

Granville Annex

Introduction

This appendix, when used with the Regional (multi-jurisdictional) PDM Plan, is an All-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for the Town of Granville.

Mitigation is any sustained action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards and their effects. Previous FEMA, State and Regional Project Impact efforts demonstrate the fact that it is less expensive to prevent disasters than to repeatedly repair damage after a disaster has struck. This plan recognizes that communities have opportunities to identify mitigation strategies. Hazards cannot be eliminated, but it is possible to determine what the hazards are, where the hazards are most severe and identify local actions that can be taken to reduce the severity of the hazard.

Hazard Mitigations strategies and measures **avert** the hazard by redirecting its impact by means of a structure or land treatment, **adapt** to the hazard by modifying structures or standards or **avoid** the hazard through improved public education, relocating/removing buildings in the flood zone, or ensuring development is disaster resistant. Measures and strategies could include projects such as:

- Flood-proofing structures
- Tying down propane/fuel tanks in flood-prone areas
- Elevating furnaces and water heaters
- Identifying & modifying high traffic accident locations and routes
- Ensuring adequate water supply
- Identifying & upgrading undersized culverts
- Proactive land use planning for floodplains and other flood-prone areas
- Proper road maintenance and construction
- Ensuring critical facilities are safely located
- Buyout & relocation of structures in harms way
- Establish & enforce appropriate building codes
- Public information and education

Purpose

The purpose of this Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan is to assist Granville in identifying all hazards facing the town and list strategies to begin reducing risks from known hazards.

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Hazard Mitigation Goals

- Reduce the loss of life and injury resulting from all hazards.
- To lessen financial losses and property damage incurred by municipalities, businesses and private citizens due to disasters.

These overarching goals can be further refined as follows:

- The impacts of hazards should be first avoided, then reduced where they cannot be reasonably avoided. For flooding and riverine erosion, this can best be achieved by precluding development from hazard areas, and where development exists through property buyouts or flood protection sympathetic to the natural and human resources of the area.
- The connections between land use, development siting, drainage systems, building standards, and road design and maintenance and the effects of disasters on the Region should be recognized and incorporated into policy so that there is no adverse impact (increased hazard) from development.
- Mitigation actions should be part of larger, systematic efforts at disaster reduction based on the highest threats. Flooding should be addressed on a watershed scale. Structural fire and technological hazards should be lessened through statewide safety education and code compliance.

Granville Town Plan (adopted 10/3/05) – Objectives/Goals that support Hazard Mitigation

- The objectives of this Plan are to provide for orderly growth with consideration for preserving the rural nature of the Town (page 4).
- By proper use of our available resources, we can insure a safe, healthy, and enjoyable environment for all residents of the Town of Granville (page 4).
- To ensure that future development does not unnecessarily or unreasonably endanger the public investment in town and regional transportation systems or facilities, including highways, bikeways, trails, and rail (page 10).

Community Background

Granville, Upper and Lower, was first chartered as the Town of Kingston, August 2, 1781. The name was later changed to Granville in 1934. Population rose to a high of around 1,100 in the mid-1880s. Since then, a steady decline has brought it to a low of about 200 in 1950 and a slow increase since then to a 2000 population of 303. A once-bustling railroad siding and manufacturing district is now a row of houses along Route 12A with no businesses at all. Approximately 46% of the total acreage of the Town is Green Mountain National Forest.

According to the U.S. Census data, there were 218 housing units in Granville in 2000. In 1990, there were 210 housing units, an increase of 8. The growth rate in new housing for Granville was slower than the rate for Addison County for the period 1990-2000. Neighboring communities experienced a higher rate of increase in housing units, excepting Braintree at -0.53% and Pittsfield at -2%, Warren and Hancock experienced much larger increases, and Rochester

experienced a slightly larger increase. Compared to overall growth in units for Vermont, Granville's housing growth was just under half the average rate for the State. The Town lies within the service area of Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS), which supplies electrical power to all sections of town.

Granville has a small but dedicated volunteer fire department. The town garage houses three fire trucks and other fire fighting equipment. The Town also has mutual fire protection agreement with Hancock and Rochester. The Town is also served by the Valley Rescue Squad which provides service to Granville, Hancock, and Rochester. East Granville is served by the White River Valley Ambulance and by Braintree and Randolph's fire departments.

Granville has elected a First and Second Constable. The First Constable is the primary law enforcement agent in the town. All other police functions are performed by the Addison County Sheriff or Vermont State Police, Troop "D" which is located off Route 107 immediately south of the Bethel/Royalton Town Line in Royalton.

The Town is also served by the Valley Rescue Squad which provides service to Granville, Hancock, and Rochester. East Granville is served by the White River Valley Ambulance, located in Bethel. The closest hospital is Gifford Medical Center, located in Randolph. Medivac services are available by the DHART helicopter.

Community Hazards Inventory and Risk Assessment

In Granville, the interviews and hazards analysis indicate that the following hazards are listed as probable (frequent to unusual) – Flash Flood, HAZMAT (Transportation Accidents), Winter Storm/Ice Storm, and Structural Fire. In terms of potential severity of damage, the following hazards are rated as having the potential to produce serious to locally catastrophic damage – Flash Flood, HAZMAT, Hurricane/Tropical Storm, Drought, Winter Storm/Ice Storm, and Structural and Wildfire/Forest Fires. Hazards to which the town is vulnerable (probable and damaging) include Flash Flood, HAZMAT, Fire, and Winter Storm. Therefore, the mitigation measures in this Plan focus on these four hazards.

