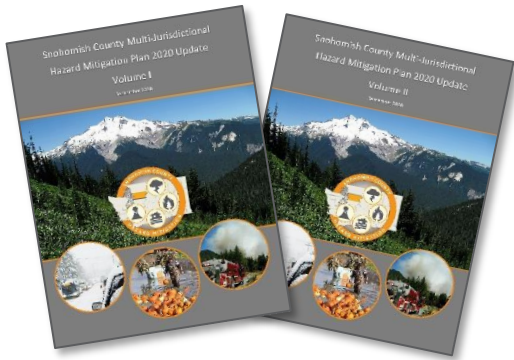




Snohomish County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Snohomish County is exposed to natural, human-caused, and natural hazards. To mitigate the potential impacts of these hazards, the County and its partners have updated the Snohomish County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) in 2020. Hazard mitigation is the use of short- and long-term strategies to reduce or alleviate the loss of life, personal injury, and property damage that may result from a disaster. The HMP enables the County and its partners to maintain eligibility for disaster-related federal grant assistance as required by the 2000 Disaster Management Act. Additionally, the HMP helps the County and its partners meet or exceed the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA’s) Community Rating System (CRS) requirements, a voluntary component of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that may help to reduce flood insurance premiums.



The Planning Team identified and ranked the below list of hazards for inclusion in the Snohomish County 2020 HMP, with the Steering Committee adopted.

Hazards were scored using criteria that included expected severity, magnitude, frequency, onset, and duration for “worst-case” and “most-likely” scenarios.

In 2020, Snohomish County and its partners established a 14-person Steering Committee and 157-person Planning Team to update the Snohomish County HMP. This stakeholder-driven plan was updated through a range of in-person workshops, webinars, surveys, and open houses with the public.

The 2020 HMP is 521 pages, which is approximately 1/3 the length of the 2015 HMP. The intent was to make the plan more accessible, improving its utility. Other updates include new hazard profiles, such as cybersecurity, a more comprehensive and actionable capability and capacity assessment, and refined HAZUS II runs that improve the validity of the risk assessment.

| Rank | Hazard | Hazard Includes |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Earthquake | |
| 2 | Epidemic | |
| 3 | Hazardous Materials | Train Accident |
| 4 | Weather Events | Windstorm |
| | | Winter Storm |
| | | Drought |
| 5 | Flooding | |
| 6 | Dam Failure | |
| 7 | Wildfire | |
| 8 | Cybersecurity Threats | |
| 9 | Mass Earth Movement | Landslides and Mudslides |
| 10 | Volcano | |
| 11 | Active Assailant | |
| 12 | Aircraft Accident | |
| - | Tsunami | |



The Steering Committee adopted the following goals and goal-specific objectives for the Snohomish County 2020 HMP.

| Goal 1: Reduce hazard and threat-related injury and loss of life. | |
|---|---|
| Item | Objectives |
| 1.1 | Develop and implement policies that integrate hazard and risk information into building codes and land use planning that promote resilient and safe development in high-risk areas. |
| 1.2 | Strengthen tools to remove threatened uses in hazardous areas and relocate them where risk reduction measures support development to a tolerable level. |
| 1.3 | Reduce the adverse impacts from and leverage the beneficial functions of natural hazards. |
| 1.4 | Develop continuity of operations plans and community-based continuity plans to mitigate the impacts of hazards becoming disasters, and support disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. |
| 1.5 | Develop, implement, and sustain programs that promote reliable, redundant, and resilient lifeline systems. |
| Goal 2: Promote resilient communities, resilient economy, sustainable growth, and hazard prevention. | |
| Item | Objectives |
| 2.1 | Provide incentives that support the mitigation of impacts to critical business operations, including small businesses and those located in high-risk areas. |
| 2.2 | Increase the resilience of critical services, facilities, and infrastructure through applicable retrofits, sustainable funding programs, and zoning and development changes, and reduce exposure/vulnerability to all hazards. |
| 2.3 | Promote the ability of communities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from an emergency or disaster through the strengthening of community networks and development of community-based emergency planning (e.g., evacuation zones and routes and micro-infrastructure networks). |
| Goal 3: Consider equity when enhancing public awareness and community members' ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster. | |
| Item | Objectives |
| 3.1 | Reduce the adverse impacts of disasters on vulnerable communities. |
| 3.2 | Create and enhance equitable public information programs and access to hazard information that promotes actionable preparedness and mitigation measures. |
| 3.3 | Identify and prioritize opportunities to increase capacity and redundancy for critical services, facilities, and infrastructure to vulnerable communities, with special emphasis on communities that are at risk of isolation. |
| Goal 4: Make decisions through regional collaboration. | |
| Item | Objectives |
| 4.1 | Support the alignment and integration of the 2020 HMP goals, objectives, and strategies with other planning processes. |
| 4.2 | Develop a coordinated incentive program for eligible entities to adapt to risks through structural and nonstructural measures (e.g., acquisition program for homes or other uses located within high-risk hazard areas). |
| 4.3 | Use the best available science when developing new or updating existing plans to prepare for and adapt to climate impacts (e.g., update conservation requirements to minimize impacts of drought). |
| 4.4 | Support improved data collection, assessment, analysis, and implementation for all hazards. |
| 4.5 | Develop a coordinated flood mitigation strategy that leverages sustainable funding sources for flood control improvements and identifies opportunities for multi-agency collaboration. |

The Planning Team and the Steering Committee agreed that countywide goals and objectives established effective coordination between planning partners to mitigate hazards, negating the need for countywide action items. Actions are specific to jurisdictions and special districts and can be found in each annex.