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BRUNSWICK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department's local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

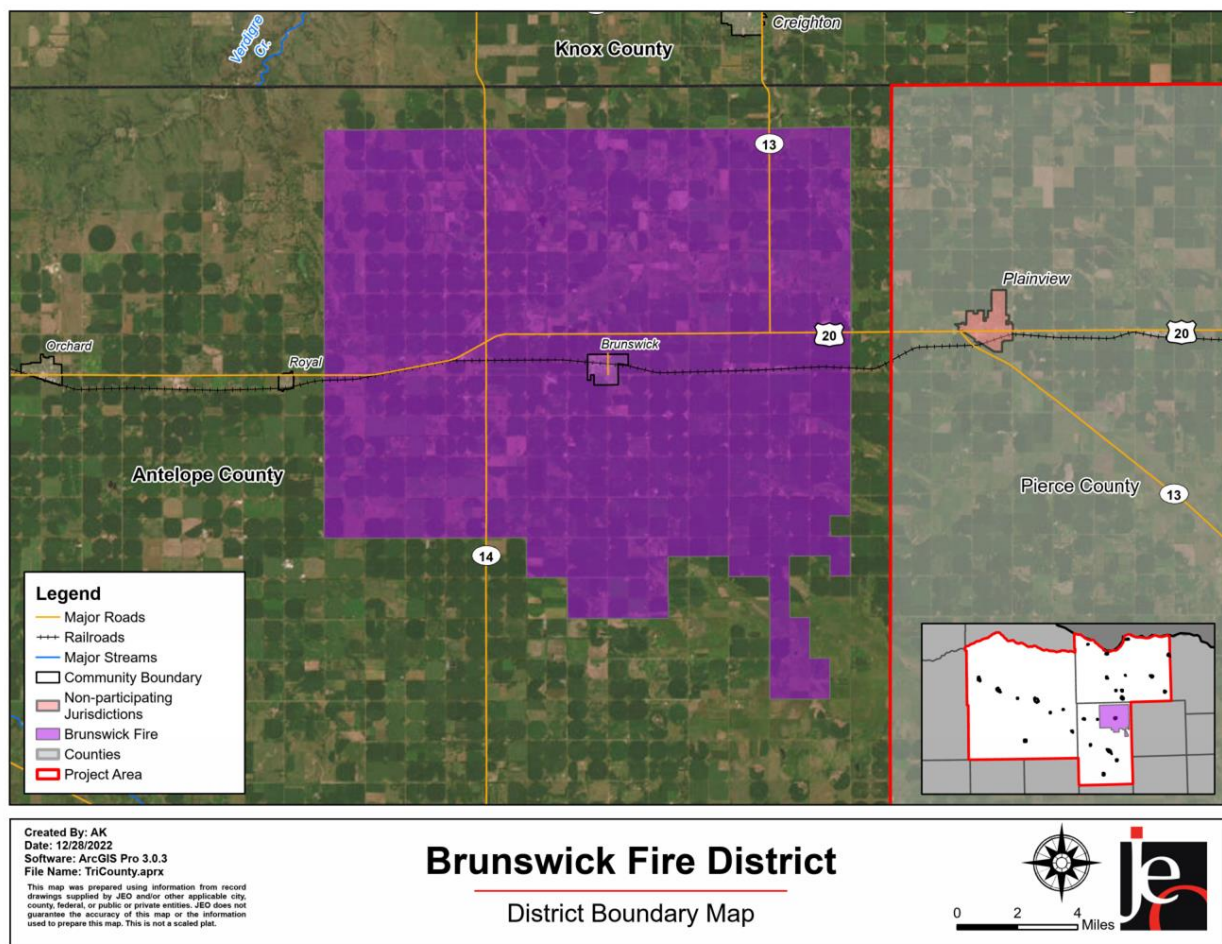
Table BVF.1: Fire District Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Craig Forbes	Fire Chief	Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department	Assisted with plan development
Michelle Bolling	Firefighter	Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department	Attended Round 1 and Round 2 Meetings

Location and Geography

The Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department covers the Village of Brunswick and surrounding rural areas, totaling 23,040 acres of land. The Brunswick VFD service area includes the Grove Lake Wildlife Management Area, which is most at risk of fire.

Figure BVF.1: Fire District Boundary



Demographics

See the Village of Brunswick and Antelope County profiles for regional demographic information. The Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department services approximately 635 residents

Staffing/Leadership

The Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department is supervised by a President, Fire Chief, Rescue Captain, and a fire board who will oversee the implementation of hazard mitigation projects. External offices would assist the district with hazard mitigation related activities are listed below:

- Mutual Aid from Neligh Fire Department
- Mutual Aid from Plainview Fire Department

Future Development Trends

The past five years have seen various improvements within the fire district including a new tanker truck being purchased and some old houses and shops being removed from the district. No additional new developments or stations are planned for the next five years.

Capabilities

Due to the unique structure of fire districts, the typical capability assessment table was not used. The following table summarizes the district's overall capabilities. The Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department will continue to utilize existing relationships with local, county, state, and federal agencies in the implementation of mitigation projects. According to the local planning team, district funds are sufficient to maintain current facilities and systems and have stayed the same over recent years. A large portion of district funds has been dedicated to the purchase of a new pumper truck. The district has applied for the Jack Lewis Grant and the Region 11 grant and was awarded the Region 11 grant.

Table BVF.2: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Moderate
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Limited
Community Support to Implement Projects	High
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

Plan Integration

Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department has multiple planning documents, including a Response Plan and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG). SOGs outline the district's response to a variety of different calls that could be received. The district will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current HMP into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Response Plan

The district's response plan identifies a focus on consistently working to improve volunteer's skills and equipment to better deal with fire, car accidents, or any hazard the district may be called to. The plan

requires volunteers to drill every month on a variety of situations and identifies a Hazmat team from another department that would be called in for a major hazardous materials release. During plan updates, the district tours the local fertilizer plants and discuss actions to be taken such as blocking traffic or evacuating surrounding areas during a multiple vehicle accident involving hazardous materials.

Transportation

Major transportation corridors in the district include Highway 13, Highway 14, and Highway 20. The local planning team identified their highest concerns as the level of traffic and encountering weight restricted bridges that could keep volunteers from reaching fires in a timely manner. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the community, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents. A wide variety of farm chemicals and unknown chemicals are regularly transported along local routes. One key transportation concern identified by the local planning team is regarding an ethanol train that runs through the district.

Community Lifelines

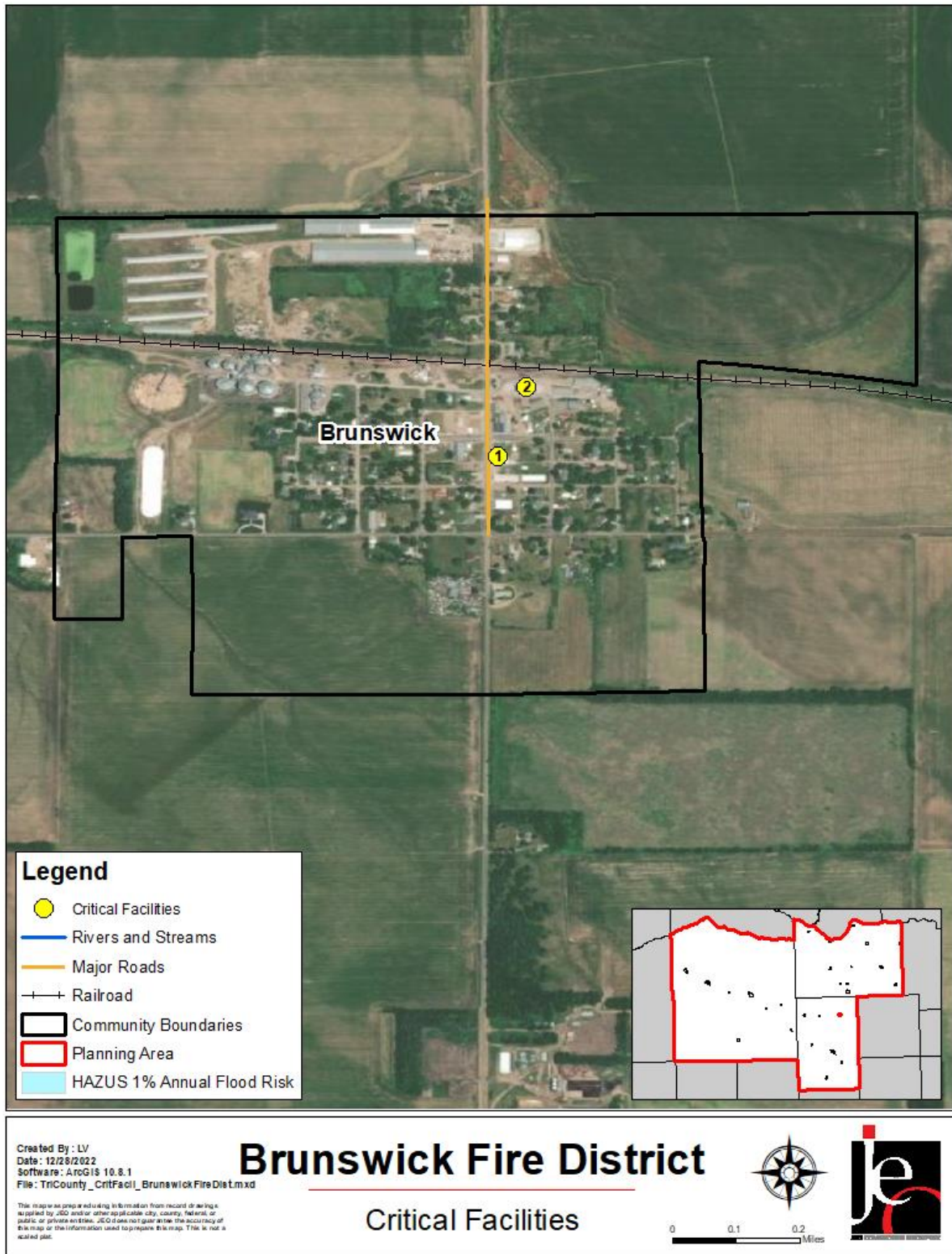
Community lifelines are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team.



Table BVF.3: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	ADDRESS	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Fire Hall	1	203 Franklin Street	N	Y	
Meuret Grain	2	101 Franklin Street	Y	Y	

Figure BVF.2: Critical Facilities Map



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entirety of Antelope County. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP	OTHER IMPACTS
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	22	132 animals	N/A	
	Plant Disease	23	N/A	\$754,950	
Dam Failure		2	\$0	N/A	
Drought		483 out of 1,512 months	\$0	\$19,092,325	
Earthquakes		0	\$0	\$0	
Extreme Heat		Avg 3 days per year	\$0	\$7,591,187	
Flooding	Flash Flood	14	\$240,000	\$750,586	
	Flood	11	\$4,050,000		
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	7	\$5,000	N/A	2 injuries
	Transportation	0	\$0		
Landslides		0	N/A	N/A	
Public Health Emergency		~1,765 cases	N/A	N/A	
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	175	\$216,000	\$23,403,344	1 fatality
	Heavy Rain	2	\$0	\$18,158,742	
	Lightning	1	\$5,000	N/A	
	Thunderstorm	85	\$45,000	N/A	
	Wind				
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	12	\$0	\$1,907,566	
	Extreme Cold	7	\$0		
	Heavy Snow	11	\$0		
	Ice Storms	3	\$0		
	Winter Storms	40	\$5,000,000		
	Winter Weather	14	\$0		
Tornadoes & High Winds	High Winds	18	\$13,000	\$3,448,218	
	Tornadoes	18	\$62,000	\$0	
Wildfire		644	38,956 acres	\$96,484	8 structures threatened; 3 structures destroyed
Total		1,109	\$9,636,000	\$75,203,402	

Hazard: Wildfire

Local concern regarding wildfire is the potential for large fires to burn homes and other structures on surrounding farms. According to the local planning team, the district experienced a large wildfire northwest of Brunswick on March 20, 2022. The fire traveled for seven miles and resulted in hundreds of acres burnt. Additionally, in the Fall of 2022 the district was called in for two large corn field fires. To prevent these fires, the district issues burn bans during periods of extreme dryness and warn residents to be careful when lighting fires.

Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from the hazards
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500 +
Local Funding Source	District Fund
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Hazardous Materials Release

The Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department is frequently called out to vehicle accidents to assist in clean up and control of any released hazardous materials. According to the local planning team, a large accident involving a semi-trailer and cattle in 2022 caused fluid to be leaked from the vehicles. The volunteer fire district was called in to assist with clean up and traffic control.

Mitigation Actions:

See “Public Awareness and Education” mitigation action to address this hazard of concern.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this community profile as changes can occur before or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Brunswick Fire Chief, Brunswick EMS/First Responders, and the Brunswick Rural Board Chairman. The plan will be reviewed bi-annually, and the public will be notified of the updates during board meetings and through social media updates.

Chambers Public School

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Chambers Public School local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

Table CHS.1 Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Frank Jesse	Superintendent	Chambers Public School	Watched Round 1 meeting recording Attended Round 2 Meeting
Brady Firley	Activities Director	Chambers Public School	Assisted with plan development
Gina Pospichal	Counselor	Chambers Public School	Assisted with plan development
Vince Burrell	Head Custodian	Chambers Public School	Assisted with plan development
Katie Waldo	Business Manager	Chambers Public School	Assisted with plan development

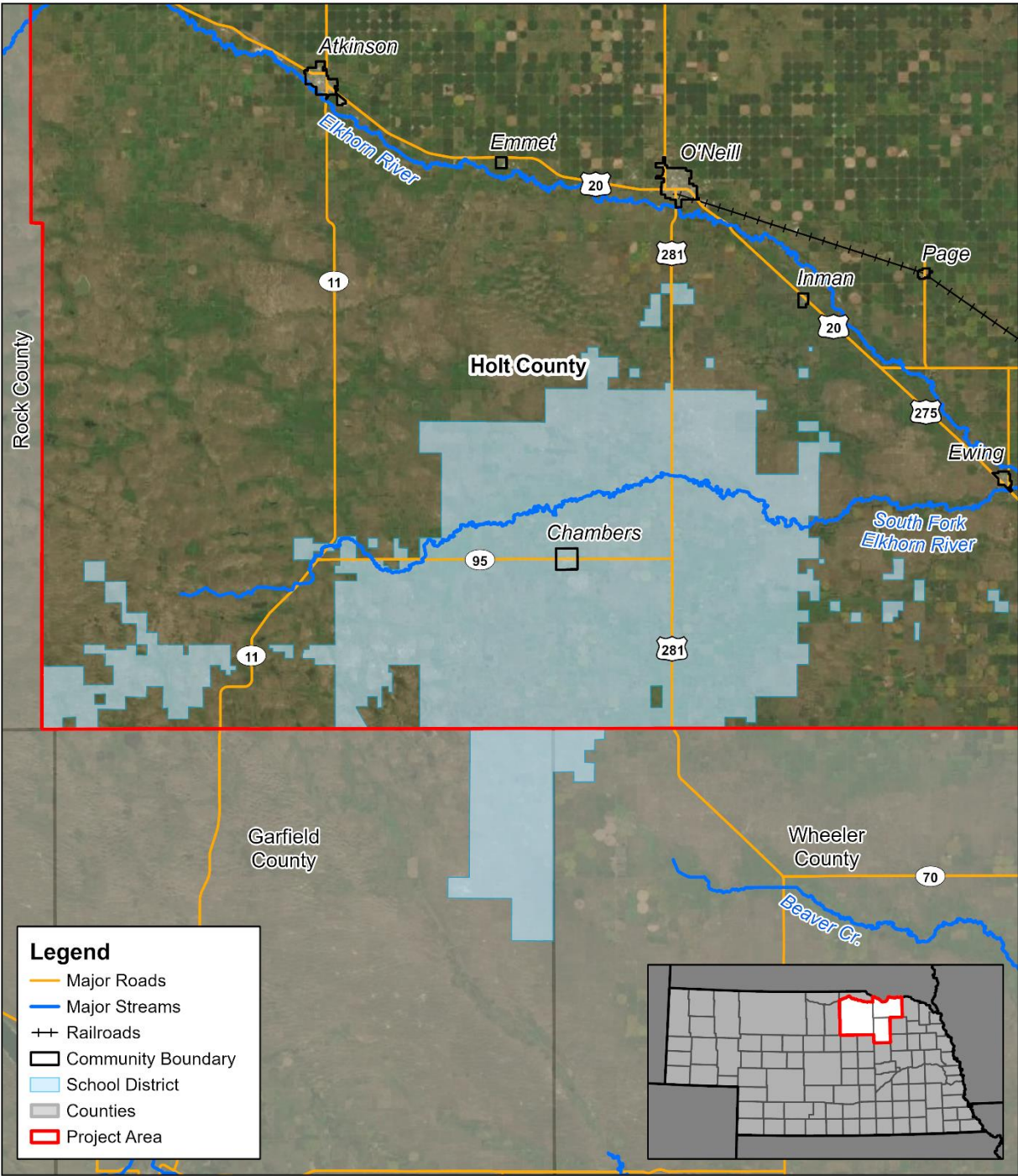
Location and Geography

Chambers Public School is a rural school district located in Holt County, in northeastern Nebraska. Its offices are located at 201 South A. Street, Chambers NE 68725. The district is comprised of one school campus with two schools: Chambers Elementary and Chambers High School. Besides English, the school district teaches Spanish.

Demographics

The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2006-07 school year and ending with the 2021-22 year. It indicates that the overall student population increased between 2017 and 2018; however, there has been a slight decline in student body during the 2021-2022 school year. There are approximately 132 students enrolled in Chambers Public School during the 2021-2022 school year.