Flash Flood (Risk = Med-High/High)

Based on the results of overlaying the FIRM flood maps with the location of the E911 points, there are 31 residences and 4 commercial businesses in the town that are vulnerable to potential flooding. The estimated loss for damage to these properties from the 100 year flood, assuming average residential and commercial values (derived from 2008 Annual Report by the Vermont Department of Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review) would be \$4,127,079. This is about 11% of the grand list.

Recent flooding that had led to federal disaster declarations for Addison County occurred from June 17, 1998 to July 13, 1998 (DR 1228 VT), July 14, 2000 through July 18, 2000 (DR 1336 VT), August 12, 2004, through September 12, 2004 (DR 1559VT), June 14, 2008 through June 17, 2008 (DR 1778 VT), and July 21 through August 12, 2008 (DR 1790 VT). This list does not include flood events that were not federally declared.

There is one property in Granville on FEMA's NFIP list that has had two losses, totaling \$19,700 in damages. No development projects are planned in Granville in areas that would be vulnerable to flooding.

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) - Transportation Accidents (Risk = Med-High/High)

Based on available VT Tier II data, there is 1 site in town that has sufficient types and/or quantities of hazardous materials to require reporting. The New England Central Railroad also runs through East Granville, but it is fairly uninhabited. The primary HAZMAT concern in Granville comes from Route 100, a major north-south route that bisects Granville. This road sees a fair amount of truck traffic. There are 78 residential and 10 commercial buildings within 1,000 feet of a potential HAZMAT spill on the railroad tracks or on Route 100. If 5% of these structures were involved in an accident, total property damages would equal \$518,740. It should also be noted that the State of Vermont currently has one fully trained HAZMAT response team, with vehicles located in Essex Junction, Brandon, and Windsor. The HAZMAT crew chief is available within minutes of a call for the team but on-scene response would be a matter of hours. In the event of a serious accident in town, there would be little time for evacuation and response would be difficult.

Fire (Risk = Med-High/High)

Poor access to fires, limited water supply for firefighting, and distances of homes from the Fire Station are a few of the challenges that leave Granville vulnerable to the impacts of structure fires.

Winter Storm (Risk = Med-High/High)

These hazards have no specific damage estimate as their effect could occur anywhere in town. High wind coupled with heavy snow and ice are a particular concern for dropping large trees that will block roads and cut power lines.

Existing Hazard Mitigation Measures in the Community

Ongoing efforts to mitigate hazards in the community include:

1. ditch and culvert maintenance.
2. administration of flood hazard regulations

National Flood Insurance Program

Granville's initial Flood Hazard Boundary Map was identified on 1/24/75. The Town's initial Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) was dated 8/19/91. The Town's FIRM has not been updated – the current effective map date is 8/19/91.

The Granville Administrative Officer serves as the NFIP Administrator. Granville is located in Addison County and has not completed an update of its flood hazard

regulations. Aside from the Town's NFIP program, there are no additional erosion control or flood management regulations that apply in Granville. There are no plans to enroll the community in the CRS program.

Based on the regional and local hazard assessment and analysis, this Annex identifies actions related to continued compliance with the NFIP. These actions are prioritized, along with the other actions developed in this Annex, using the method described on Page 21 of the Regional PDM Plan. The actions are included in the Implementation Schedule for Prioritized Mitigation Projects, which follows.

Areas of Local Concern

1. Route 100 represents a serious potential HAZMAT spill threat.
2. Bridge #152 across the White River in Granville is undersized for high water or flood conditions.

Implementation Schedule for Prioritized Mitigation Projects

Tasks currently under way or under consideration – in order of priority:

MITIGATION ACTION	WHO (LEADERSHIP)	WHEN (TIMEFRAME)	HOW (FUNDING/ SUPPORT)	IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH EXISTING PROGRAMS
<u>ALL HAZARDS</u> 1. Ensure that RRP is current	Selectboard	Yearly	With TRORC assistance	
2. Use PDM plan for Hazard Identification and Mapping	Emergency Management Coordinator	Ongoing	With TRORC assistance	
<u>FLASH FLOOD</u> 3. Continue the planned road maintenance program and update existing culvert inventory. Upgrade culverts and ditching.	Highway Department	Ongoing	Local resources	
4. Actively support the White River Partnership both financially and through personnel with flood prevention projects.	Selectboard	Ongoing	Local resources	
5. Work with VT Agency of Transportation to re-design of Bridge #152 across the White River	Selectboard	2009	VTrans funds	
<u>HAZMAT</u> 6. Pursue HAZMAT training for Fire Department	Fire Department	2009	Funded by Fire Service Training Academy	
<u>FIRE</u> 7. Obtain training and equipment appropriate that will allow the fire department to fight brush fires safely.	Fire Department	2009	Funded by Fire Service Training Academy	
8. Develop additional dry hydrant sites in rural locations.	Fire Department	Ongoing	Local resources, George Aiken RC&D	
9. Develop cooperative agreement with US Forest Service on fire fighting	Fire Department and USFS	2009	Local resources, USFS	
<u>WINTER STORM</u> 10. Encourage utilities to continue regular tree trimming along power lines	Emergency Planning Coordinator	Yearly	Local resources	
11. The Town with power companies should work to eliminate hazard trees which could fall across town roads.	Town Road Foreman	Yearly	Local resources	