

# 17. NORTH ADA COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

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## 17.1 MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN POINT OF CONTACT

### Primary Point of Contact

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## 17.2 JURISDICTION PROFILE

### 17.2.1 Overview

The North Ada County Fire & Rescue (NACFR) District is the result of the 1960s-era merger of Cole Fire District and Collister Fire District. A three-member elected board of officials governs NACFR. The Board assumes responsibility for adoption of this plan.

NACFR is funded by a levy on property values within the District. NACFR covers 34 square miles, with a roughly equal mix of urban commercial and suburban and rural residential areas, and serves a population of 22,694 (2010 census). The largest percentage of the population is located in the City of Garden City. The hazard environment is notable for a substantial hazardous materials presence in the commercial area, a large swath of urban interface in the Boise foothills and along the Boise River, and the presence of the Boise River itself. Station 16 has one of the highest run volumes of any fire station in the State of Idaho.

NACFR owns three fire stations: two within the City limits of Garden City, and one in Hidden Springs, located in the foothills north of Boise. The Hidden Springs Station is staffed as needed during wildland fire season through an intergovernmental agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. This agreement allows the Bureau of Land Management to use the Station to house its wildland engine company, and covers wildland fire response only. To date, funding has not been available to allow NACFR to staff the Hidden Springs Station for structural fire and emergency medical response. As a result, response times to Hidden Springs are substantially longer than for the rest of the NACFR coverage area.

In 2009 NACFR signed a Joint Powers Agreement with Boise City Fire Department to provide manpower and oversee Operations for NACFR. In addition, Boise City Fire also provides Mutual Aid to NACFR to cover the Eastern most section of NACFR boundaries.

### 17.2.2 Service Area and Trends

The district serves a population of 22,694 as of January, 2010. Its service area covers an area of 34 square miles, which has a total potential taxable value of \$1.5 billion dollars.

In the near long term, service trends are driven by the financial impact of the national economic downturn. Due to reductions in revenue, in 2010, NACFR was forced to close one of its two Garden City Fire Stations. NACFR currently staffs a single Station in Garden City with a BLS Engine Company. At the same time that District budget shortfalls have reduced NACFR staffing levels, State response to the economic downturn has included a reduction in funding for Health and Welfare service recipients. This reduction in State services is resulting in an increase in medical responses including welfare checks and mental health calls. While the economy is beginning to recover, funding for Health and Welfare clients lags, and this trend is likely to continue.

In the longer term, local land use designations allow for an increase in light commercial and residential land uses within the service area. This increase may result in an increase in hazards and will expose a larger, more densely configured population to them. This will also result in a projected increase in call volume.

### 17.2.3 Assets

Table 17-1 summarizes the critical assets of the district and their value.

<b>Asset</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Property</b>	
1.42 acres of land	\$590,100
<b>Critical Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	
Engine E-16 2004 Pierce Enforcer and contents	\$400,000
Engine E-18 2004 Pierce Enforcer and contents	\$400,000
Tender WT-16 2002 Pierce International and contents	\$300,000
-Brush BR-16 2006 GMC 5500 4x4 and contents	\$130,000
Brush BR-18 2006 GMC 5500 4x4 and contents	\$130,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,360,000</b>
<b>Critical Facilities</b>	
Station 16 - 5800 Glenwood, Garden City	\$710,000
Station 18 - 3895 Chinden, Garden City	\$1,105,266
Station 20 - 5871 W Hidden Springs Drive, Boise	\$529,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,543,266</b>

## 17.3 PLANNING AND REGULATORY CAPABILITIES

The following existing codes, ordinances, policies or plans are applicable to this Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Idaho Code
- Idaho Emergency Operations Plan
- Idaho State Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Ada County Flood Plan
- Ada County Hazmat Plan
- Ada County Wildfire Response Plan
- Ada County Mass Casualty Incident Plan
- Ada County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Ada County Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- City of Garden City Evacuation Plan
- City of Garden City Code 4-13-1
- City of Garden City Code 8-3

- NACFR Resolutions
- NACFR Strategic Plan
- Boise City Fire Department Standard of Cover-2010
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards and Recommended Practices (various)

## 17.4 FISCAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

The jurisdiction participates in the Public Protection Class Rating System and currently has a rating of 3. This rating was achieved prior to the year 2000. An assessment of fiscal capabilities is presented in Table 17-2. An assessment of administrative and technical capabilities is presented in Table 17-3.