Figure CHS.1: Chambers Public School District Boundary



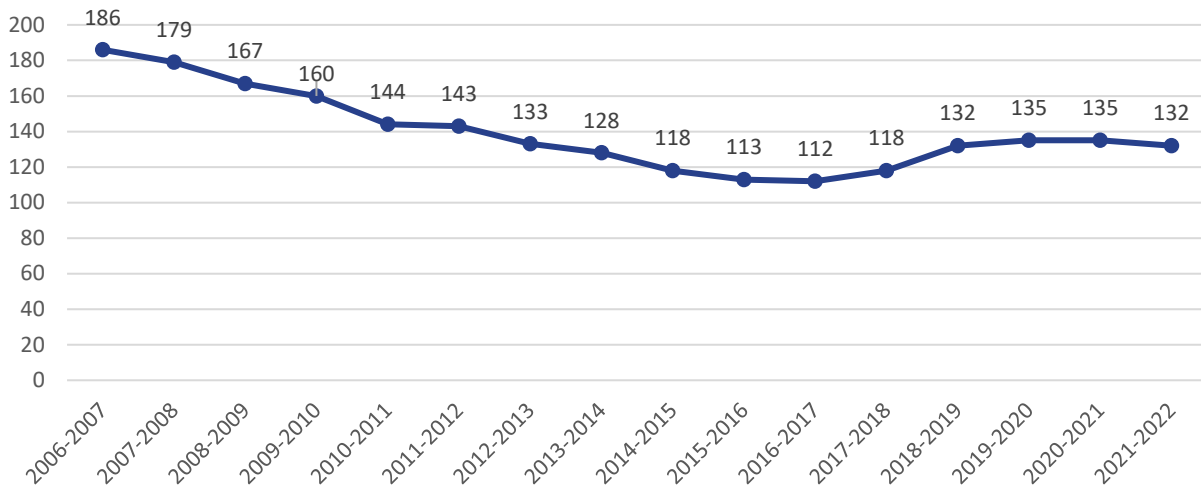
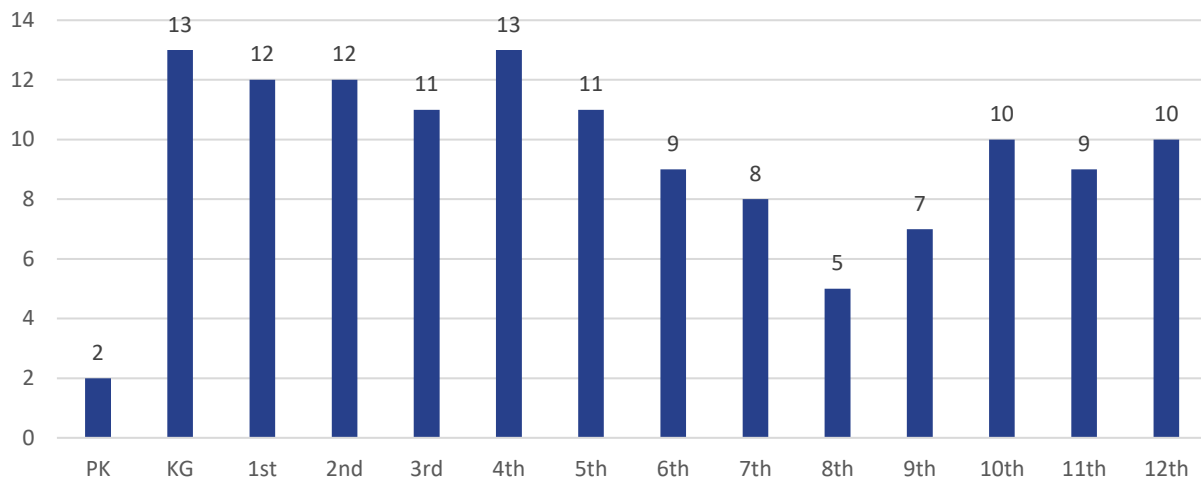
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Date: 6/7/2022
Software: ArcGIS Pro 2.8
File Name: TriCounty.aprx

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Chambers Public Schools

District Boundary Map



Figure CHS.2: Student Population 2006-2022**Figure CHS.3: Students by Grade, 2021-2022**

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in kindergarten and 4th grade, followed by 1st and 2nd grades. The lowest population of students are in Prekindergarten. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), 30.3% of students receive either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2021-2022 school year. This is lower than the state average of 41.31%. Additionally, 15.38% of students are in the Special Education Services program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Table CHS.2: Student Statistics, 2021-2022

Components of Index	DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
Free/reduced priced meals	30.3%	41.31%
Special Education Students	15.38%	15.92%
English Language Learners (ESL)	N/A*	7.76%
School Mobility Rate	N/A*	5.51%

*Data is not available with fewer than 10 students.

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Administration

The school district has a superintendent, secretary, and business manager along with 31 full time employees and seven part-time employees. The school board is made up of four members. The district also has additional departments and staff that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives.

Capabilities

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

Table CHS.3: Capability Assessment

SURVEY COMPONENTS		YES/NO
Planning Capability	Capital Improvements Plan/Long-Term Budget	No
	Continuity of Operations Plan	No
	Disaster Response Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	GIS Capabilities	No
	Civil Engineering	No
	Staff who can assess jurisdictional vulnerability to hazards	No
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreements	No
	Other (if any)	
Fiscal Capability	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes or bonds for specific mitigation projects	No
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds in place	No
	Flood Insurance	No
	Other (if any)	
Education & Outreach	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, hazard mitigation boards, etc.).	No
	Ongoing public education or information program (Ex. Responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education, etc.)	No
	StormReady Certification	No
	Other (if any)	
Drills	Fire	10/yr
	Tornado	2/yr
	Intruder	1/yr
	Bus Evacuation	1/yr

SURVEY COMPONENTS		YES/NO
	School Evacuation	1/yr
	Other (if any)	

Table CHS.4: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	
Financial resources to implement mitigation projects	Limited
Staff/expertise to implement projects	Limited
Public support to implement projects	Moderate
Time to devote to hazard mitigation	Limited
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

School Drills and Staff Training

School district staff are provided emergency procedure handbooks during school in-service days at the beginning of the school year and semester break. The school district conducts safety drills annually for staff and students, including:

- Fire Drills – monthly, ten per year.
- Tornado Drills – twice annually, one in the fall and one in the spring.
- Intruder and Evacuation Drills –annually

Plan Integration

The district has two planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each applicable planning mechanism is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. Participating jurisdictions will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Grants and Funding

District funds are limited to maintaining current facilities and systems but have increased enough to cover rising salaries and benefits. A large portion of funds has already been dedicated to the replacement of all exterior doors, LED lighting, and a new HVAC system in every classroom. The school district has applied for and been awarded the REAP grant and the ESSER grant.

Crisis Response Plan

The district's Crisis Response Plan was last updated in 2020. The school's plan covers natural disasters including tornado and severe storms and addresses shelter in place protocols that should be followed during these events. The plan identifies scenarios that require evacuation, critical evacuation routes, and sheltering locations.

Future Development Trends

The Chambers Public School District has experienced some upgrades in the past few years, including remodeling the main entry way to allow direct visual contact of any visitors. The school has added a second set of security doors and playground equipment was replaced due to safety concerns. There are no anticipated new developments planned for the next five years.

Community Lifelines

Each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team.

Table CHS.5: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Chambers Public School	1	112	38	N	N	
Chambers Community Center	2	-	-	Y	N	

Although not listed in the table above, critical infrastructure also includes power substations, cell towers, and alert sirens which provide service to the district. These assets are typically owned and maintained by other agencies and are not the responsibility of the school district.

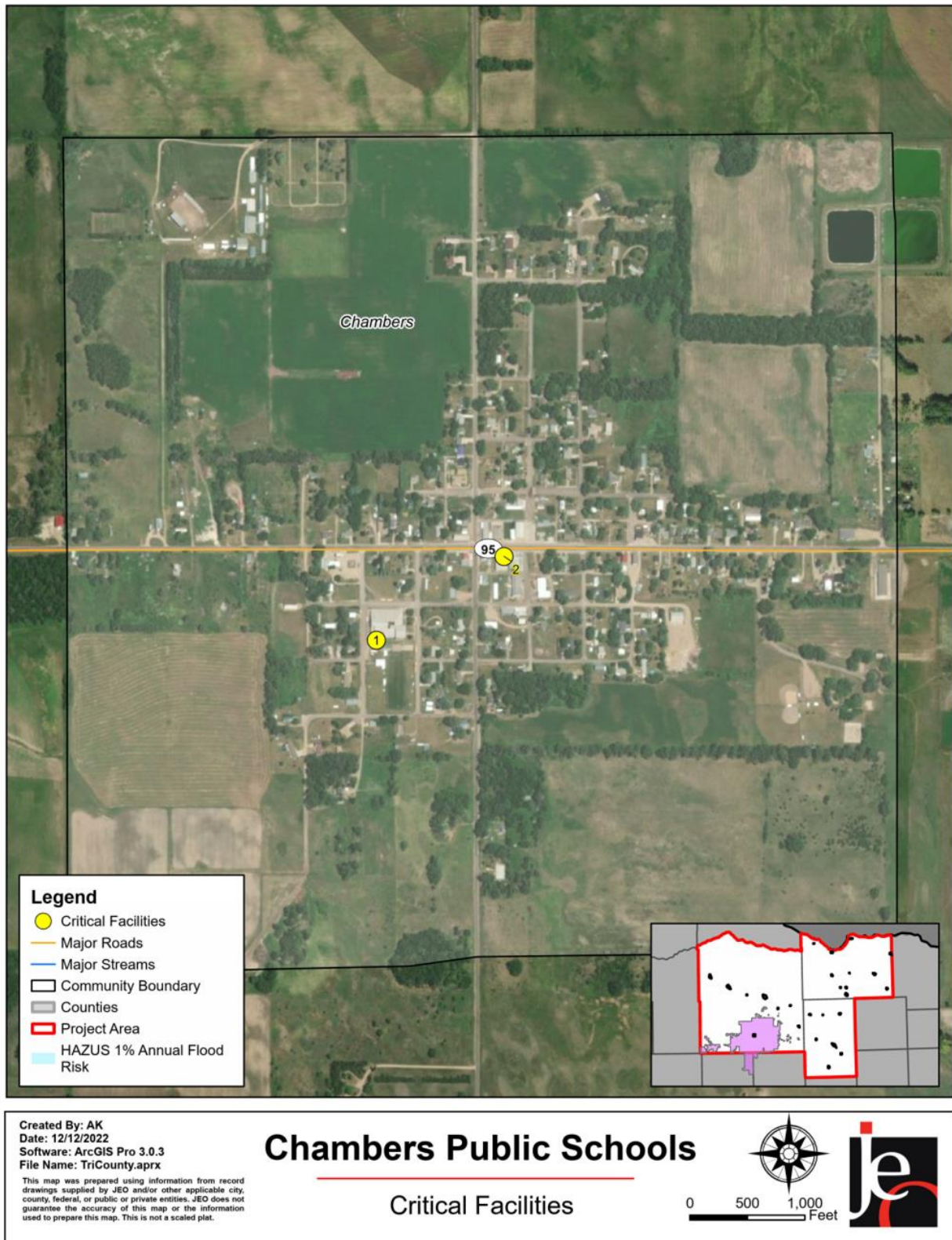
Transportation

The district's major transportation corridors include Highways 95 and 281. There are no rail lines in the district. According to the local planning team, the biggest concern regarding transportation in the district is the impact of extreme weather on county roads when they are covered in snow or washed out by heavy rainfall. The gravel and dirt roads running southwest across the school district are of most concern to the local planning team. This information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the district, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

Hazardous Materials – Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

According to the Tier System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, there are two chemical sites within Chambers which house hazardous materials that may impact the school district. The school is one mile west of the Great Western Gas Company and two miles west of the Farmers Pride Propane, which are both listed as Tier II facilities. In the event of a chemical spill, the local fire department and emergency response may be the first to respond to the incident. The local planning team is not aware of any chemical spills or releases.

Figure CHS.4: Chambers Public School District Critical Facilities



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Chambers Public School which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Chambers School District. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entirety of Holt County. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP	OTHER IMPACTS
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	42	2,366 animals	N/A	
	Plant Disease	17	N/A	\$1,317,942	
Dam Failure		8	\$0	N/A	
Drought		483 out of 1,512 months	\$50,000,000	\$9,179,137	
Earthquakes		3	\$0	\$0	
Extreme Heat		Avg 4 days per year	\$0	\$13,975,989	
Flooding	Flash Flood	16	\$770,000	\$566,470	
	Flood	6	\$900,000		
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	6	\$0	N/A	
	Transportation	6	\$0		
Landslides		5	N/A	N/A	
Public Health Emergency		~2,783 cases	N/A	N/A	
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	463	\$2,007,500	\$39,382,595	
	Heavy Rain	3	\$0	\$47,504,189	
	Lightning	2	\$10,000	N/A	1 fatality
	Thunderstorm	136	\$2,247,500	N/A	2 injuries
	Wind				
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	12	\$5,441,000		
	Extreme Cold	12	\$0		
	Heavy Snow	7	\$0	\$3,909,064	
	Ice Storms	2	\$0		
	Winter Storms	39	\$103,000		
	Winter Weather	0	\$0		
Tornadoes & High Winds	High Winds	19	\$100,000	\$1,912,014	
	Tornadoes	62	\$10,812,530	\$10,401	4 injuries
Wildfire		309	8,269 acres	\$99,239	12 structures threatened; 1 structure destroyed
Total		1,175	\$72,391,530	\$117,857,040	

Hazard: Severe Thunderstorm

The local planning team indicated that severe thunderstorms were a concern due to the potential of power outages. According to the NCEI there have been four severe thunderstorm events in Chambers between 1996 and 2021. The district's biggest vulnerability to severe thunderstorms is the loss of power due to the lack of backup generators. In recent years, severe thunderstorms have caused power outages during the school days with the school losing power twice during the spring of 2022. To reduce the impact of thunderstorms, the district is looking into installing a back-up generator that would allow the normal operation to continue and allow the school to be designated as an emergency site for the community.

Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION	BACKUP GENERATORS
Description	Purchase and connect an emergency backup generator
Hazard(s)	Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$10,000-\$15,000
Local Funding Source	Grant Funding
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase awareness of natural and manmade hazards to students, staff, and families.
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500 +
Local Funding Source	District Funds
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Severe Winter Storms

Damage from severe winter storms is a concern for the school district. Previous winter storms have caused the school district to experience heavy snow and ice which lead to power loss in March 2019. The school district identified the need for a generator to operate the school building as an emergency shelter in the event of a severe winter storm. To reduce the impact of winter storms, the district has discussed installing a back-up generator.

Mitigation Actions

See the "Backup Generators" and "Public Awareness and Education" mitigation actions to address this hazard of top concern.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The superintendent, safety committee chair, and head custodian will be responsible for reviewing and updating this school profile outside of the five-year update. Chambers Public School will review the plan annually as part of the superintendent report given to the Board of Education. The public will be notified through the local paper and through the district's social media platforms.

Creighton Volunteer Fire Department

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

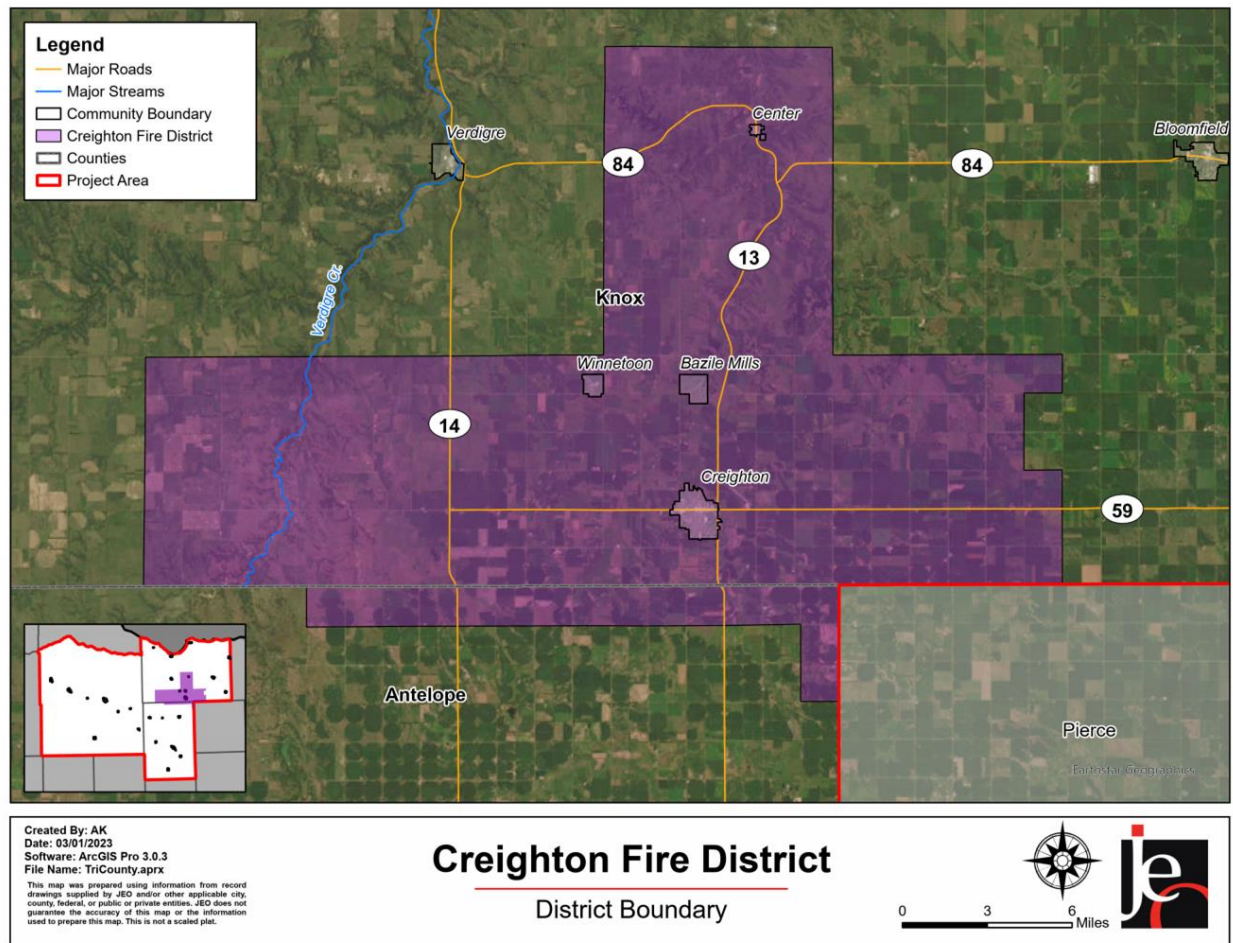
Local Planning Team

The Creighton Volunteer Fire Department's local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

Table CVF.1: Fire District Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Aaron Boggs	Trustee	Creighton Volunteer Fire Department	Assisted with plan development
Scott Carpenter	President	Creighton Volunteer Fire Department	Viewed meeting recordings
Andy Jueden	Drill Instructor	Creighton Volunteer Fire Department	Assisted with plan development
Steve Morrill	Fireman	Creighton Volunteer Fire Department	Assisted with plan development
Roger Morrill	Fireman	Creighton Volunteer Fire Department	Assisted with plan development

Figure CVF.1: Fire District Boundary



Location and Geography

The Creighton Volunteer Fire Department covers the City of Creighton, Villages of Bazile Mills, Winnetoon, and Center, as well as surrounding rural areas, totaling 138,240 acres of land. The Creighton VFD service area includes various areas which are most at risk of fire including the towns of Creighton, Bazile Mills, Winnetoon, and Center. The local planning team identified some facilities at risk of fire, including Avera Creighton Hospital/Care Center, Creighton Public Schools, St. Ludgers Catholic School, Animal Care Facilities, and Grain/Feed Handling Facilities. Additionally, the various rural homes and buildings, pasture grounds, Dryland Farm Ground, Irrigated Farm Ground, and BIA Grasslands are at high risk of fire.

Demographics

See the City of Creighton and Knox County profiles for regional demographic information. The Creighton Volunteer Fire Department services approximately 2,000 residents.

