible to flooding. (Revised from 2007)	All	EM	Local Municipalities	On-going
Review Dam Hazard Classifications with WI Department of Natural Resources (New 2012)	County, Village of Amherst, Village of Rosholt	DNR, County, Village of Amherst, Village of Rosholt	-	On-going
Review becoming a part of the Community Rating System (CRS) to lower flood insurance premiums for property owners. (New 2012)*	City of Stevens Point, Villages of Amherst, Nelsonville, Plover, Rosholt, Whiting, and Portage County	Individual municipality	-	On-going
Continue to work with Consolidated Water and Paper Company and Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation to develop early warning and strategies to minimize damage from flooding. (2007)	-	Emergency Management Department	Consolidated Water and Paper Company and Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation	On-going
Identify and perform cost analysis of removing homes/structures within the floodplain and floodway. (2007)*	Towns of Linwood, Carson, Eau Pleine, Hull, City of Stevens Point	Individual Municipality and EM	-	On-going
Continued Compliance in NFIP (New 2012)*	Villages of Amherst, Nelsonville, Plover, Rosholt, Whiting, City of Stevens Point and Portage County	Villages of Amherst, Nelsonville, Plover, Rosholt, Whiting, City of Stevens Point and Portage County	-	On-going
Review participation in NFIP (New 2012)*	Village of Park Ridge	Village of Park Ridge	-	On-going
Continue to identify ground water contamination issues that result from high ground water / flooding. (New 2012)	Town of Grant, Town of Hull	Town of Grant	Portage County Groundwater Specialist	On-going

Current Mitigation Activities: Flooding

Short-term actions which may be taken to lessen the effects of flooding include: issuance of early warnings through flood advisory bulletins, dissemination of instructions to the public through the media, preparation of congregate care facilities, and evacuation of people and property. Temporary protective measures such as sandbagging, protection of buildings and other structures, and cut-off of gas and electricity may also be implemented. Portage County maintains a stock of sandbags and sump-pumps to assist in flood fighting.

The current emphasis in flood mitigation is long range actions. This approach includes the adoption of proper flood plain zoning ordinances, land use planning, and promotion of the purchase of flood insurance. It has been shown that flood plain management reduces the cost of damages attributed to flooding. Portage County Planning and Zoning Department enforces county zoning ordinances related to flood plains.

The Portage County Emergency Management Department disseminates public informational materials related to flooding. Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) staff monitors National Weather Service flood forecasts and the local Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) will be used to advise the public in the event of a flooding hazard.

Extreme Temperatures				
Strategy	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency	Participating Agency	Timeframe
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. (2007)	All	EM, HHS	-	On-going
Contact local internet providers to see if they could disseminate information via email. (2007)	All	EM	-	On-going
Work with local municipalities to identify and designate structures as shelters from extreme temperatures. (2007)	All	EM	Municipalities	On-going
Designate and open buildings (with air	All	EM, HHS	Municipalities	On-going

conditioning) for those residents that do not have such amenities during extreme heat advisories. (2007)				
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Current Mitigation Activities: Extreme Temperatures

Annually, the Portage County Emergency Management Department conducts severe weather awareness campaigns. They distribute print materials at various locations, distribute press releases, provide public service announcements, conducts school visits, and a variety of other activities. FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management require Portage County Emergency Management to conduct these campaigns. Portage County Emergency Management currently has Severe Summer Weather, Heat Awareness and Winter Awareness.

Fire – Wild Land Fire				
Strategy	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency	Participating Agency	Timeframe
Adhere to standards for clearing trees around new or existing residential developments. (2007)	Portage County	Local Fire Departments	DNR	On-Going
Provide more information to new home owners regarding “clear zones” for fire protection. (2007)	Portage County	DNR, Local Fire Protection agencies	Local Municipality	On-going
Create and maintain a map that identifies high risk areas. (2007)	All – Specifically Towns of Hull and Lanark (currently High risk)	WI DNR	Local Municipality	On-going
Develop a map of high capacity wells for use, and expand programs to allow fire vehicles access to wells. (2007)	Portage County	Local Fire Departments	Portage County GIS	On-going
Identify and create additional education efforts that local municipality fire departments can use for education (2012)	Towns of Dewey, Alban, Grant,	Portage County Emergency Management, and WI DNR – Whiting Ranger Station	Local Municipalities and Fire Departments	On-going
Work with railroads and other utilities to maintain right-of-ways to prevent fires.	Portage County	Railroad, DNR	Local Municipalities	On-going