**Table 17-2. Fiscal Capability**

<b>Financial Resources</b>	<b>Accessible or Eligible to Use?</b>
Capital Improvements Project Funding	No
Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes	Yes
User Fees for Water, Sewer, Gas or Electric Service	No
Incur Debt through General Obligation Bonds	Yes
Incur Debt through Special Tax Bonds	No
Incur Debt through Private Activity Bonds	No
State-Sponsored Grant Programs	Yes
Development Impact Fees for Homebuyers or Developers	Yes
Other	No

**Table 17-3. Administrative and Technical Capability**

<b>Staff/Personnel Resources</b>	<b>Available?</b>	<b>Department/Agency/Position</b>
Planners or engineers with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Yes	Contract Support
Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices	Yes	Contract Support
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	Yes	Contract Support
Staff with training in benefit/cost analysis	Yes	Administration
Surveyors	No	
Personnel skilled or trained in GIS applications	Yes	Contract Support
Scientist familiar with natural hazards in local area	No	
Emergency manager	No	
Grant writers	Yes	Contract Support
Other	No	

## 17.5 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CAPABILITIES

An assessment of education and outreach capabilities is presented in Table 17-4.

**Table 17-4. Education and Outreach**

Criteria	Response
Do you have a Public Information Officer or Communications Office?	Yes Contract Support
Do you have personnel skilled or trained in website development?	Yes Contract Support
Do you have hazard mitigation information available on your website? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please briefly describe.</li> </ul>	No
Do you utilize social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please briefly describe.</li> </ul>	Yes Contract Support Boise Fire has a robust social media outreach program
Do you have any citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please briefly specify.</li> </ul>	Yes  Hidden Springs HOA
Do you have any other programs already in place that could be used to communicate hazard-related information? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please briefly describe.</li> </ul>	Yes  Website-currently not utilized
Do you have any established warning systems for hazard events? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please briefly describe.</li> </ul>	Yes Code Red/ISAWS – residents may sign up to receive emergency notifications and critical community alerts. Both systems are IPAWS enabled and may additionally access that integrated system for public warnings.

## 17.6 INTEGRATION WITH OTHER PLANNING INITIATIVES

The following describe the jurisdiction’s process for integrating the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan into existing plans and programs.

### 17.6.1 Existing Integration

The following plans and programs currently integrate the goals, risk assessment and/or recommendations of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Firewise Communities—The Firewise program encourages homeowners (in this case the Hidden Springs HOA) to prepare for wildland/urban interface fires.

### 17.6.2 Opportunities for Future Integration

The following plans and programs do not currently integrate the goals, risk assessment and/or recommendations of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, but provide an opportunity for future integration:

- Firewise Communities-The District will soon undertake a strategic planning effort to assess the impact of projected growth in the foothills on fire and ems services. The Firewise process may provide input to the strategic planning process.

## 17.7 JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC NATURAL HAZARD EVENT HISTORY

Table 17-5 lists all past occurrences of natural hazards within the jurisdiction.

**Table 17-5. Natural Hazard Events**

Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Date	Preliminary Damage Assessment
Highway 16 Fire		2010	Not available. 5 homes lost
McFarland Fire		2008	Not available
Oregon Trail Fire		2008	Not available. 18 homes lost, 1 human life lost
Wildfires	DR-1341	2000	Not available.
Foothills flooding		1959, 1969, 1979, 1982, 1986, 1997	Not available. In 1969 approximately 500 houses damaged by flash flooding and landslides.
Boise River floods		1936, 1938, 1943, (Boise River flood control dams built late 40s-50s) 1963, 1964, 1965, 1983, 1993, 1997, 1998	Not available.
Mt. St. Helens eruption		1980	Not available.
Challis Earthquake		1983	Not available.

## 17.8 JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC VULNERABILITIES

Noted vulnerabilities the jurisdiction include:

- Fire Station located in the flood plain.
- Isolated development in the foothills exposed to urban interface wildfires, with limited access and extended response times.
- Fire Stations need retrofitting for earthquakes

## 17.9 HAZARD RISK RANKING

Table 17-6 presents the ranking of the hazards of concern.