Staffing/Leadership

The Creighton Volunteer Fire Department is supervised by a President and a fire board who will oversee the implementation of hazard mitigation projects. External offices would assist the district with hazard mitigation related activities are listed below:

- Mutual Aid Fire/AMD Departments
- Knox County Emergency Manager
- Law Enforcement
- Road Departments
- City Departments
- Local Businesses
- Local Schools, Hospitals, and Churches

Future Development Trends

The past five years have seen various improvements within the fire district including purchasing a new equipment truck from the Forestry Service, the deterioration of buildings in town, and some new construction within the district. Over the next five years, the local planning team hopes to have a new fire and EMS station at the intersection of Highways 13 and 59. Upgrades to the hospital are also being planned. In these new developments, hazard mitigation principles will be considered. The Fire and EMS Station will have more capacity, be outside of floodplain, have a safe room, and backup generator. The hospital upgrade will provide more capacity and a new emergency room department.

Capabilities

Due to the unique structure of fire districts, the typical capability assessment table was not used. The following table summarizes the district's overall capabilities. The Creighton Volunteer Fire Department will continue to utilize existing relationships with local, county, state, and federal agencies in the implementation of mitigation projects. According to the local planning team, department funds are limited to maintaining current facilities and systems and have increased recently, but the funds available have decreased due to higher prices for all products. A large portion of district funds has been dedicated

to construction of a new fire station and upgrades to the hospital. The district has applied for forest Service Grants in 2018, 2019, and 2021.

Table CVF.2: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate
Community Support to Implement Projects	Limited
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Limited
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

Plan Integration

Creighton Volunteer Fire Department has two planning documents, including a Response Plan and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG). SOGs outline the district's response to a variety of different calls that could be received and was last updated in 2023. The district will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current HMP into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Response Plan

The Creighton Volunteer Fire Department last updated their Response Plan in 2020. The plan addresses response to severe weather, wildfire, and chemical spills. It also discusses evacuation routes, assigns responsibilities during a disaster event, and outlines communication protocol. This plan is reviewed regularly and updated when needed.

Transportation

Major transportation corridors in the district include Highway 13 and Highway 59. The local planning team identified their highest concerns as the prevalence of rural roads and the necessity to travel off roads, on rough terrain, and potential flooding that could block routes that could keep volunteers from reaching fires in a timely manner. Additionally, the local planning team identified a concern of unknown cargo, ADT, and hazardous materials being transported across the Highways. Chemicals and radiological hazards such as fertilizers, pesticides, and fuels are regularly transported along local routes. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the community, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents. The local planning team reports chemical spills have occurred within the district, resulting in minimal impacts and no known run-off occurring. In the event of a fire or chemical spill, the local planning team has identified key facilities that would be difficult to evacuate including the Hospital/Care Center, schools, and towns. The difficult evacuations may be improved through evacuation training, establishing evacuation routes, and upgrading communication equipment.

Community Lifelines

Community lifelines are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team.

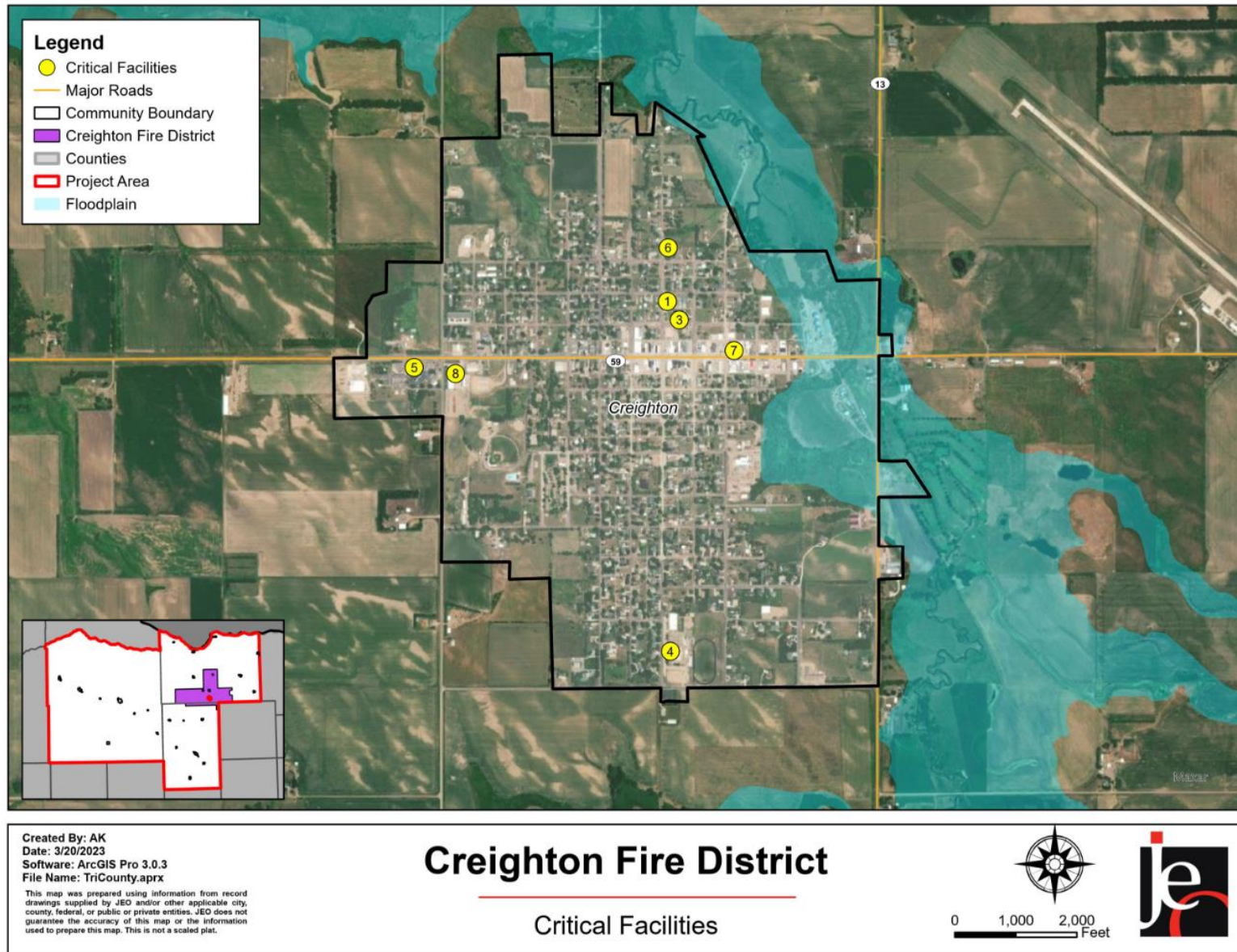


Table CVF.3: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	LOCATION	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Creighton Fire Hall	1	Creighton, NE	Y	N	
Knox County Sheriff's Office	2*	Center, NE	Y	Y	
Creighton Police	3	Creighton, NE	N	N	
Creighton Public Schools	4	Creighton, NE	Y	Y	
Avera Creighton Hospital	5	Creighton, NE	Y	Y	
Borgmann School Bus Service	6	Creighton, NE	N	N	
NPPD Creighton	7	Creighton, NE	Y	N	
NCPPD	8	Creighton, NE	Y	N	
HFG Fuel	9*	Verdigre, NE	N	N	
Verdigre Farm Service Fuel	10*	Verdigre, NE	N	N	
Farmers Pride Fuel	11*	Ewing, NE	N	N	
Black Hills Energy	12*	Plainview, NE	N	N	
N&B Gas	13*	Plainview, NE	N	N	
First Net AT&T Cellular	*	Norfolk, NE	N	N	
Great Plains Communications	*	Blair, NE	Y	N	

*Not displayed on map. First Net AT&T Cellular is located in Norfolk; Great Plains Communications is located in Blair.

Figure CVF.2: Critical Facilities Map



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for the Department which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Creighton Volunteer Fire Department. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entirety of Knox County. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP	OTHER IMPACTS
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	22	1,877 animals	N/A	
	Plant Disease	17	N/A	\$103,555	
Dam Failure		2	\$0	N/A	
Drought		483 out of 1,512 months	\$0	\$97,025,214	
Earthquakes		1	\$0	\$0	
Extreme Heat		Avg 3 days per year	\$0	\$16,885,534	
Flooding	Flash Flood	17	\$79,000	\$195,618	
	Flood	23	\$1,555,000		
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	4	\$0	N/A	
	Transportation	2	\$50,000		
Landslides		81	N/A	N/A	
Public Health Emergency		~2,378 cases	N/A	N/A	
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	234	\$1,575,000	\$5,468,531	
	Heavy Rain	3	\$0	\$1,620,841	
	Lightning	2	\$500	N/A	
	Thunderstorm Wind	88	\$5,900	N/A	
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	16	\$0		
	Extreme Cold	8	\$0		
	Heavy Snow	13	\$0	\$691,005	
	Ice Storms	3	\$0		
	Winter Storms	46	\$3,500,000		
Tornadoes & High Winds	Winter Weather	7	\$0		
	High Winds	18	\$53,000	\$685,654	1 injury
	Tornadoes	31	\$4,845,060	\$207	3 injuries
Wildfire		252	8,438 acres	\$19,389	31 structures threatened; 1 structure destroyed
Total		890	\$11,663,460	\$122,695,548	

Hazard: Hazardous Materials

The Creighton Volunteer Fire Department is concerned about hazardous material events occurring with the fire district. Small hazardous material spills and Natural Gas meter strikes are a common occurrence within the district according to the local planning team. Specific vulnerabilities within the fire district include a 10,000-gallon propane storage tank located east of Creighton that may be vulnerable to leaks or explosions. To help mitigate this hazard, the local planning team would like to provide Hazmat awareness training to volunteers and purchase a new gas monitoring detector to help detect hazardous gas leaks.

Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION	EQUIPMENT UPGRADES
Description	Purchase new fire trucks, fire gear, communications, tracking devices, and new hazardous material equipment such as gas/monitor detectors. Communication radios are needed to increase coordination between volunteers. Tracking devices are needed as well.
Hazard(s)	Wildfire, Hazardous Materials, Severe Thunderstorms
Estimated Cost	\$300,000/truck; \$1,500/radio; \$12,000/year for tracking; \$15,000/hazmat equipment
Local Funding Source	Taxes and Donations
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from the hazards
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500 +
Local Funding Source	Taxes and Donations
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Severe Thunderstorms

Severe Thunderstorms are a common occurrence in the planning area and a hazard of top concern for the Creighton Volunteer Fire Department. The top concern is the potential damage severe thunderstorms can inflict on the district's critical facilities such as power supplies, hospitals, care centers, or elderly housing. During the spring and summer thunderstorms occur and can cause power outages and blackouts. Thunderstorm winds, lightning strikes, and hail can cause damage to trees, buildings, and other infrastructure. To reduce the impact of the hazard on the fire district, the department provides training on SOPs and evacuation in the event of a severe thunderstorm causing significant damage to villages

within the district. The local planning team would like to purchase equipment such as saws to help in cleanup of damages from severe storms and radios to increase communication between volunteers. A portable generator would also help the department provide electricity to critical facilities within the district.

Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION	BACKUP GENERATOR
Description	Purchase a portable backup generator to reduce the impact of power outages during a severe thunderstorm
Hazard(s)	Severe Thunderstorm
Estimated Cost	\$10,000
Local Funding Source	Taxes and Donations
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Wildfire

Wildfire was identified as a top hazard of concern by the local planning team. Wildfires are the Creighton Volunteer Fire Department's most common call due to the nature of the surrounding land. In 2022 the Oak View Park Fire caused property damage to the surrounding land, irrigation equipment, resources, and caused the deaths of some animals in the area. Wildfires are a concern for the local planning team due to limited access to most locations in the district, limited water sources that may be hard to find, and rough terrain for equipment to travel over. Additionally, during a wildfire event there are some concerns over difficulties in communications between responders and lack of knowledge on location of trucks and firefighters at a wildfire. According to the local planning team the district has implemented more drills and trailing focused on wildfire prevention and combat in 2022 and the winter of 2023. New fire hydrants have been installed along rural Highway 14 to help provide water sources and were funded by the rural water district. Additional actions the local planning team would like to perform include red card training for firefighters, purchasing new equipment such as new trucks and protection gear, and having more water sources in place for fighting fires.

Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION	TRAINING
Description	Provide red card, Hazmat, evacuation, and state training for all firefighters that volunteer with the district.
Hazard(s)	Wildfires, Hazardous Materials
Estimated Cost	\$200/person
Local Funding Source	Taxes and Donations
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	WATER SOURCES
Description	Purchase and/or install new water sources such as hydrants, tankers, and rural water access.
Hazard(s)	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Unknown
Local Funding Source	Taxes and Donations
Timeline	1 year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this department profile as changes can occur before or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Fire Chief, Emergency Manager, and Fire Officers. The plan will be reviewed annually with the public notified of the review through social media and website updates as well as announcements at board meetings.

Crofton Community Schools

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Crofton Public Schools local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

Table CFS.1 Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Chris Look	Superintendent	Crofton Community Schools	Attended Round 1 and Round 2 meetings
Johnnie Ostermeyer	High School Principal	Crofton Community Schools	Attended Round 2 meetings
Mark Wragge	Elementary Principal	Crofton Community Schools	Attended Round 2 meetings

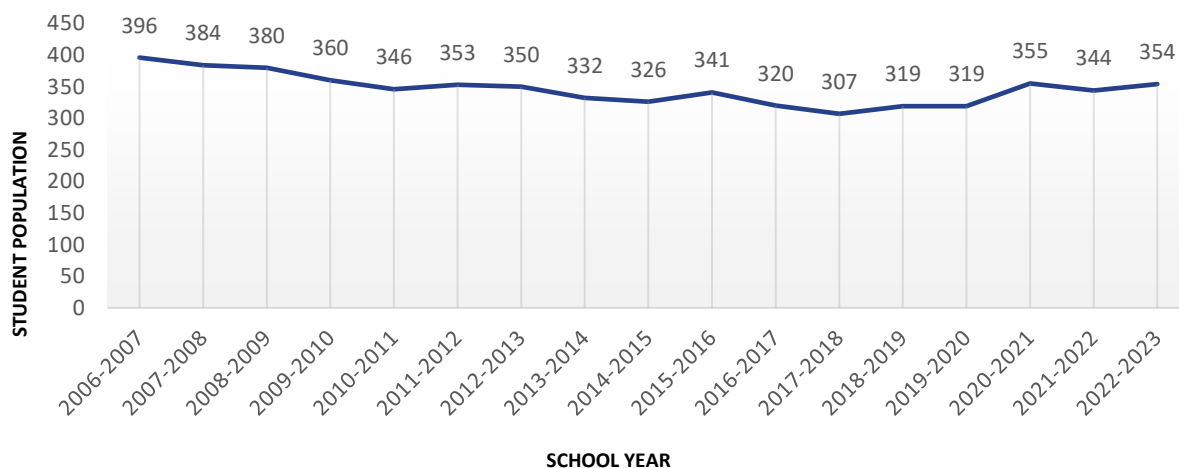
Location and Geography

Crofton Public Schools is a suburban school district located in Knox County, in northeastern Nebraska. Its offices are located at 1301 W 5th St., Crofton, Nebraska 68730. The district is comprised of two schools: Crofton Elementary and Crofton High School. The school district provides educational services to students in Bloomfield, Fordyce, Hartington, Lindy, Menominee, Niobrara, St. Helena, and Wynot. Besides English, Spanish is spoken throughout the district.

Demographics

The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2006-07 school year and ending with the 2020-21 year. Historical data from 2006 to 2017 was provided by the Nebraska Department of Education with data from 2018 to 2022 provided by the school district. This data indicates that the student population has been increasing since the 2017-18 school year. There are 354 students currently enrolled in Crofton Public Schools during the 2022-2023 school year. The district serves 201 different families for the 354 students enrolled. The district employs 35 teachers, three administrators, one business manager, one nurse, three secretaries, four custodians, and ten paraeducators.

Figure CFS.1: Student Population 2006-2022



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Figure CFS.2: Crofton Community Schools District Boundary

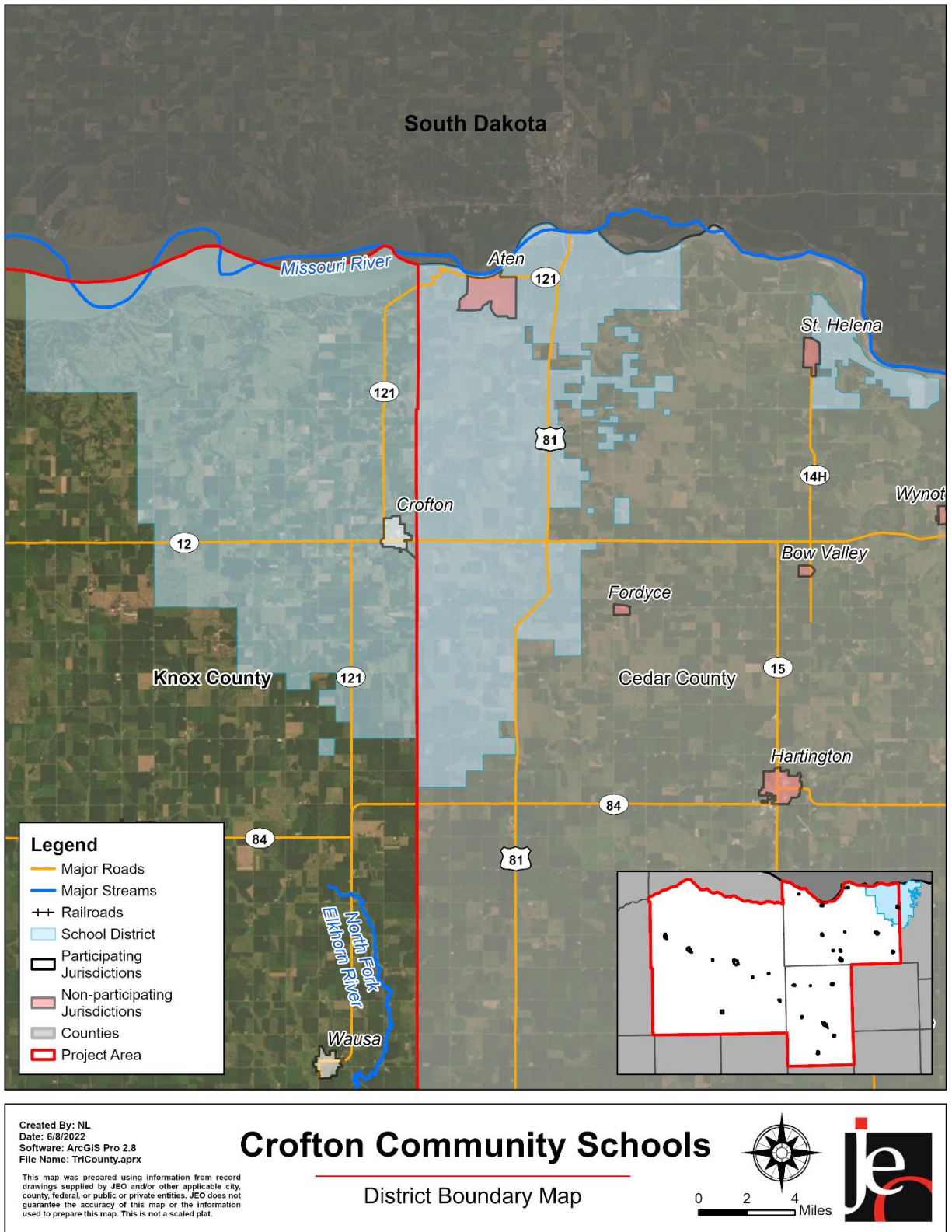
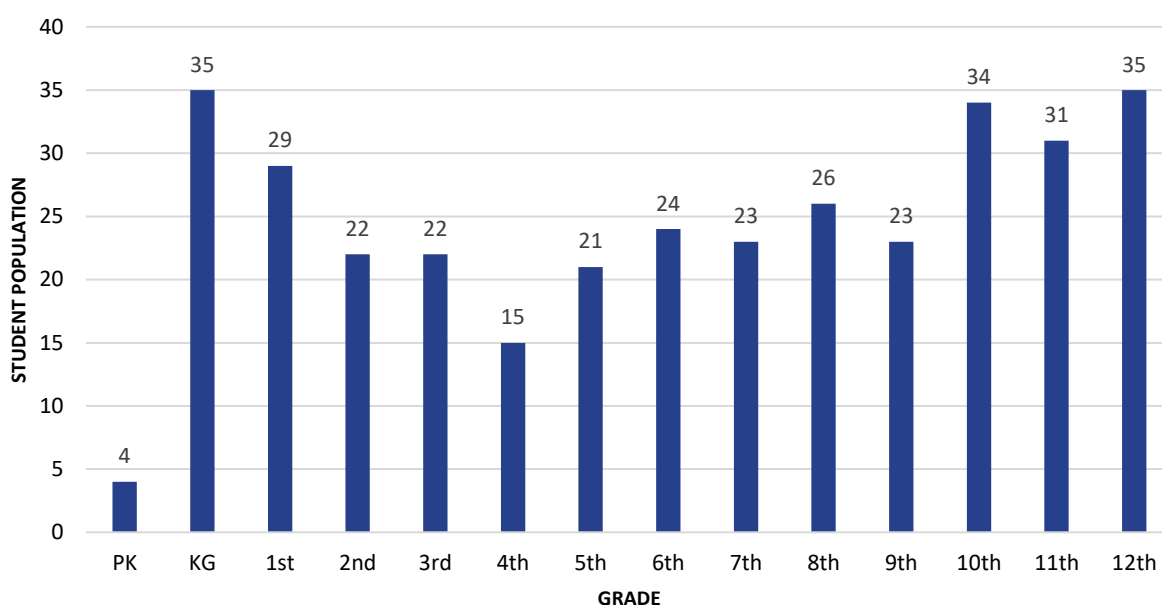