Current Mitigation Activities: Wild Land Fire

The WIDNR and local fire departments train together to develop safe, aggressive fire fighting tactics in the wild land/urban interface environment. Cooperative training has been important part of the County fire control program. The WIDNR maintains a current fire action plan for the County, which is kept on file at the Ranger Station in Whiting and in the ranger's Initial Response Unit. Recent and ongoing radio upgrades will help open channels of communication during ongoing incidents involving multiple, mutual aid agencies. The Portage County Fire Chief's Association meets bi-monthly to discuss issues of concern as a means to improve emergency services to County residents.

Portage County has a well-balanced forest protection organization. This includes public information programs, which operate on a year round basis that reaches all sectors of the public. The WIDNR conducts annual school programs targeting elementary students throughout the County on wild land fire prevention. Local fire departments conduct programs on structural fire prevention within their own jurisdictions. In addition, both WIDNR and local departments conduct ongoing public relations campaigns using all forms of media in the County. Additionally, aggressive law enforcement of local regulations and state fire control laws help deter unsafe burning practices in the County.

Drought - Agriculture				
Strategy	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency	Participating Agency	Timeframe
Encourage the adoption of water usage regulations throughout the County. (2007)	Incorporated Municipalities	Individual Municipality	Local Fire Departments	On-going
Encourage farmers that irrigate to use irrigation scheduling programs and drip/misting systems (2012)	Portage County	UW-Ext	Local Municipalities	On-going
County should be prepared to inform farmers during times of drought (2012)	All	UW-Ext, USDA Farm Service	-	On-going
Inform Farmers on purchasing crop insurance (2012)	All	UW-Ext, USDA Farm Service	-	On-going

Current Mitigation Activities: Drought

Portage County Planning and Zoning Department has the primary responsibility for establishing specific guidelines on well depth. To mitigate the effect of hydrologic drought the following actions are being taken: identification of areas with potential ground water level problems and inspections of wells in those areas for adequate depth

and construction. Portage County farmers may contact the UW Agricultural Extension Office and/or the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for information and guidance related to drought. Various federal and state publications are available from these agencies on ground water movement, the hydrologic cycle, and irrigation methods. These agencies will also be the lead agencies in obtaining emergency food and water supplies for agricultural use.

Hazardous Materials				
Strategy	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency	Participating Agency	Timeframe
Off-site plan updates (New 2012)	Facilities	Local Emergency Planning Committee	Facilities	On-going
Continue County Hazmat team (New 2012)	Portage County	EM and Participating Public Safety	-	On-going

Dam Failure				
Strategy	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency	Participating Agency	Timeframe
Identify funding opportunities for municipalities to complete flood shadow information on dams that have not had studies completed. To determine if the dam classification and hazard rating are correct. (New 2012)*	Village of Amherst, Town of Dewey,	Emergency Management Department	Affected Jurisdictions	On-going, as funding is available
Village of Rosholt to review zoning of property located in flood shadow, to limit development. (New 2012)*	Village of Rosholt	Village of Rosholt	P&Z	1-3 years

Abbreviations – for Mitigation Strategies

PC EM – Portage County Emergency Management Department
PC GIS – Portage County Geographic Information Systems
LE – Law Enforcement
DPW – Department of Public Works
PSAP – Public Safety Answering Points (Dispatch Centers)
DAG – Dispatch Advisory Group
MCD – Municipality
EOC – Emergency Operation Center
EM – Emergency Management
DNR – Department of Natural Resources
HHS – Health and Human Services
NFIP – National Flood Insurance Program
UW-EXT – University of Wisconsin Extension
P&Z – Portage County Planning and Zoning Department
FCC – Federal Communication Commission
BOA – Portage County Board of Adjustment
NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
NWS – National Weather Service
WI DOT – Wisconsin Department of Transportation
TIM – Traffic Incident Management
NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

* - NFIP Compliance action items