**Table 17-6. Hazard Risk Ranking**

Rank	Hazard Type	Risk Rating Score (Probability x Impact)	Category
1	Flood	48	High
2	Wildland fire	27	Medium
2	Severe Storm	27	Medium
2	Drought	27	Medium
3	Dam Failure	18	Medium
3	Earthquake	18	Medium
4	Landslide	12	Low
5	Volcano	9	Low

## 17.10 STATUS OF PREVIOUS PLAN INITIATIVES

Table 17-7 summarizes the initiatives that were recommended in the previous version of the hazard mitigation plan and their implementation status at the time this update was prepared.

**Table 17-7. Status of Previous Action Plan**

Action Item	Completed	Carry Over to Plan Update	Removed; No Longer Feasible
Action #1—Consistent standards for development in high-risk/underserved areas		X	
Action #2—Conduct wildland-urban interface GIS-based hazard assessment		X	
Action #3—Earthquake Retrofitting of Fire Stations 18,20		X	
Action #4—Firewise Community program for residents in the foothills		X	
Action #5—Develop Community Emergency Response Team Pilot for Hidden Springs	X		
<i>Comment: The District has attempted several community-based response models, including CERT and an EMS Quick Response Units program in cooperation with Ada County EMS. To date, none have been successful.</i>			
Action #6—Location/Construction Study for new Flood/Earthquake resistant Fire Station to replace Station 16		X	
Action #7—Construct new flood/earthquake resistant fire station		X	
Action #8—Campaign to get neighborhoods to revise covenants and homeowners' association (HOA) rules to mitigate natural hazards.		X	
Action #9—Support County-wide initiatives identified in Volume 1		X	
Action #10—Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Volume 1		X	

## 17.11 HAZARD MITIGATION ACTION PLAN AND EVALUATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Table 17-8 lists the actions that make up the NACFR hazard mitigation action plan. Table 17-9 identifies the priority for each action. Table 17-10 summarizes the mitigation actions by hazard of concern and the six mitigation types.

## 17.12 FUTURE NEEDS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND RISK/VULNERABILITY

Action #9-Establish Strategic Planning Process for the foothills, is being initiated in recognition of the rapid expansion of population into the foothills areas north of the metropolitan areas of Eagle and Boise. The planning effort, which will be spearheaded by North Ada County Fire & Rescue, is in the organizational stages, and is proposed to include Boise Fire Department, Eagle Fire District, Boise District Bureau of Land Management, Whitney Fire District, and Ada County Emergency Medical Services, as well as affected neighborhood associations and special interest groups. The initial objectives include:

1. Identify the best location for a fire station to serve the current and projected development in the Dry Creek drainage.
2. Develop a staffing pattern to serve this population. Include phased-in staffing options that expand and change as development builds out and revenues increase, and that reflect the hazard analysis and current and projected call volume.
3. Identify the interagency players in the area (Eagle, Boise, Ada County EMS), and what roles should they play in developing a broad-based emergency response capability to serve this rapidly expanding population center?