Figure CFS.3: Students by Grade, 2021-2022

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in 10th and 12th grade, followed by kindergarten and 11th grade during the 2021-2022 school year. The lowest population of students are in Pre-Kindergarten. According to the Nebraska Department of Education's (NDE) statistics for the 2020-2021 school year, 31.95% of students receive either free or reduced priced meals. This is lower than the state average of 46.33%. Additionally, 13.43% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Table CFS.2: Student Statistics, 2020-2021

Components of Index	DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
Free/reduced priced meals	31.95%	46.33%
Special Education Students	13.43%	15.67%
English Language Learners (ESL)	N/A*	7.25%
School Mobility Rate	7.46%	9.12%

*Data is not available with fewer than 10 students.

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Administration

The school district has a superintendent, two principals, and support staff. The school board is made up of a six-member panel. The district also has relationships with various external departments and staff that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives including:

- Crofton Volunteer Fire Department
- Crofton Police Department
- Cedar County Sheriff's Department
- Knox County Sheriff's Department
- Nebraska Game and Parks
- Nebraska State Patrol
- Knox County Emergency Management
- Army Corps of Engineers

Capabilities

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

Table CFS.3: Capability Assessment

SURVEY COMPONENTS		YES/NO
Planning Capability	Capital Improvements Plan/Long-Term Budget	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes
	Disaster Response Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	GIS Capabilities	No
	Civil Engineering	No
	Staff who can assess jurisdictional vulnerability to hazards	Yes
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreements	No
	Other (if any)	
Fiscal Capability	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes or bonds for specific mitigation projects	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds in place	No
	Flood Insurance	No
	Other (if any)	
Education & Outreach	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, hazard mitigation boards, etc.).	Yes
	Ongoing public education or information program (Ex. Responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education, etc.)	Yes
	StormReady Certification	No
	Other (if any)	
Drills	Fire	10/yr
	Tornado	2/yr
	Intruder	1/yr
	Bus Evacuation	1/yr
	School Evacuation	1/yr
	Other (if any)	

Table CFS.4: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	High
Community Support to Implement Projects	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts safety drills annually for staff and students, including:

- Fire Drills – monthly
- Tornado Drills – 2 drills performed annually
- School Hold/Shelter in Place/Intruder Drills
- School and Bus Evacuation Drills

Additionally, school district staff are provided emergency procedure handbooks during school in-service days at the beginning of the school year and semester break. ‘I Luv U Guys’ response protocol is included in these handbooks. Emergency protocol handbooks are also provided to students and families. Students and families are provided with school website updates, school notifications, and ‘I Luv U Guys’ training videos. Parents and staff are notified of emergency events through the school’s notifications system via phone calls, text messages, emails, the school website, and social media with information available in languages other than English.

Plan Integration

The district has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each applicable planning mechanism is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. Participating jurisdictions will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Grants and Funding

Currently the school district’s funds are limited to maintaining current facilities and systems, but some funds have been set aside for a smaller project. The district funds have stayed the same over recent years. To help bolster funds, the school district has applied for several grants in the last five years, including the ESSERS I, II, and III, ECF, GEERS, and Perkins grants which were awarded to the district.

Crisis Response Plan

The district’s Crisis Response Plan was last updated in 2022. The school’s plan covers natural disasters including tornado and severe storms and addresses shelter in place protocols that should be followed during these events. The plan identifies scenarios that require evacuation, critical evacuation routes, and sheltering locations. Opportunities for mitigation following an event are also identified in the plan.

Safety and Security Plan

The school district uses a Safety and Security Plan last updated in 2022 to plan for and react to hazardous events. The plan identifies standard response protocols that should be taken in the event of an emergency. Events covered in this plan include: the death of a student or staff member, evacuation of the

school, lockdown of the school, fire, tornado or severe storm sheltering, bus accident, hazardous materials release or chemical spill, or a medical emergency. Emergency contact information is included in this plan and instructions for reunification of students and families.

Future Development Trends

In the past five years, the district has not built or demolished any buildings, however the district has installed new camera systems, a new door management system with a key fob and video buzz-in system, and updated network cabling and access points, computer servers, and the phone system. According to the local planning team, the district is considering new construction or renovation to the current elementary school, but this future development is dependent on the route decided and if a bond is passed or other funding options become available. The Nebraska Department of Education reports student population is growing. The local planning team indicates this increase in enrollment is due to more option enrollment students attending Crofton Public schools, an increase in local population, Lewis and Clark Lake area development, and young families moving back to a rural area.

Community Lifelines

Each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities.

Table CFS.5: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Crofton Elementary School	1	175	22	N	Y	
Crofton High School	2	179	35	Y	Y	
Fire Department	3	-	-	N	N	
City Auditorium (Police Dept)	4	-	2	N	Y	
Senior Center	5	-	2	N	Y	
St. Rose Church & School	6	90	8	N	Y	
People's Grocery	7	-	-	N	N	
Lewis & Clark Mini Mart	8	-	-	N	N	
Steffen Service Station	9	-	-	N	N	
Yankton Shop E-Z Convenience Store	10*	-	-	N	N	
Lewis and Clark State Park Office	11*	-	-	N	Y	

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
US Army Corps of Engineers	12*	-	-	N	Y	
Cedar/Knox Substation	13	-	-	-	-	
Cedar/Knox Substation	14*	-	-	-	-	

*Not Displayed on Map

Although not listed in the table above, critical infrastructure also includes power substations, cell towers, and alert sirens which provide service to the district. These assets are typically owned and maintained by other agencies and are not the responsibility of the school district.

Transportation

The district's major transportation corridors include State Highways 12 and 121, with the local planning team having additional concern for Highway 81 and Weigand Road (897 Rd). The district has been impacted by accidents occurring at the intersection of Highway 12 and Highway 81. The district does not own buses but instead leases seven buses through an independent bus company. The seven buses run five bus routes and currently transport 160 students. There are no rail lines in the district. This information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the district, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

Hazardous Materials – Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, there is one chemical storage site that houses hazardous material in Crofton. The school is approximately 6 miles northeast of Crofton Bluffs Wind Farm, which is listed as a Tier II facility outside of Crofton. The local planning team noted no specific concerns for chemical storage facilities in or near the district. The team did identify JE Meuret Grain Company as a site of concern for fixed chemical spills due to CHS Propane Tanks located near the site. The district's schools are located 1.3 miles north of these tanks.

In the event of a chemical spill occurring in the district, fire departments and law enforcement would be the first to respond to the incident. According to the local planning team, Crofton's response resources are sufficient with backup resources available from Yankton and other surrounding communities.

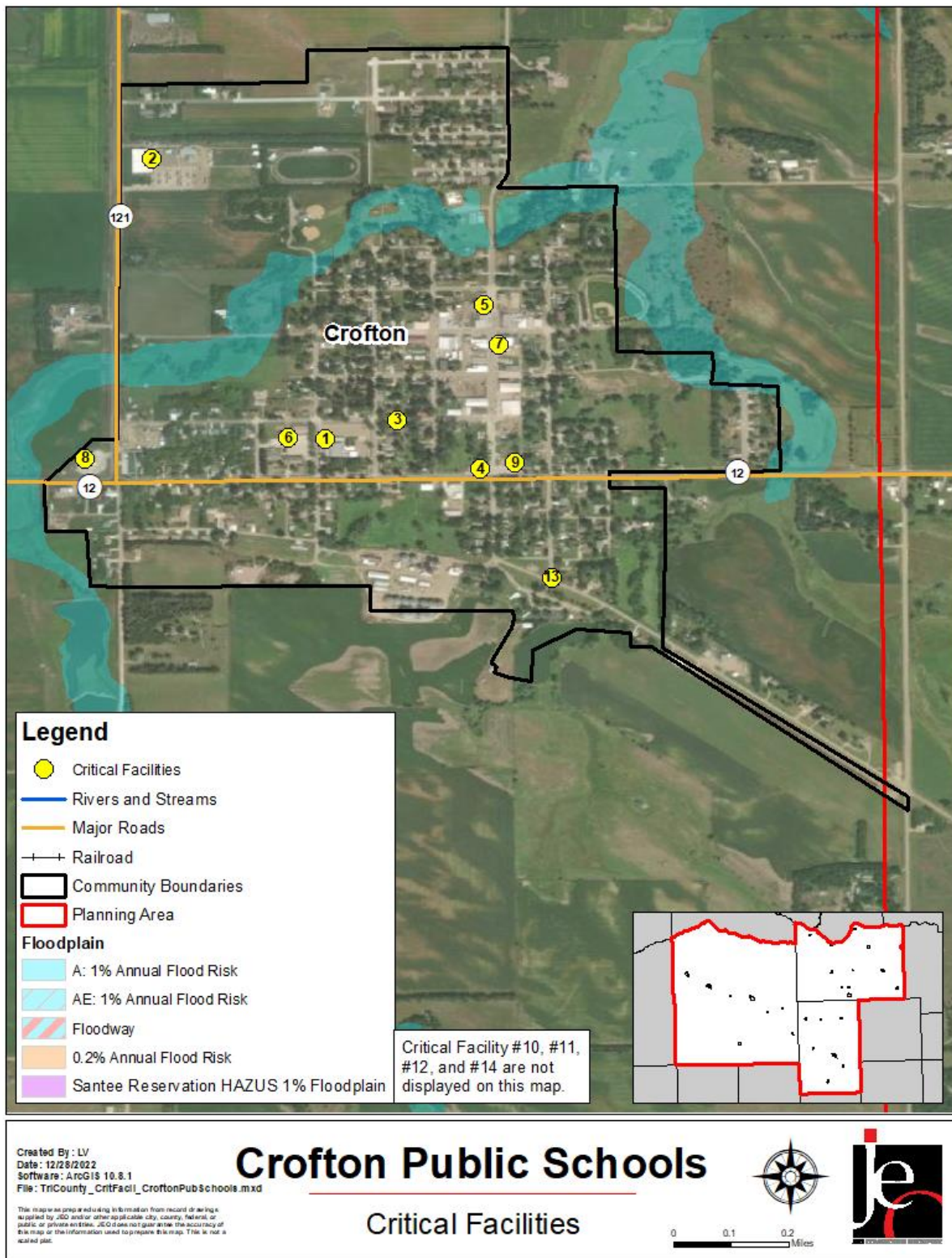
Table CFS.6: Hazardous Materials Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	GENERATOR (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
JE Meuret Grain Company	-	N	Fertilizer, Pesticide, Herbicide, Anhydrous, Propane
Crofton Bluffs Wind Farm	-	N	

Source: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy¹

¹ Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. "Search Tier II Data." Accessed September 2022.

Figure CFS.4: Crofton Critical Facilities



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Crofton Community Schools which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entirety of Knox County. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Crofton Schools. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP	OTHER IMPACTS
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	22	1,877 animals	N/A	
	Plant Disease	17	N/A	\$103,555	
Dam Failure		2	\$0	N/A	
Drought		483 out of 1,512 months	\$0	\$97,025,214	
Earthquakes		1	\$0	\$0	
Extreme Heat		Avg 3 days per year	\$0	\$16,885,534	
Flooding	Flash Flood	17	\$79,000	\$195,618	
	Flood	23	\$1,555,000		
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	4	\$0	N/A	
	Transportation	2	\$50,000		
Landslides		81	N/A	N/A	
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	Thunderstorm Wind	88	\$5,900	N/A	
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	Extreme Cold	8	\$0		
	Heavy Snow	13	\$0	\$691,005	
	Ice Storms	3	\$0		
	Winter Storms	46	\$3,500,000		
Tornadoes & High Winds	Winter Weather	7	\$0		
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	Tornadoes	31	\$4,845,060	\$207	3 injuries
Wildfire		252	8,438 acres	\$19,389	31 structures threatened; 1 structure destroyed
Total		890	\$11,663,460	\$122,695,548	

Hazard: Severe Thunderstorms

This hazard was identified as a top hazard of concern for the school district due to the frequency of severe thunderstorms in Crofton and the risks to student safety. Many students travel from the surrounding areas to attend school and may be caught in severe weather during severe thunderstorm events. According to the local planning team, the school district experienced a severe thunderstorm in May 2022 that resulted in tree damage and water entering school buildings. The local planning team identified the need to develop a late state/early dismissal plan which can be implemented during severe weather events. This plan would provide the district with a framework to ensure students have adequate time to return home when severe weather events are imminent.

Mitigation Actions:

Mitigation Action	Early Release Plan
Description	Develop a standard late start/early dismissal plan to inform teachers and staff when to keep or send students home before severe weather occurs.
Hazard(s)	Severe Thunderstorm, Severe Winter Storm, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$5,000
Local Funding Source	General Fund of Crofton Public Schools
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase awareness of natural and manmade hazards to students, staff, and families.
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500 +
Local Funding Source	General Fund of Crofton Public Schools
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Severe Winter Storms

The local planning team has identified severe winter storms as a hazard of top concern due to the possibility of receiving multiple inches of snow at one time. The local planning team's main concern with this hazard is the potential impacts on transportation and snow removal. According to the local planning team, the 2022-2023 winter required the school district to remove large amounts of snow and caused water leaks in school buildings.

Mitigation Actions:

See the "Early Release Plan" and "Public Awareness and Education" mitigations action to address this hazard of top concern.

Hazard: Tornadoes and High Winds

Tornadoes and High Winds may cause damage to school district property and buildings, leading them to be identified by the local planning team as a hazard of top concern. Crofton Public Schools experienced strong derecho winds in May 2022 that caused tree damage to school property and required removal of fallen branches and damaged trees.

Mitigation Actions:

See the “Early Release Plan” and “Public Awareness and Education” mitigations action to address this hazard of top concern.

Hazard of Note: Flooding

While flooding was not identified as a hazard of top concern for the school district to address, it is worth noting the potential for the high school football field to experience flood impacts. Bear Creek runs through the northern portion of the City of Crofton. Crofton Elementary School and Crofton High School are not located within the 1% annual flood risk zone. The football field and track may experience some minor flooding during an extreme flood event due to its proximity to the creek and can be used for flood storage if necessary. According to the local planning team, the Elementary School did experience some minor flooding during the 2019 flood, but no major repairs or cleanup were required. Due to the limited flood risk to school facilities and primary ownership of mitigation actions for flood risk reduction falling to the city or county, no mitigation actions were identified for the school district regarding flooding.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this profile as changes occur or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Superintendent and the school principals. The plan will be reviewed and revised as needed bi-annually during committee meetings. The meeting agenda is posted on the school website and on local social media to notify and involve the public in the plan’s review and revision.

Elgin Public Schools

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Elgin Public School's local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

Table EPS.1 Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Mike Brockhaus	Superintendent	Elgin Public Schools	Watched Round 1 meeting recording Attended Round 2 meetings
Greg Wemhoff	K-12 Principal	Elgin Public Schools	Watched Round 1 and Round 2 meeting recording Assisted with plan development

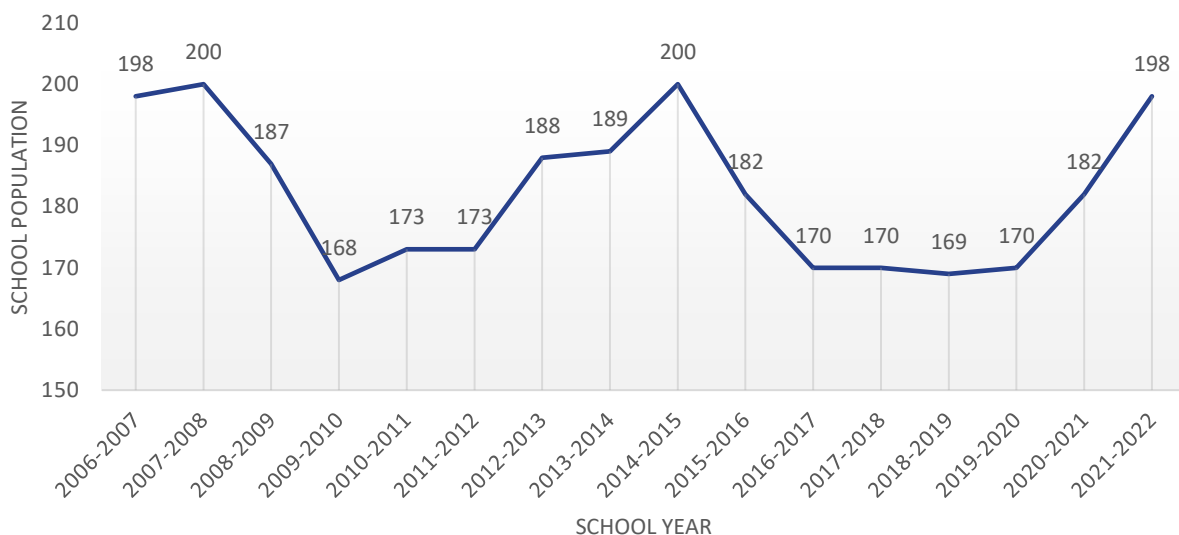
Location and Geography

Elgin Public Schools is a suburban school district located in Antelope County, in northeastern Nebraska. Its offices are located at 101 N. 14th Street, Elgin, NE 68636. The district is comprised of three schools: Elgin Elementary, Elgin Junior High, and Elgin High School. The school district provides educational services to students in Clearwater, Neligh, Oakdale, and Petersburg. Besides English, the school district teaches Spanish.

