

Chapter 10 – Emergency Management

Goal, Policies, and Recommendations: Emergency Management

Goal

1. There is minimal loss of life, physical and emotional injury, financial loss, and property damage ~~and loss~~ resulting from all hazards.

Policies

1. Response plans and capacities ~~need to~~ must reflect an all-hazards approach and be coordinated between towns, the State, and federal agencies.
2. Mitigation must be part of all recovery efforts in order to increase resilience.
- ~~3. Information on expected disasters and causes of injury or property damage should be as accurate and up-to-date as possible in order to properly gauge hazards.~~
- ~~4. Agencies or organizations expected to respond in a unified manner should train and exercise together.~~
- ~~5. Towns, individuals, and businesses should all be prepared for predictable disasters.~~
- ~~6.3.~~ New or rebuilt development shall not increase disaster risk and ~~must~~ should take reasonable steps to reduce risk.
- ~~7.4.~~ Mitigation actions ~~should~~ shall:
 - a. Seek to avoid impacts of a hazard first, then reduce impacts that cannot be reasonably avoided;
 - b. Recognize the connections between land use, development siting, drainage systems, building standards, and road design and maintenance and the effects of disasters on the Region;
 - c. Be mindful of the natural and human resources of the area;
 - d. Be part of a larger systematic effort at disaster reduction; and
 - e. Seek to permanently avoid damages when feasible.
- ~~8.5.~~ Additional telecommunications towers ~~must~~ should be built to increase radio and cellular coverage for emergency responders, including FirstNet.
- ~~9.6.~~ Critical facilities, including emergency service buildings, substations, medical facilities, town offices, and town and state garages, must be constructed to be disaster resistant and able to withstand expected 100-year return events with minimal impacts.

Recommendations

1. Agencies or organizations expected to respond in a unified manner should train and exercise together.
2. State and federal governments must continue funding and operation of warning systems, including the National Weather Service’s Emergency Alert System, NOAA weather radio, and USGS river and precipitation gauges.

CHAPTER 10 – GOALS, POLICIES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Towns should pursue the use of capital programs and reserve accounts to properly budget for emergency vehicles and other large capital costs, as well as coordinate and share services to achieve overall efficiencies.
4. ~~Towns should encourage sprinkler systems in residential structures to reduce loss from fire.~~
- ~~5.4.~~ TRORC will continue to work with all communities to annually update Local Emergency ~~Operations-Management~~ Plans, ensuring that these plans take into account the varied needs of people with disabilities, pets, and those without access to transportation.
- ~~6.5.~~ TRORC will continue to work with all communities on hazard mitigation efforts, including updating mitigation plans, enhancing road and bridge standards for resiliency, and addressing flood resilience in Town Plans.
- ~~7.6.~~ TRORC will continue to work cooperatively with local emergency response organizations, VEM, ~~LEPC #12,~~ the TRORC REMC, social service agencies, long-term recovery organizations, community resilience organizations, and others to help improve emergency planning, response, and recovery.
8. ~~The federal and state governments should increase funding for preparedness and mitigation planning and actions at the local level in order to reduce escalating response and recovery costs.~~
9. ~~FEMA should modernize flood maps, especially in Orange County and in unnumbered A-zones, and incorporate newer flood frequency predictions into maps.~~
- ~~10.7.~~ TRORC should assist towns and VT ANR in refining river corridor maps.
11. ~~TRORC should work to ensure that new hazard assessment data from the state and federal levels is disseminated to the public and local officials so that capacity is risk based.~~
- ~~12.8.~~ Communities should work to ensure that important local facilities that provide emergency services, water, food, and gas or that act as emergency shelters are able to function during power outages.
- ~~13.9.~~ TRORC ~~will~~should work with towns and other organizations to coordinate land use, transportation, and energy policies and actions to result in more resilient communities.
- ~~14.10.~~ TRORC ~~will~~should assist towns in response and recovery stages through damage documentation assistance and navigating federal and state grants.
11. TRORC will continue to do outreach on preparedness by individuals and continuity planning for businesses so they are better prepared for expected incidents.
15. ~~Vermont should look into statewide building codes for residential wood heating systems.~~