**Table 17-8. Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Matrix**

Applies to new or existing assets	Hazards Mitigated	Objectives Met	Lead Agency	Estimated Cost	Sources of Funding	Timeline
<b>Action #NACFR-1</b> —Develop consistent standards for development in high-risk/underserved areas						
New	Wildland fire	4, 6, 9	Boise Fire Department	Low	District	Short
<b>Action #NACFR-2</b> —Conduct wildland-urban interface GIS-based hazard assessment						
New/ Existing	Wildland fire, landslide, earthquake	2, 4, 5, 6, 9	Boise Fire Department	Low	NACFR, PDM	Short
<b>Action #NACFR-3</b> —Perform Earthquake Retrofitting of Fire Stations 16, 18, 20						
Existing	Earthquake	1, 2, 3, 10	NACFR	Medium	NACFR, PDM	Short
<b>Action #NACFR-4</b> —Continue Firewise Community program for residents in the foothills						
Existing	Wildland fire	8	Boise Fire Department	Low	NACFR, Rural Fire Assistance Grant, SRS Title III, National Fire Plan	Ongoing
<b>Action #NACFR-5</b> —Conduct Location/Construction Study for new Flood/Earthquake resistant Fire Station to replace Station 16						
New	Flood, earthquake	1, 2, 3, 10	NACFR	Medium	NACFR, Bond, PDM	Short
<b>Action #NACFR-6</b> —Construct new flood/earthquake resistant fire station						
New	Flood, earthquake	1, 2, 3, 10	NACFR	High	NACFR, Bond, PDM	Long-term
<b>Action #NACFR-7</b> —Campaign to get neighborhoods to revise covenants and homeowners' association (HOA) rules to mitigate natural hazards.						
New/ existing	Flood, earthquake, wildland fire	2, 5, 6, 8, 9	NACFR	Low	NACFR, SRS Title III, National Fire Plan	Short
<b>Action #NACFR-8</b> —Modify NACFR web-site to include links to hazard mitigation and preparedness sites.						
Existing	All	8	NACFR	Low	NACFR	Short
<b>Action #NACFR-9</b> —Establish Strategic Planning process for foothills						
Existing/ New	Wildland fire	9, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	NACFR	Medium	NACFR, Rural Fire Assistance Grant, SRS Title III, National Fire Plan	Medium
<b>Action #NACFR-10</b> —Develop/enhance ability to capture perishable data , including dollar values, after significant events						
Existing	All	2	Boise Fire Department	Low	NACFR	Short
<b>Action #NACFR-11</b> —Actively participate in Plan maintenance protocols as defined in Volume 1 of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.						
New and Existing	All	All	ACEM, NACFR	Low	NACFR	Short term/ ongoing
<b>Action #NACFR-12</b> —Support the county-wide initiatives identified in Volume 1 of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.						
New/ existing	All	All	ACEM, NACFR	Low	NACFR, FEMA Mitigation Grant funding	Short term/ ongoing
<b>Action #NACFR-13</b> —Provide fire safety, fire prevention and Firewise education to neighborhoods, schools and community via the internet, social media and direct public outreach.						
New and Existing	Wildfire	8,9	NACFR, ACEM	Low	General Fund	Ongoing
<b>Action #NACFR-14</b> —Meet and coordinate with private organizations, state, federal and other local agencies to develop, conduct and maintain wildfire mitigation projects.						
New and Existing	Wildfire	1,6,9,10	NACFR, ACEM	Low	NACFR	Ongoing

**Table 17-9. Mitigation Strategy Priority Schedule**

Action #	# of Objectives Met	Benefits	Costs	Do Benefits Equal or Exceed Costs?	Is Project Grant-Eligible?	Can Project Be Funded Under Existing Programs/Budgets?	Implementation Priority <sup>a</sup>	Grant Priority <sup>a</sup>
1	3	Medium	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	Medium	Medium
2	5	Medium	Medium	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	Medium
3	4	High	Medium	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	High
4	1	High	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	High
5	4	Medium	Medium	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	Medium
6	4	High	High	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	High
7	5	High	Low	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	Medium
8	1	Medium	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	Medium
9	6	Medium	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	High
10	2	Low	Low	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	Medium
11	All	Medium	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	Medium	Medium
12	All	Medium	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	Medium	Medium
13	2	Medium	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low
14	4	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low

a. See the introduction to this volume for explanation of priorities.

**Table 17-10. Analysis of Mitigation Actions**

Hazard Type	Action Addressing Hazard, by Mitigation Type <sup>a</sup>					
	1. Prevention	2. Property Protection	3. Public Education and Awareness	4. Natural Resource Protection	5. Emergency Services	6. Structural Projects
Dam Failure	10, 11		8, 12			
Drought	7, 10, 11		7, 8, 12			
Earthquake	2, 7, 10, 11	3, 5, 6	2, 7, 8, 12		3	3
Flood	3, 7, 10, 11	5, 6	7, 8, 12		5, 6	5, 6
Landslide	1, 2, 10, 11		7, 8, 12			
Severe Storm	10, 11		8, 12			
Volcano	10, 11		8, 12			
Wildland Fire	1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14	1, 4, 13, 14	1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14	13, 14	9, 14	

a. See the introduction to this volume for explanation of mitigation types.