Demographics

The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2006-07 school year and ending with the 2021-22 year. It indicates that the student population has fluctuated over the years but has increased since the 2019-2020 school year. There are approximately 198 students enrolled in Elgin Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year. The district serves 108 families.

Figure EPS.1: Student Population 2006-2021



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Figure EPS.2: Elgin School District Boundary

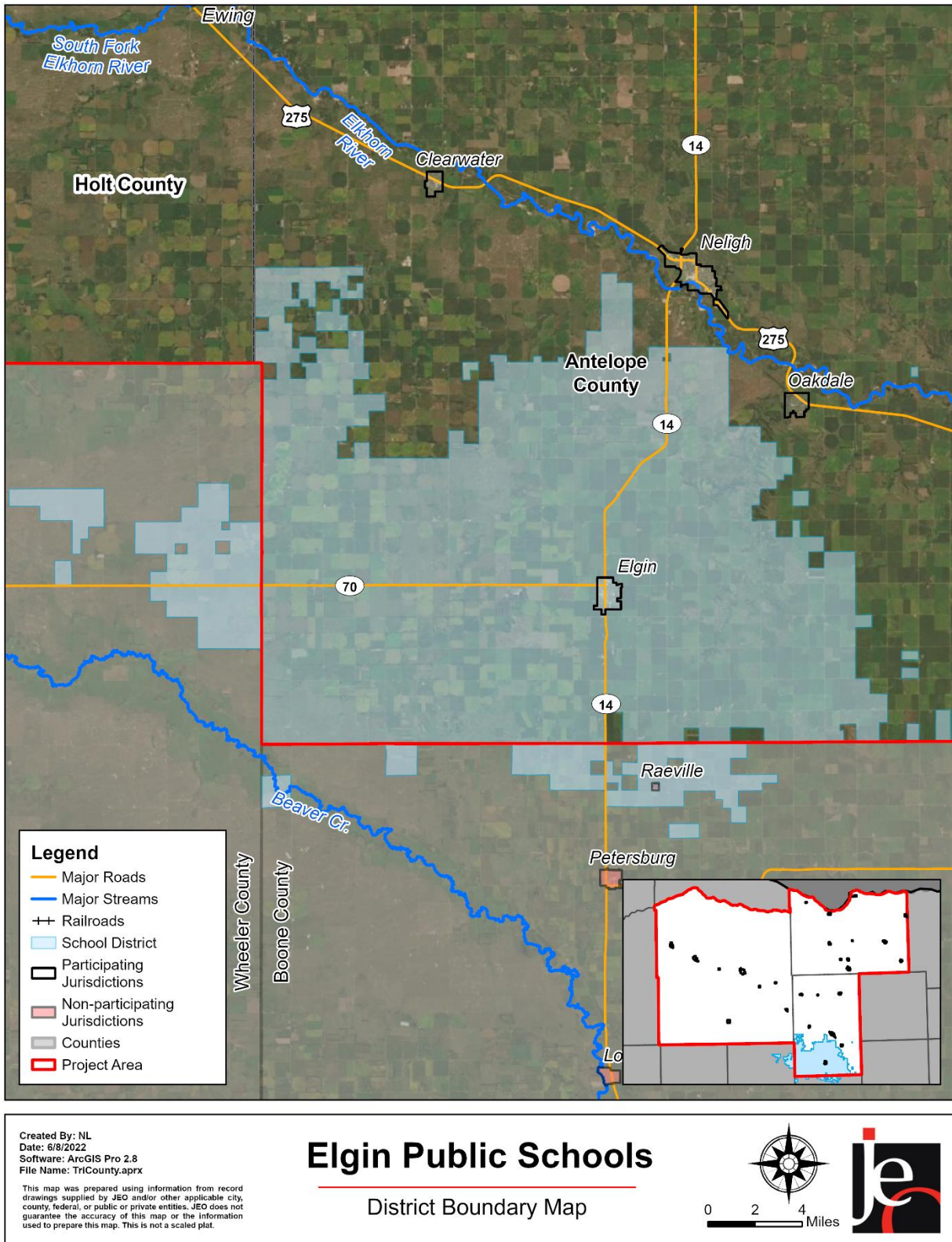
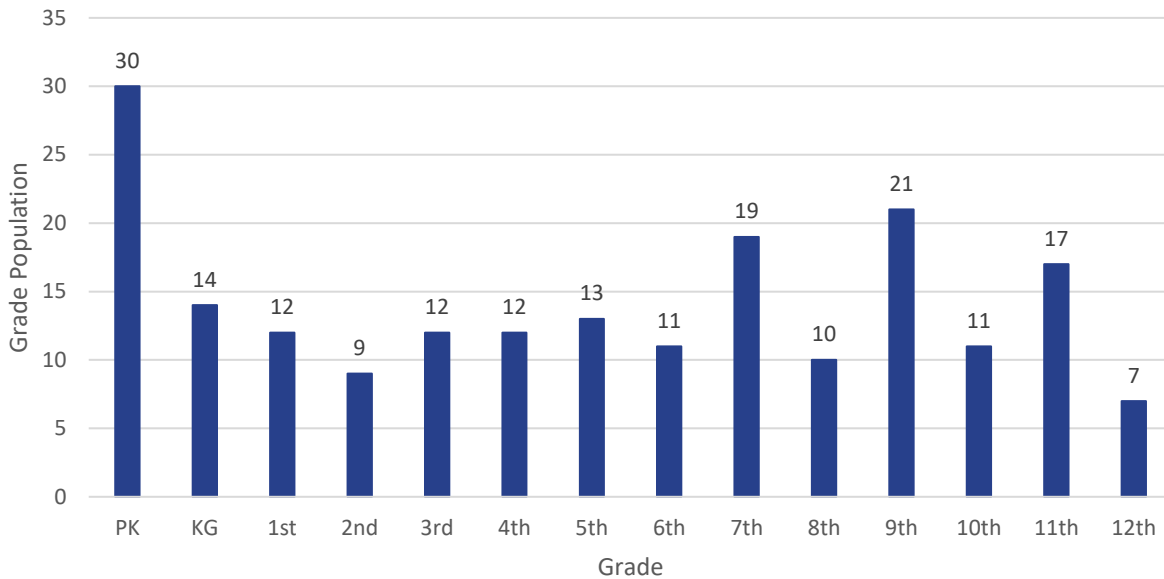


Figure EPS.3: Students by Grade, 2021-2022

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in Pre-Kindergarten, followed by 9th and 7th grades. The lowest populations of students are in 12th and 2nd grades. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), 40.4% of students receive either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2021-2020 school year. This is lower than the state average of 41.31%. Additionally, 17.26% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Table EPS.2: Student Statistics, 2021-2022

Components of Index	DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
Free/reduced priced meals	40.4%	41.31%
Special Education Students	17.26%	15.92%
English Language Learners (ESL)	N/A*	7.76%
School Mobility Rate	N/A*	5.51%

*Data is not available with fewer than 10 students.

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Administration

The school district has a superintendent, a principal, and support staff. The school board is made up of a six-member panel. The district also has a number of additional departments and staff that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives, including 2 administrators, 24 teachers, four paraprofessionals, one business manager, one secretary, two kitchen employees, two custodians, three full time bus drivers, and one nurse that visits on Wednesdays.

Capabilities

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

Table EPS.3: Capability Assessment

SURVEY COMPONENTS		YES/NO
Planning Capability	Capital Improvements Plan/Long-Term Budget	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes
	Disaster Response Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	GIS Capabilities	No
	Civil Engineering	No
	Staff who can assess jurisdictional vulnerability to hazards	Yes
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreements	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Fiscal Capability	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes or bonds for specific mitigation projects	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds in place	No
	Flood Insurance	No
	Other (if any)	
Education & Outreach	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, hazard mitigation boards, etc.).	No
	Ongoing public education or information program (Ex. Responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education, etc.)	Fire Safety, Water Safety
	StormReady Certification	No
	Other (if any)	
Drills	Fire	10/yr
	Tornado	2/yr
	Intruder	1/yr
	Bus Evacuation	2/yr
	School Evacuation	1/yr
	Other (if any)	

Table EPS.4: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Moderate
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Limited/Moderate
Community Support to Implement Projects	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts safety drills annually for staff and students, including:

- Fire Drills – monthly, ten per year.
- Tornado Drills – twice annually, one in the fall and one in the spring.
- Bus Evacuation Drills – twice annually, beginning of each semester.

Additionally, school district staff are trained in emergency procedures such as CPR, Epi Pens, drills, and driving vans and buses. Through the school’s insurance plan, staff members are trained on various safety items via videos and “I Love You Guys” Protocol are labeled in the school buildings. Students are educated through the various drills conducted each month/semester/year. Facebook communications and handbooks also educate students and families about emergency procedures. Emergency situations are communicated to students and families through the Student Information System. This system has a setting for families to receive notifications in different languages.

Plan Integration

The district has planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each applicable planning mechanism is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. Participating jurisdictions will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Crisis Response Plan

The district’s Crisis Response Plan is reviewed annually and updated as needed. The plan addresses actions to take for tornadoes, fire, flooding, blizzard, other severe weather hazards, addresses shelter in place protocols and shelter locations; identifies evacuation scenarios and routes; as well as opportunities for mitigation following hazard events and preparedness gaps for particular hazards.

Future Development Trends

The Elgin School District has experienced some upgrade in the past five years, including a new bus barn that was built in the spring of 2022. New equipment acquired for the district in the past five years included a new pickup truck in the fall of 2021, a used Gator in the spring of 2022, and the leasing of a skid steer each year. Future planned renovations to the school include camera and network system updates and a new gate management system. The student population has been growing due to more families moving into the district.

Community Lifelines

Each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction’s functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team. Note that not all community lifelines are owned or operated by the school district.

Table EPS.5: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Elgin School Campus	1	187	34	N	Y	
Elgin Fire Department	2	-	-	N	N	
Elgin Community Center	3	-	-	N	Y	
Knights of Columbus Hall	4	-	-	N	Y	

Although not listed in the table above, critical infrastructure also includes power substations, cell towers, and alert sirens which provide service to the district. These assets are typically owned and maintained by other agencies and are not the responsibility of the school district.

Transportation

The district's major transportation corridors include State Highways 14 and 70. According to the local planning team, Highways 14 and 70 are of most concern as well as the roads used as bus routes to and from other communities. There have not been any transportation accidents that have impacted any schools within the district. The district owns four school buses and transports 40 students to and from school each day. There are no rail lines in the district. This information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the district, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

Hazardous Materials – Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

The Hazardous Materials Lifeline includes chemical storage facilities, pipelines, and transported chemical tanks. According to the Tier System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, there are eight chemical sites within or near Elgin which house hazardous materials (listed below). Three of the Tier II facilities, the Central Valley Ag Agronomy and Station, Farmers Pride Propane, and Sapp Bros Petroleum, are located 4 to 5 blocks away from the school buildings. According to the local planning team, no chemical spills have occurred locally, however there is a concern for spills to occur on Highway 14 which runs through the middle of town. In the event of a chemical spill, the County Sheriff, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and Nebraska State Patrol would respond to the incident.

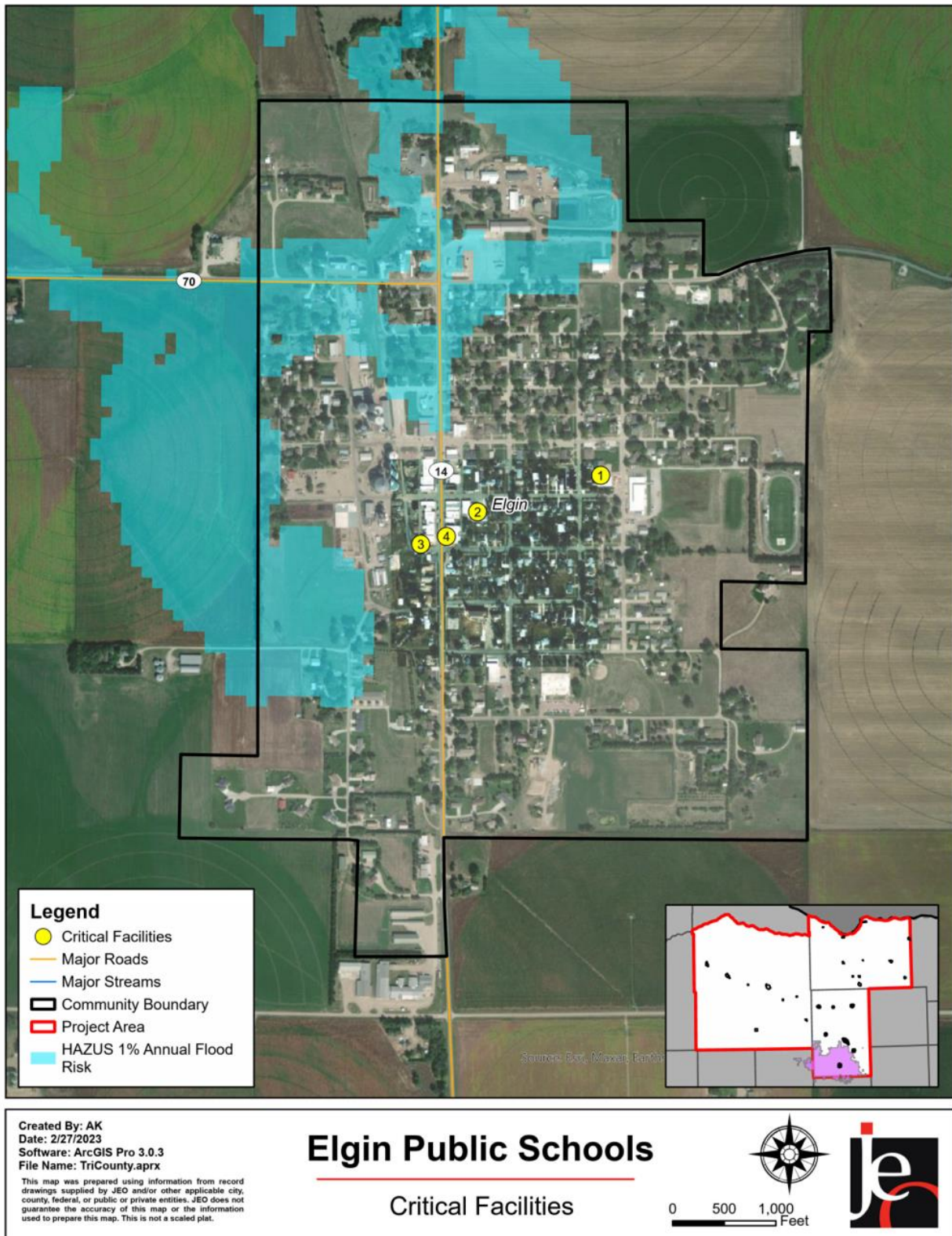
Table EPS.6: Hazardous Materials Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	GENERATOR (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Central Valley Ag Agronomy	-	N	
Farmers Pride Propane	-	N	
Sapp Bros Petroleum Inc	-	N	

Source: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy²

² Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. "Search Tier II Data." Accessed September 2022.

Figure EPS.4: Elgin Public Schools Critical Facilities



Hazard Prioritization

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Elgin Public Schools which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Elgin Public School District. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entirety of Antelope County. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP	OTHER IMPACTS
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	22	132 animals	N/A	
	Plant Disease	23	N/A	\$754,950	
Dam Failure		2	\$0	N/A	
Drought		483 out of 1,512 months	\$0	\$19,092,325	
Earthquakes		0	\$0	\$0	
Extreme Heat		Avg 3 days per year	\$0	\$7,591,187	
Flooding	Flash Flood	14	\$240,000	\$750,586	
	Flood	11	\$4,050,000		
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	7	\$5,000	N/A	2 injuries
	Transportation	0	\$0		
Landslides		0	N/A	N/A	
Public Health Emergency		~1,765 cases	N/A	N/A	
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	175	\$216,000	\$23,403,344	
	Heavy Rain	2	\$0	\$18,158,742	
	Lightning	1	\$5,000	N/A	
	Thunderstorm Wind	85	\$45,000	N/A	1 fatality
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	12	\$0		
	Extreme Cold	7	\$0		
	Heavy Snow	11	\$0	\$1,907,566	
	Ice Storms	3	\$0		
	Winter Storms	40	\$5,000,000		
Tornadoes & High Winds	Winter Weather	14	\$0		
	High Winds	18	\$13,000	\$3,448,218	
Wildfire	Tornadoes	18	\$62,000	\$0	
		644	38,956 acres	\$96,484	8 structures threatened; 3 structures destroyed
Total		1,109	\$9,636,000	\$75,203,402	

Hazard: Severe Thunderstorms

This hazard was identified as a top hazard of concern for the school district due to the frequency of severe thunderstorms in Elgin and the potential of having no electrical power at the schools. Additionally, according to the local planning team severe thunderstorms pose the risk of lightning strikes and damage to the school building structures and roofs. When a severe thunderstorm does occur and results in a loss of electrical power, the school does not have any generators for the four buildings and the shelters in three of the buildings have limited space and limited restrooms. The purchase and installation of a generator at each of the school buildings is a future action the school would like to implement to help reduce the impacts of severe thunderstorms.

Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION	BACKUP GENERATORS
Description	Purchase of four generators – one for each of the school buildings in case of loss of power during a severe snowstorm.
Hazard(s)	Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$300,000 - \$400,000 per Building
Local Funding Source	Building Fund
Timeline (circle one)	2-5 years
Priority (circle one)	Medium
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase awareness of natural and manmade hazards to students, staff, and families.
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500 +
Local Funding Source	General Fund
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Severe Winter Storms

The local planning team has identified severe winter storms as a hazard of top concern due to the possibility of receiving multiple inches of snow at one time. The local planning team's main concern with this hazard is the potential impacts on transportation and electrical power, as well as frozen pipes and roof top damages. Snowstorms on January 3 and 18, 2023 both impacted the school district by producing 8 inches of snow, causing the school to be closed for two days as streets and parking lots were cleared. The school district has four buildings and no generators, causing the local planning team to be concerned about the loss of electrical power for multiple days and the lack of heat in school buildings which can result in frozen pipes. To mitigate this action the school district is looking into purchasing a generator for each building.

Mitigation Actions

See the “Backup Generators” and “Public Awareness and Education” mitigation actions to address this hazard of top concern.

