

This chapter will provide focus on:

- Recommendations from the Jasper County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Disaster Response
- Post –disaster recovery



In 2011, City of Newton adopted the Jasper County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan which was developed following recommended methodology by both FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. *Newton's Future* uses the adopted Jasper County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as a base for the initiatives found in this section to maintain consistency with hazard mitigation efforts occurring throughout the county.

In an effort to coordinate hazard mitigation efforts with Jasper County and other neighboring communities, Newton will focus hazard mitigation efforts on the goals that the Jasper County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan sets forth.

The cooperative and county-wide approach to hazard mitigation is critical given that communities impact territories, such as watersheds, which are beyond their recognized corporate limits line. Throughout the planning process, ten natural hazards were identified as potential threats specific to Jasper County. Then, a mitigation strategy to reduce the impacts of those hazards were developed.

The ten identified threats for Jasper County were:

- Dam Failure
- Drought
- Extreme Heat
- Flood
- Hailstorm
- Lightning
- Tornado
- Wildfire
- Windstorm
- Winter Storms

While the City of Newton is not immediately under threat from dam failure, the other nine identified hazards could very well happen in Newton. Reducing the effects of natural disasters, as well as man-made hazards, protects families, businesses, and public facilities. It also makes clear economic sense.

Building a disaster resistant community is an initiative that challenges Jasper County to undertake actions that protect families, businesses, and public facilities by reducing the effects of natural disasters. Reducing the effects of natural disasters makes economic sense, and it is good public policy because it protects the citizens and the future of the community.

Initiatives:

Public Safety Initiative:

Minimize injuries and loss of life due to the impacts of natural hazards.

This initiative emerged as a priority through the hazard mitigation planning sessions that took place in advance of the completion of the Jasper County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Public Safety is a key City Government function, and proper planning can minimize loss of life and prevent injuries of citizens during hazardous events.

Things to Do:



- Establish and maintain a hazards and mitigation section at the Public Library.
- Continue and strengthen building code enforcement and building inspections. Structural integrity is particularly critical for high-wind and tornado hazards.
- Continue regular review of storm notification and siren system.

Property Preservation Initiative:

Reduce or eliminate damages to property, public and private, due to natural hazards.

Things to Do:



- Evaluate infrastructure, including sanitary sewer system, storm sewer system, detention basins and set a strategic plan to address areas in need of improvement.
- Continue enforcement of flood plain ordinance. Review and update, as necessary.
- Maintain participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Post-Disaster Recovery Initiative:

Help ensure timely resumption of business operations and return to pre-disaster conditions in a timely and pre-planned manner so that the event's impact to the community is minimized.

Things to Do:



- Create an emergency response plan for each of the Jasper County identified hazards that are most likely to occur in Newton so that a quick and coordinated response will take place if a threat were to occur.