Hazard: Tornadoes and High Winds

Tornadoes and High Winds will affect the integrity of the school buildings and structures including the roofs of each building, leading them to be identified by the local planning team as a hazard of top concern. Elgin Community Schools experienced a high windstorm event in May 2022 that knocked out the power. Students were relocated to designated shelter areas; however, these shelter locations have limited space and limited restroom availability. The local planning team is planning on purchasing four generators and installing one at each school building to ensure students and faculty have power when high winds impact Elgin.

Mitigation Actions

See the “Backup Generators” and “Public Awareness and Education” mitigation actions to address this hazard of top concern.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this profile as changes occur or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Superintendent and K-12 Principal of Elgin Public Schools. The plan will be reviewed and revised as needed annually during the local school board meeting. The meeting agenda is posted on the school website, in the local newspaper, and on the bulletin board at the local post office and will be used to notify and involve the public in the plan’s review and revision.

ELGIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Elgin Volunteer Fire Department's local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

Table EFD.1: Fire District Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Greg Henn	Assistant Fire Chief	Elgin Volunteer Fire Department	Assisted with plan development
Jim Kittelson	Fire Chief	Elgin Volunteer Fire Department	Viewed meeting recordings

Location and Geography

The Elgin Volunteer Fire Department covers the Village of Elgin and surrounding rural areas, totaling 90,000 acres of land. The Villages of Elgin is at the most risk of fire.

Demographics

See the Village of Elgin and Antelope County profiles for regional demographic information. The Elgin Volunteer Fire Department services between 900 and 1000 residents plus additional rural residents.

Staffing/Leadership

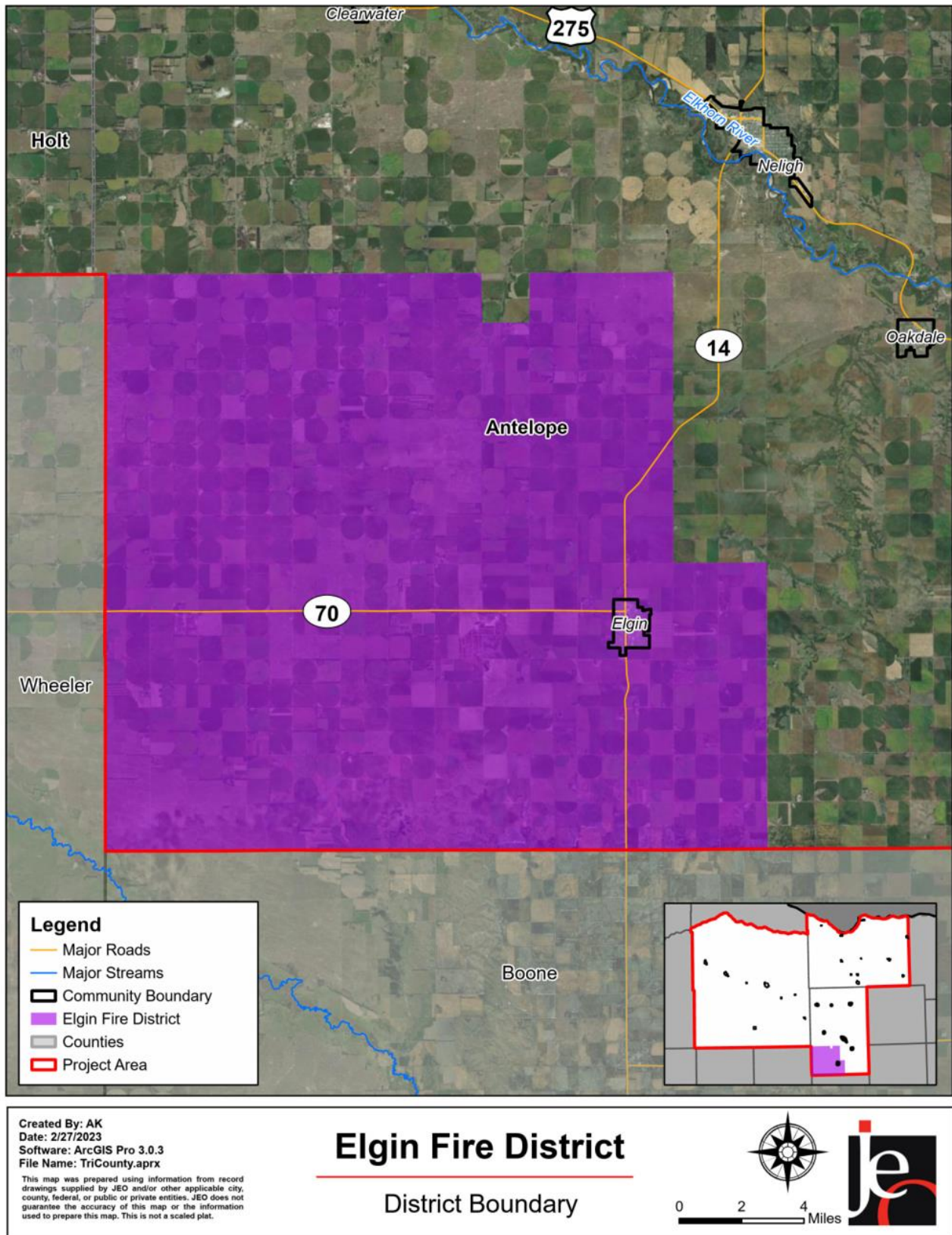
The Elgin Volunteer Fire Department is supervised by a Fire Chief, Assistant Chief and a fire board who will oversee the implementation of hazard mitigation projects. External offices would assist the district with hazard mitigation related activities are listed below:

- City of Elgin Clerk
- Mayor of Elgin
- Deputy Emergency Manager
- Antelope County Road Superintendent

Future Development Trends

The past five years have seen some improvements within the fire district including how fire apparatuses are getting larger and out growing available storage space. The fire hall also has had a backup generator installed. There are no new developments planned for the next five years.

Figure EFD.1: Fire District Boundary



Capabilities

Due to the unique structure of fire districts, the typical capability assessment table was not used. The following table summarizes the district's overall capabilities. The Elgin Volunteer Fire Department will continue to utilize existing relationships with local, county, state, and federal agencies in the implementation of mitigation projects. According to the local planning team, district funds are limited to maintaining facilities and systems and have remained the same over recent years. The district has applied for some Region 11 grants and been awarded small amounts for new equipment purchases.

Table EFD.2: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Limited
Community Support to Implement Projects	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Limited
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

Plan Integration

Elgin Volunteer Fire Department does not have planning documents, such as Strategic Plans, Response Plans, or Standard Operating Guidelines. If plans are written in the future, they will include applicable information from the hazard mitigation plan.

Transportation

Major transportation corridors in the district includes Highway 14 and Highway 70. The local planning team identified their highest concerns as the amount of traffic that occurs on the Highways and the chemicals and radiological hazards that are regularly transported along the Highways. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the community, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents. There are no rail lines in the district. Three of the Tier II facilities, the Central Valley Ag Agronomy and Station, Farmers Pride Propane, and Sapp Bros Petroleum, are located within the district. No chemical spills have occurred locally. When evacuations are issued, the town of Elgin is the most difficult portion of the district to evacuate. The difficulty occurs in the number of people needing to be noted of the evacuation in a timely manner and a lack of manpower to perform this task efficiently.

Community Lifelines

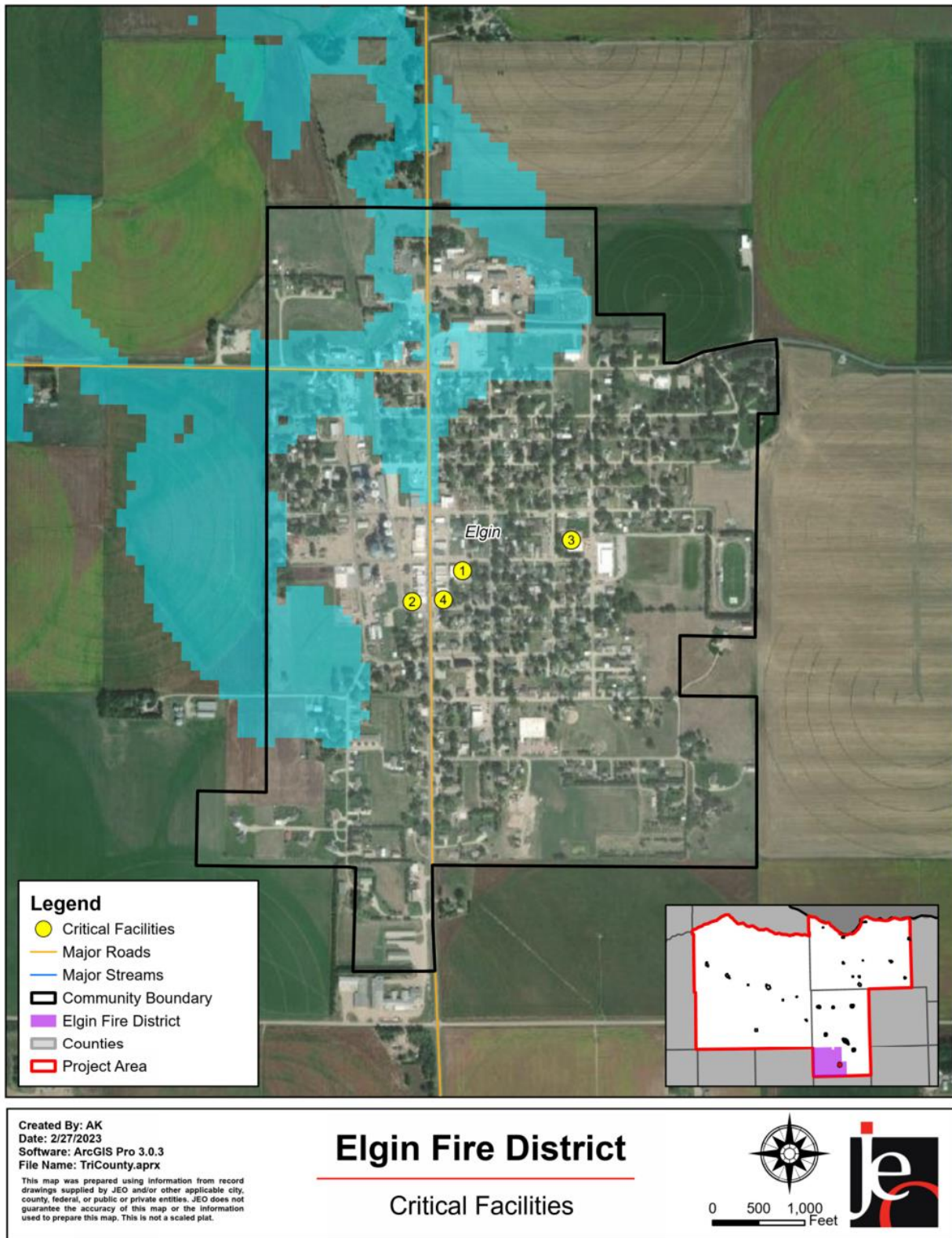
Community lifelines are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team.



Table EFD.3: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	ADDRESS	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Elgin Fire Department	1	207 Pine Street	Y	Y	
Elgin Community Center	2	124 South 2 nd St.	N	Y	
Elgin Public School	3	101 N 5 th St.	N	Y	
Pope John School Knights of Columbus Hall	4	117 South 2 nd St.	N	Y	

Figure EFD.2: Critical Facilities Map



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Elgin Volunteer Fire Department which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Elgin Volunteer Fire Department. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entirety of Antelope County. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP	OTHER IMPACTS
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	22	132 animals	N/A	
	Plant Disease	23	N/A	\$754,950	
Dam Failure		2	\$0	N/A	
Drought		483 out of 1,512 months	\$0	\$19,092,325	
Earthquakes		0	\$0	\$0	
Extreme Heat		Avg 3 days per year	\$0	\$7,591,187	
Flooding	Flash Flood	14	\$240,000	\$750,586	
	Flood	11	\$4,050,000		
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	7	\$5,000	N/A	2 injuries
	Transportation	0	\$0		
Landslides		0	N/A	N/A	
Public Health Emergency		~1,765 cases	N/A	N/A	
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	175	\$216,000	\$23,403,344	1 fatality
	Heavy Rain	2	\$0	\$18,158,742	
	Lightning	1	\$5,000	N/A	
	Thunderstorm	85	\$45,000	N/A	
	Wind				
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	12	\$0	\$1,907,566	
	Extreme Cold	7	\$0		
	Heavy Snow	11	\$0		
	Ice Storms	3	\$0		
	Winter Storms	40	\$5,000,000		
	Winter Weather	14	\$0		
Tornadoes & High Winds	High Winds	18	\$13,000	\$3,448,218	
	Tornadoes	18	\$62,000	\$0	
Wildfire		644	38,956 acres	\$96,484	8 structures threatened; 3 structures destroyed
Total		1,109	\$9,636,000	\$75,203,402	

Hazard: Severe Thunderstorm/Severe Winter Storm

The local planning team identified a combination of severe thunderstorms and severe winter storms as a hazard of top concern due to the common high winds and large amounts of precipitation that may result from heavy rain or snow. Heavy rain and melting snow can lead to the rise of the Black Snake creek as well as causing stormwater drains to back up. Additionally, both hazards have caused heavy debris on roads near the fire hall, causing issues for the district when getting equipment in and out of the hall. The age of the fire hall also causes issues during severe thunderstorms and severe winter storms that may cause damage to the buildings.

Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION	FIRE HALL
Description	Build a new fire hall. The existing fire hall is located in a hazardous location within the center of town and is too small to adequately house fire equipment and serve as an emergency storm shelter.
Hazard(s)	Severe Thunderstorm, Severe Winter Storm, Tornadoes and High Winds, Wildfires
Estimated Cost	Unknown
Local Funding Source	General Fund
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief and Board
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from the hazards
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500 +
Local Funding Source	General Fund
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Tornadoes and High Winds

According to the local planning team, tornadoes and high winds are a top hazard of concern due to the increasing occurrence of high winds. Tornadoes and high winds are common within the planning area. The NCEI database reports 18 high wind events that have occurred within Antelope County from 1996 to 2021 and caused \$13,000 in property damages. Between 1996 and 2021, Elgin experienced 3 tornadic events, all F0 tornadoes that did not cause any significant damage to property or individuals. To ensure residents within the fire district know where the designated shelter is located, the local planning team would like to install shelter identification signs for the fire hall.

Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION	SHELTER IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE
Description	The fire hall is used as a heating and cooling location as well as a sheltering location during tornadoes, high winds, and severe storms. Signage will help identify the hall as a shelter and help vulnerable populations find the hall.
Hazard(s)	Severe Thunderstorm, Severe Winter Storm, Tornadoes and High Winds, Wildfires
Estimated Cost	\$1,000
Local Funding Source	General Fund
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Wildfire

Local concern regarding wildfire is the prevalence of rural terrain that makes up the Elgin Fire District. The district is located on the east edge of the sandhills and is surrounded by farm grounds. The grass and range land of the sandhills is highly vulnerable to grassfires. Farm grounds are at high risk of wildfires as well. The local planning team hopes to replace and upgrade their fire equipment to provide better firefighting services.

Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION	EQUIPMENT UPGRADES
Description	Continue working with the city and the rural fire board to replace the grass rig and purchase a new pumper.
Hazard(s)	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$130,000 for grass rig, \$150,000 for pumper
Local Funding Source	General Fund
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this community profile as changes can occur before or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Rural Board, Fire Department, and the City of Elgin. The plan will be reviewed annually, and the public will be notified through fire board and city council meetings.

Neligh-Oakdale Public Schools

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Neligh-Oakdale Public Schools' local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

Table NOS.1 Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Ron Beacom	Superintendent	Neligh-Oakdale Public Schools	Viewed meeting recordings

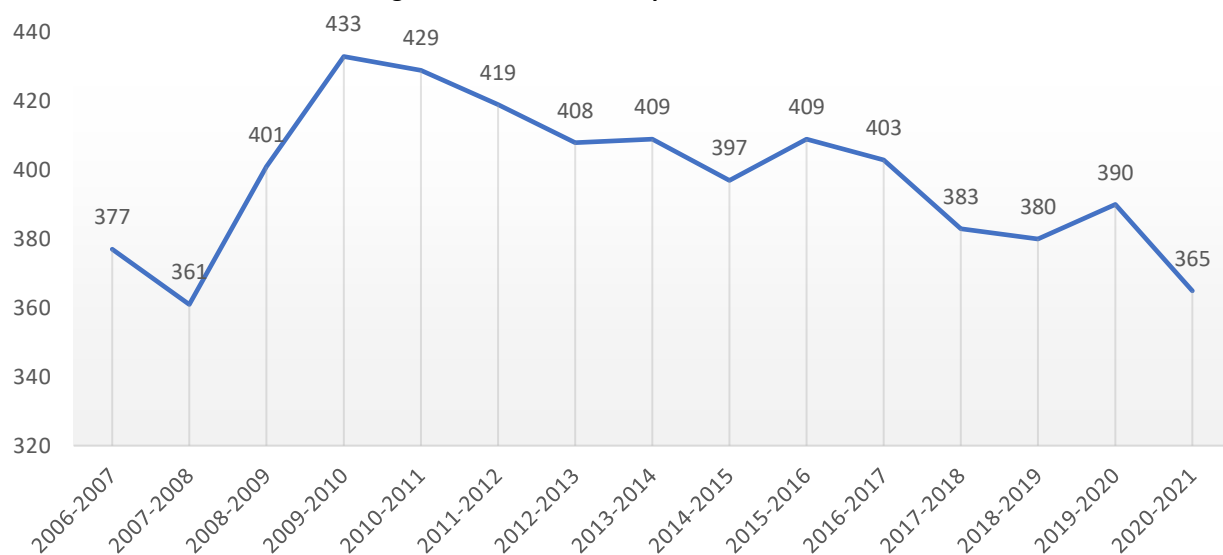
Location and Geography

Neligh-Oakdale Public Schools is a rural school district located in Antelope County, in northeastern Nebraska. Its offices are located at 600 J Street, Neligh, Nebraska 68756. The district is comprised of three schools: Neligh-Oakdale EastWard Elementary, Neligh-Oakdale WestWard Elementary, and Neligh-Oakdale High School. The district provides opt-in services for the surrounding communities of Tilden, Elgin, Clearwater, and O'Neill. Besides English, the school district teaches Spanish and Mandarin.

Demographics

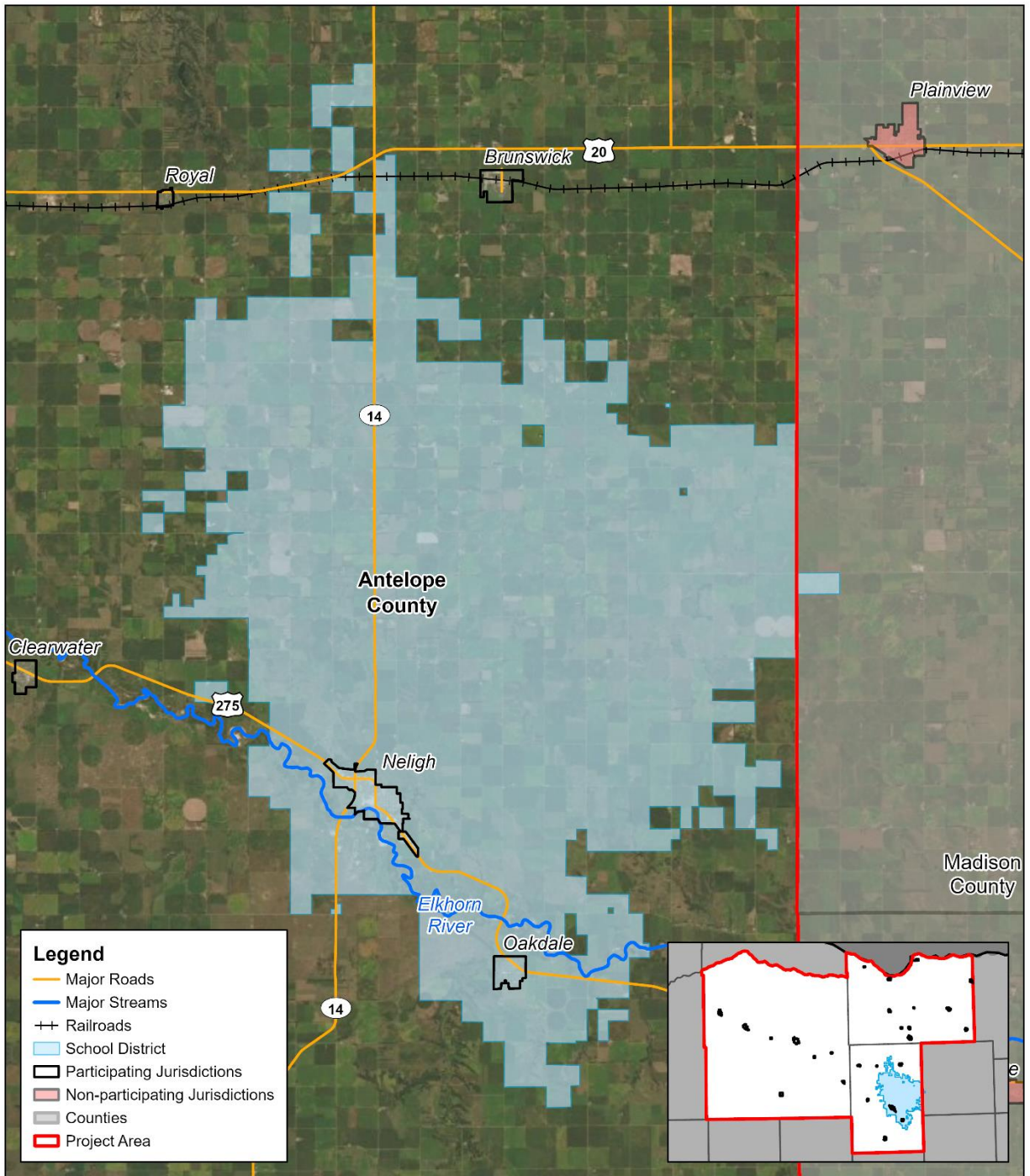
The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2006-07 school year and ending with the 2020-21 year. It indicates that the overall student population has been decreasing since the 2009-10 school year, with some increase spikes in 2015-16 and 2019-20. There are approximately 365 students enrolled in Neligh-Oakdale Public Schools. The district serves 188 different families for the 365 students enrolled. The district employs 39 teachers, two administrators, one business manager, three secretaries, five custodians, four kitchen helpers, nine paraprofessionals, and one technology coordinator.

Figure NOS.1: Student Population 2006-2020



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Figure NOS.2: Neligh-Oakdale School District Boundary



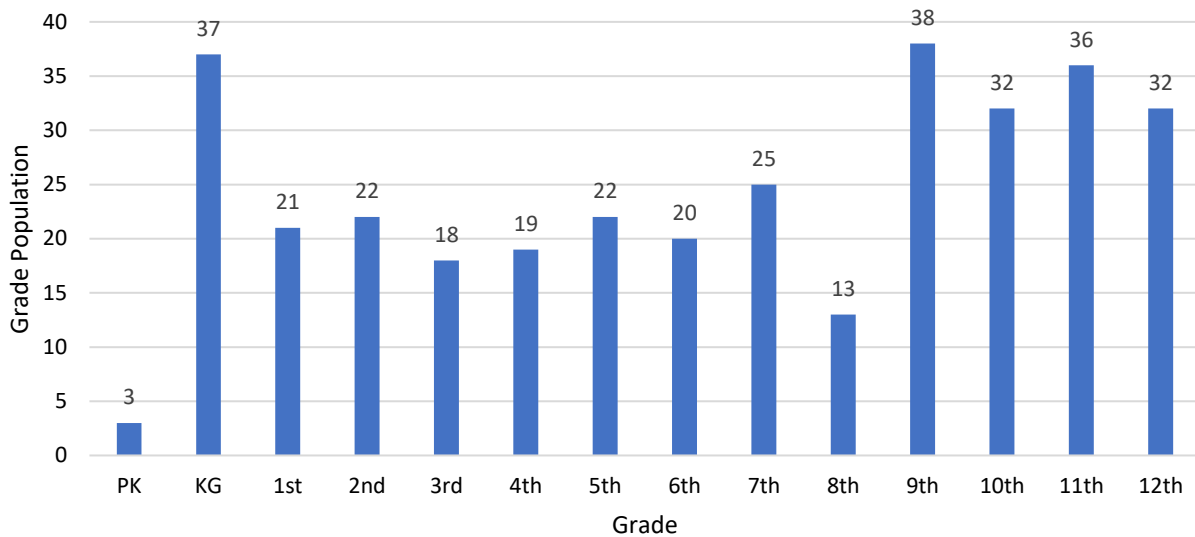
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Date: 6/8/2022
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File Name: TriCounty.aprx

This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JEO and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JEO does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

Neligh-Oakdale Schools

District Boundary Map



Figure NOS.3: Students by Grade, 2020-2021

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in 9th grade, followed by kindergarten and 11th grade. The lowest population of students are in Pre-Kindergarten. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), 31.95% of students receive either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2020-2021 school year. This is lower than the state average of 46.33%. Additionally, 13.43% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Table NOS.2: Student Statistics, 2019-2020

COMPONENTS OF INDEX	DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
Free/reduced priced meals	43.01%	46.33%
Special Education Students	22.81%	15.67%
English Language Learners (ESL)	N/A*	7.25%
School Mobility Rate	13.75%	9.12%

*Data is not available with fewer than 10 students.

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Administration

The school district has a superintendent, a principal, and support staff. The school board is made up of a six-member panel. The district also has several additional departments and staff that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives.

- Neligh-Oakdale Crisis and Security Committee
- Neligh Volunteer Fire Department
- Oakdale Volunteer Fire Department
- Neligh Police Department
- Antelope County Sheriff's Department

Capabilities

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

Table NOS.3: Capability Assessment

SURVEY COMPONENTS		YES/NO
Planning Capability	Capital Improvements Plan/Long-Term Budget	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes
	Disaster Response Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	GIS Capabilities	No
	Civil Engineering	No
	Staff who can assess jurisdictional vulnerability to hazards	Yes
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreements	No
	Other (if any)	
Fiscal Capability	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes or bonds for specific mitigation projects	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds in place	No
	Flood Insurance	No
	Other (if any)	
Education & Outreach	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, hazard mitigation boards, etc.).	Yes
	Ongoing public education or information program (Ex. Responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education, etc.)	Yes
	StormReady Certification	No
	Other (if any)	
Drills	Fire	10/yr
	Tornado	2/yr
	Intruder	1/yr
	Bus Evacuation	2/yr
	School Evacuation	1/yr
	Other (if any)	

Table NOS.4: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	
Financial resources to implement mitigation projects	Limited
Staff/expertise to implement projects	Limited
Public support to implement projects	Limited
Time to devote to hazard mitigation	Limited
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts safety drills annually for staff and students, including:

- Fire Drills – monthly
- Tornado Drills – 2 drills performed annually.
- School Hold/Shelter in Place/Intruder Drills
- School and Bus Evacuation Drills

Additionally, school district staff are provided emergency procedure handbooks during school in-service days at the beginning of each semester. ‘I Luv U Guys’ response protocol is included in these handbooks. Emergency protocol handbooks are also provided to students and families. Parents and staff are notified of emergency events through the school’s website and social media as well as the school notification system. School letters and notifications are available in languages other than English.

Plan Integration

The district has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each applicable planning mechanism is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. Participating jurisdictions will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Crisis Response Plan and Safety and Security Plan

The district’s Crisis Response Plan and their Safety and Security Plan was last updated in 2022. The plan covers natural disasters including tornadoes and severe storms and addresses shelter in place protocols that should be followed during these events.

Future Development Trends

In the past five years, no major changes have occurred within the school district, however the school has performed some upgrades in the past few years including upgraded security camera systems, internet upgrades, and installing a new IP phone system. According to the local planning team, the current student population is declining. The school district is currently discussing potential construction projects and renovations to create one campus for all grade levels. Additionally, the school district is considering upgrades to the main entrance to increase school building security.

Community Lifelines

Each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team.

Table NOS.5: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Neligh-Oakdale EastWard Elementary School	1	101	17	N	Y	
Neligh-Oakdale WestWard Elementary School	2	105	15	N	Y	
Neligh-Oakdale High School	3	124	26	N	Y	
Grace Lutheran Church	4	-	-	N	Y	
Antelope County Fairgrounds	5	-	-	N	Y	
Neligh City Fire Station	6	-	-	Y	N	
Neligh American Legion	7	-	-	N	Y	
Dollar General	8	-	-	N	N	
Thriftway Market	9	-	-	N	N	
Antelope Memorial Hospital	10	-	-	Y	Y	

Although not listed in the table above, critical infrastructure also includes power substations, cell towers, and alert sirens which provide service to the district. These assets are typically owned and maintained by other agencies and are not the responsibility of the school district.

Transportation

The district's major transportation corridors include Interstate 275 and State Highways 14. The local planning team does not have additional concerns regarding transportation issues and there were no transportation accidents that have occurred recently within the district. The district owns four full sized school buses and two minibuses. These buses transport approximately 50 students to and from school. There are no rail lines in the district. This information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the district, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

Hazardous Materials – Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

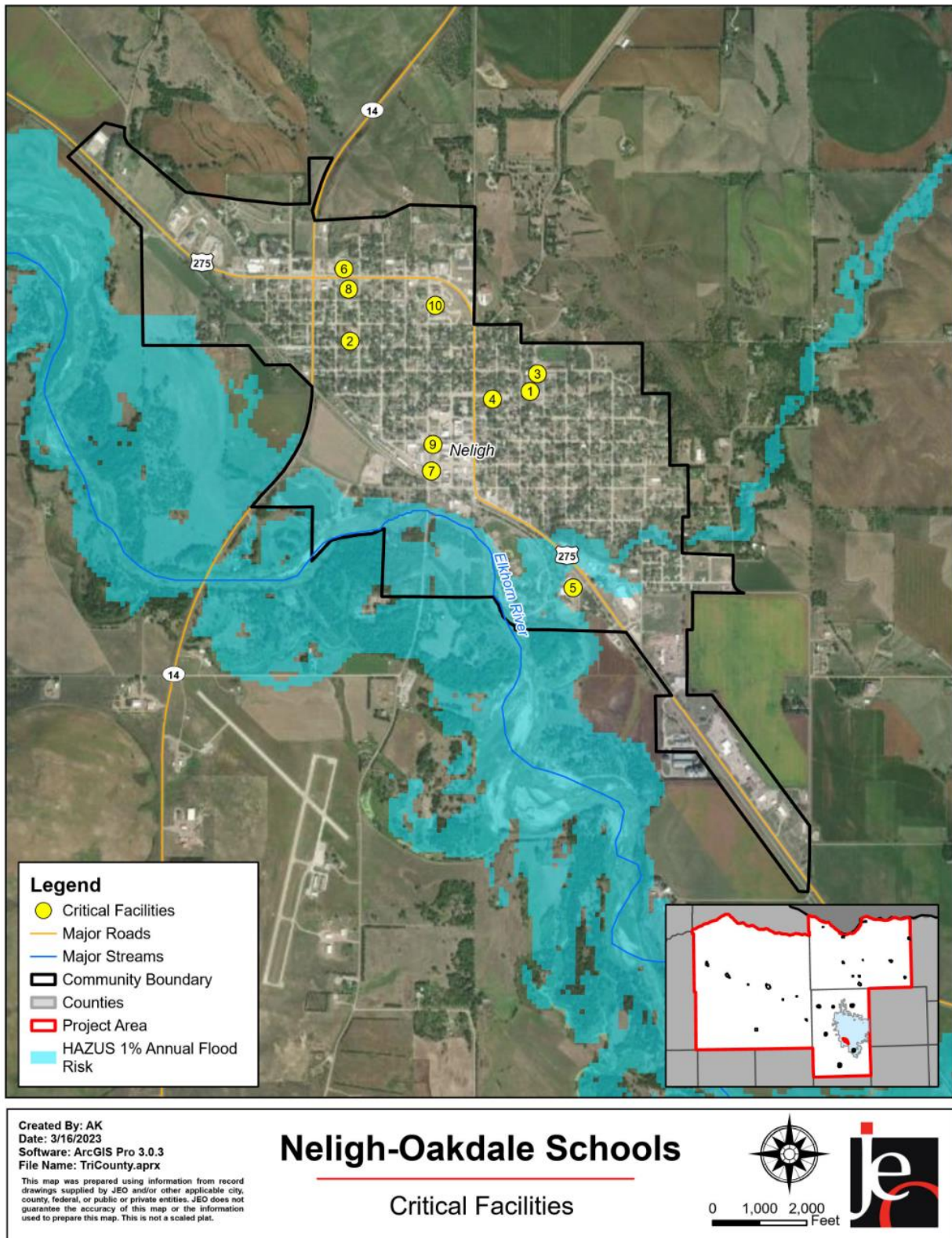
According to the Tier System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, there are four chemical sites within or near Neligh and none within or near Oakdale. The local planning team noted a specific concern for the prevalence of CVA plants in all directions of the district with routes running through the district. The local planning team is specifically concerned about the potential of chemical spills from the trucks hauling chemicals.

In the event of a chemical spill occurring in the district, the Neligh and Oakdale fire departments and law enforcement would be the first to respond to the incident.

Table NOS.6: Hazardous Materials Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	GENERATOR (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
NDOT Neligh Yard	-	N	
Frontier Communications	-	N	
Aurora Co-op Elevator Company	-	N	
Upstream Wind Energy Center	-	N	
Simplot	-	N	Within Floodplain

Figure NOS.4: Neligh-Oakdale School District Critical Facilities



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Neligh Oakdale Schools which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Neligh Oakdale Schools. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entire planning area (Antelope, Holt, and Knox Counties). For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	86	4,375 animals	N/A
	Plant Disease	57	N/A	\$2,176,447
Dam Failure		12	\$0	N/A
Drought		483/1,512 months	\$50,000,000	\$125,296,676
Earthquakes		4	\$0	\$0
Extreme Heat		Avg. 3 days per year	\$0	\$38,452,710
Flooding	Flash Flood	47	\$1,089,000	\$1,512,674
	Flood	40	\$6,505,000	
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	17	\$5,000	N/A
	Transportation	8	\$50,000	
Landslides		86	\$0	N/A
Public Health Emergency		2 outbreak events	>6,926 cases	N/A
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	872	\$3,798,500	\$68,254,470
	Heavy Rain	8	\$0	\$67,283,772
	Lightning	5	\$15,500	N/A
	Thunderstorm	309	\$2,298,400	N/A
	Wind			
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	40	\$5,441,000	\$6,507,635
	Extreme Cold	27	\$0	
	Heavy Snow	31	\$0	
	Ice Storms	8	\$0	
	Winter Storms	125	\$8,603,000	
	Winter Weather	21	\$0	
Tornadoes & High Winds	High Winds	55	\$166,000	\$6,045,886
	Tornadoes	111	\$15,719,590	\$10,608
Wildfire		1,205	55,663 acres	\$215,112
			\$507,572	
Total		1,371	\$93,690,990	\$315,755,990

Hazard: Severe Thunderstorms

The local planning team indicated that severe thunderstorms were a concern due to the probability and frequency of storms occurring in the school district. The NCEI's severe thunderstorm database recorded 10 events in the Village of Oakdale and 19 events in the City of Neligh from 1996 to 2021. According to the local planning team, the school experiences two to three severe storms each year with specific information on a severe storm in 2021 with 90 mile per hour straight winds that began during dismissal. The thunderstorm winds impacted the bus routes and caused damage to the school's window coverings, trees, and roof. The biggest concern of the planning team is the safety of students and damage to school property by severe storms. To reduce the risk of severe thunderstorms, the school is interested in taking an inventory of existing trees and trimming or removing dead or dying trees to limit potential debris and falling limbs. Additionally, a new roof on the school buildings will ensure no water damage to the buildings occurs during heavy rain events and increases the protection of the students and staff inside.

Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION	HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL
Description	Identify and remove dead or dying trees that may be hazardous to school buildings or students and staff members during severe weather events.
Hazard(s)	Severe Thunderstorms
Estimated Cost	\$10,000+
Local Funding Source	District Funds
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Maintenance Department
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	NEW ROOF
Description	Install a new roof on school buildings.
Hazard(s)	Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	\$50,000+
Local Funding Source	District Funds
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	SECURITY SYSTEMS AND PLANS UPDATE
Description	Update and improve security alert systems for efficiency and timely response during hazard events both natural and man-made.
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$5,000+
Local Funding Source	District Funds
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The superintendent will be responsible for reviewing and updating this school profile outside of the five-year update as changes occur or after a major event. The school's local planning team will include the superintendent. The plan will be reviewed and revised as needed annually. The updates will be announced at school board meetings.

Niobrara Public Schools

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Niobrara Public Schools local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

Table NPS.1 Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Chelsey Chohon, RN	School Nurse	Niobrara Public Schools	Attended Round 1 meeting
Margaret Sandoz	Superintendent	Niobrara Public Schools	Attended Round 2 meeting

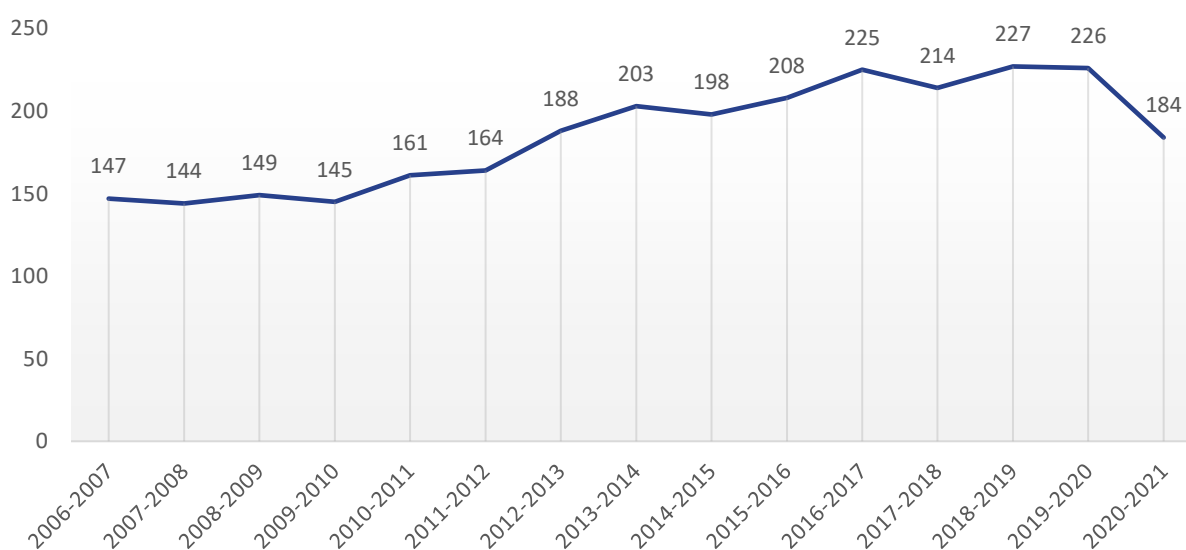
Location and Geography

Niobrara Public Schools is a rural school district located in Knox County, in northeastern Nebraska. Its offices are located at 247 NE-12, Niobrara, Nebraska 68760. The district is comprised of two schools: Niobrara Elementary School and Niobrara Secondary School. The school district provides educational services to students in Santee, Verdigre, Bloomfield, Creighton, Boyd County, and Crofton. Besides English, the school district teaches the Dakota language and Spanish.

Demographics

The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2006-07 school year and ending with the 2020-21 year. It indicates that the overall student population remained relatively stable between 2016 and 2019; however, there was a decline in student body during the 2020-2021 school year. There were approximately 184 students enrolled in Niobrara Public Schools in 2020-2021. The district serves 80 families.

Figure NPS.1: Student Population 2006-2020



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Figure NPS.2: Niobrara School District Boundary

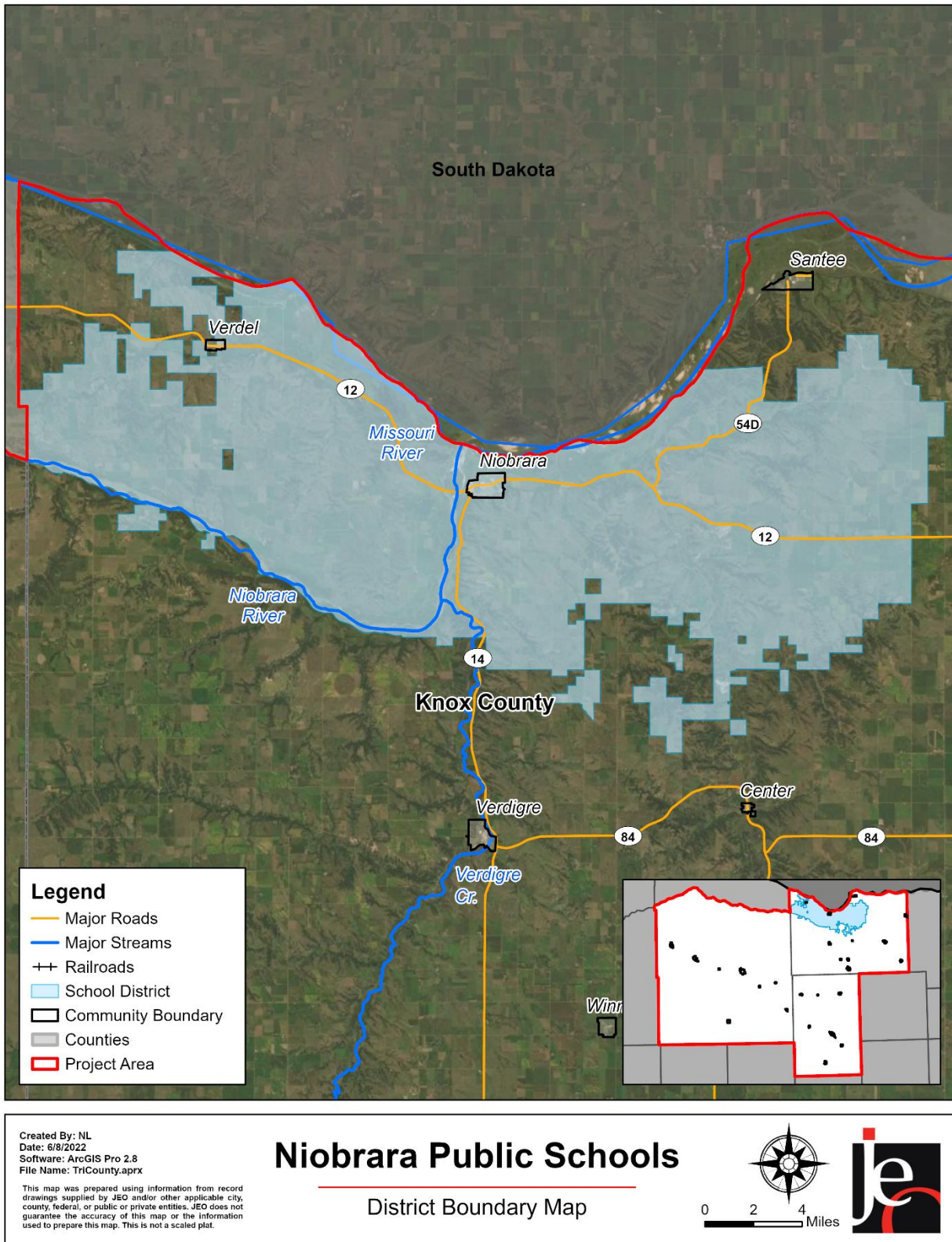
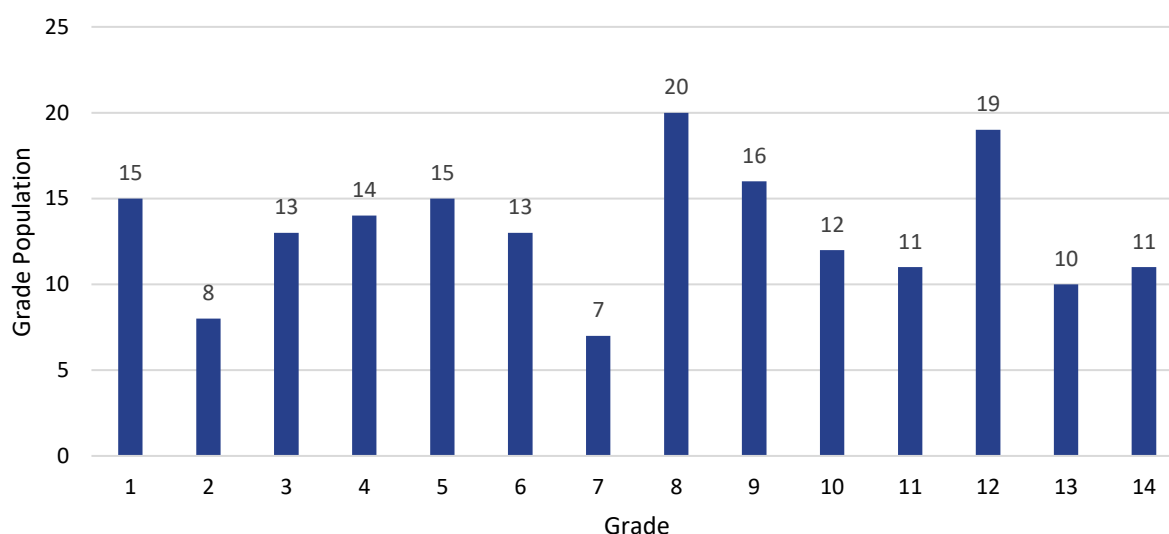


Figure NPS.3: Students by Grade, 2020-2021

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in 8th grade, followed by 12th grade. The lowest population of students are in 7th grade. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), over 80% of students receive either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2020-2021 school year. This is significantly higher than the state average of 46.33%. Additionally, 24.26% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Table NPS.2: Student Statistics, 2019-2020

Components of Index	DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
Free/reduced priced meals	80.98%	46.33%
Special Education Students	24.26%	15.67%
English Language Learners (ESL)	N/A*	7.25%
School Mobility Rate	15.28%	9.12%

*Data is not available with fewer than 10 students.

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Administration and Staff

The school district has a superintendent, two principals, 25 teachers, four administrators, and 23 other staff members. The school board is made up of a six-member panel. The district also has several additional departments and staff that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives including the School Safety and Security Council and the Emergency Response Team/Crisis Team.

Capabilities

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

Table NPS.3: Capability Assessment

SURVEY COMPONENTS		Yes/No
Planning Capability	Capital Improvements Plan/Long-Term Budget	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	No
	Disaster Response Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	GIS Capabilities	No
	Civil Engineering	No
	Staff who can assess jurisdictional vulnerability to hazards	No
	Grant Manager	Yes
	Mutual Aid Agreements	No
	Other (if any)	Yes
Fiscal Capability	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes or bonds for specific mitigation projects	No
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds in place	No
	Flood Insurance	No
	Other (if any)	
Education & Outreach	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, hazard mitigation boards, etc.).	No
	Ongoing public education or information program (Ex. Responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education, etc.)	October – Fire Safety
	StormReady Certification	No
	Other (if any)	
Drills	Fire	10-11/yr
	Tornado	2/yr
	Intruder	1-2/yr
	Bus Evacuation	3-4/yr
	School Evacuation	1-2/yr
	Other (if any)	

Table NOS.4: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	High
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate
Community Support to Implement Projects	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts safety drills annually for staff and students, including:

- Fire Drills – monthly
- Tornado Drills – 2 drills performed annually.
- Standard Response Protocol Drills
- Bus Evacuation Drills – between 3 and 4 annually

Additionally, school district staff are trained in emergency procedures through professional development courses, canvas courses, videos, posters, and are encouraged to practice CPR. Students and families are educated on emergency procedures through drills during school time and information in newsletters, Facebook posts, and presentations during family nights. Parents and staff are notified of emergency events through the school’s messenger system and Facebook.

Plan Integration

The district has one planning document that discusses or relates to hazard mitigation. The applicable planning mechanism is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. Participating jurisdictions will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Grants and Funding

District funds are sufficient to pursue new capital projects, but no large portion of funds are currently dedicated to any specific projects. The school district has not applied for or been awarded any grants in the last five years.

Crisis Response Plan

The district’s Crisis Response Plan was last updated in 2022. The school’s plan covers natural disasters and addresses shelter in place protocols and locations for sheltering. The plan also identifies scenarios that would require evacuation and critical routes used during such evacuations. Future updates of the plan will identify opportunities for mitigation following a hazardous event and gaps related to specific hazards.

Future Development Trends

The Niobrara School District has experienced some upgrades in the past few years, including a new building in 2015 and the renovation of the bus barn in 2020 when the old barn was demolished, and a new bus barn was built in its place. Future construction or renovations planned for the district include work on the playground.

Community Lifelines

Each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team.

Table NPS.5: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Niobrara Public Schools	1	206	52	Y	Y	

Although not listed in the table above, critical infrastructure also includes power substations, cell towers, and alert sirens which provide service to the district. These assets are typically owned and maintained by other agencies and are not the responsibility of the school district.

Transportation

The district's major transportation corridors include State Highways 12 and 14. According to the local planning team, Highway 12 is of the most concern when flooding occurs due to the potential for bridges becoming inaccessible. There have not been any transportation accidents that have impacted any schools within the district. The district owns four school buses and transports 110 students to and from school each day. There are no rail lines in the district. This information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the district, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

Hazardous Materials – Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, there are two chemical storage sites that house hazardous material in Niobrara. The school is approximately 850 feet northeast of N&B Gas Company propane tank lot, which is listed as a Tier II facility in Niobrara that stores a large amount of fuel. In the event of a chemical spill occurring in the district, Niobrara Fire and Rescue would be the first to respond. There have not been any chemical spills reported having occurred in the district within the last 10 years.

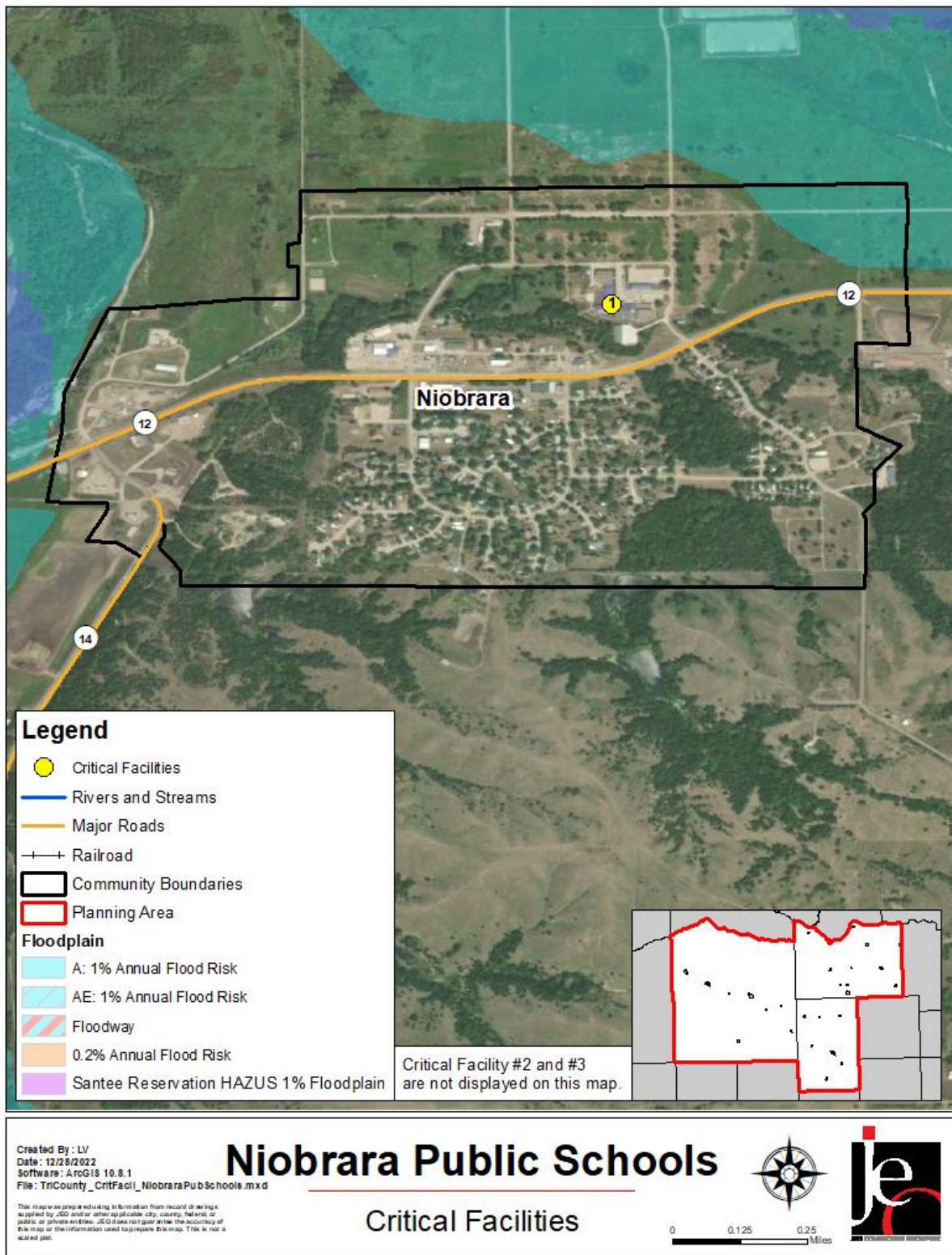
Table NPS.6: Hazardous Materials Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	GENERATOR (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
N & B Gas Co	2	N	
NDOT Niobrara Yard	3	N	

Source: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy³

³ Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. "Search Tier II Data." Accessed September 2022.

Figure NPS.4: Niobrara Critical Facilities



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Niobrara School District which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Niobrara School District. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entirety of Knox County. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP	OTHER IMPACTS
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	22	1,877 animals	N/A	
	Plant Disease	17	N/A	\$103,555	
Dam Failure		2	\$0	N/A	
Drought		483 out of 1,512 months	\$0	\$97,025,214	
Earthquakes		1	\$0	\$0	
Extreme Heat		Avg 3 days per year	\$0	\$16,885,534	
Flooding	Flash Flood	17	\$79,000	\$195,618	
	Flood	23	\$1,555,000		
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	4	\$0	N/A	
	Transportation	2	\$50,000		
Landslides		81	N/A	N/A	
Public Health Emergency		~2,378 cases	N/A	N/A	
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	234	\$1,575,000	\$5,468,531	
	Heavy Rain	3	\$0	\$1,620,841	
	Lightning	2	\$500	N/A	
	Thunderstorm Wind	88	\$5,900	N/A	
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	16	\$0		
	Extreme Cold	8	\$0		
	Heavy Snow	13	\$0	\$691,005	
	Ice Storms	3	\$0		
	Winter Storms	46	\$3,500,000		
Tornadoes & High Winds	Winter Weather	7	\$0		
	High Winds	18	\$53,000	\$685,654	1 injury
Wildfire	Tornadoes	31	\$4,845,060	\$207	3 injuries
		252	8,438 acres	\$19,389	31 structures threatened; 1 structure destroyed
Total		890	\$11,663,460	\$122,695,548	

Hazard: Flooding

The local planning team has identified flooding as a top hazard of concern due to the potential of damages from water inundation and lack of access to facilities or students during high water events. Flooding may be caused by either heavy rainfall, high water levels in the Missouri River or Niobrara River, or dam failure of structures upstream. There is one low hazard dam northwest of the Village of Niobrara. The local planning team noted that when either cut off from town utilities and transportation corridors, the school does not have access to supplies and may be cut off from water if the town's water tower or lift station fails. Students may not be able to access the school due to the flooding that would occur during a high water events and the school district may not be able to safely transport students to and from school via buses.

Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION	INCREASE STORAGE OF CRITICAL SUPPLIES
Description	Create an inventory of critical supplies and increase backup storage of drinking water and supplies that may be needed if floodwaters limit access to town.
Hazard(s)	Dam Failure, Flooding
Estimated Cost	\$5,000
Local Funding Source	District Funds
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Niobrara Public School Administration
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase awareness of natural and manmade hazards to students, staff, and families. Work with Antelope County and NeDNR to determine necessary information and actions to take prior to flooding conditions which would prohibit school operations.
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500 +
Local Funding Source	District Funds
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Niobrara Public School Administration
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The superintendent and school nurse will be responsible for reviewing and updating this school profile outside of the five-year update. Niobrara Public Schools will review the plan bi-annually and updated on an as needed basis. The school will alert families of the review.

North Central District Health Department

Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan

2023

Local Planning Team

The North Central District Health Department local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

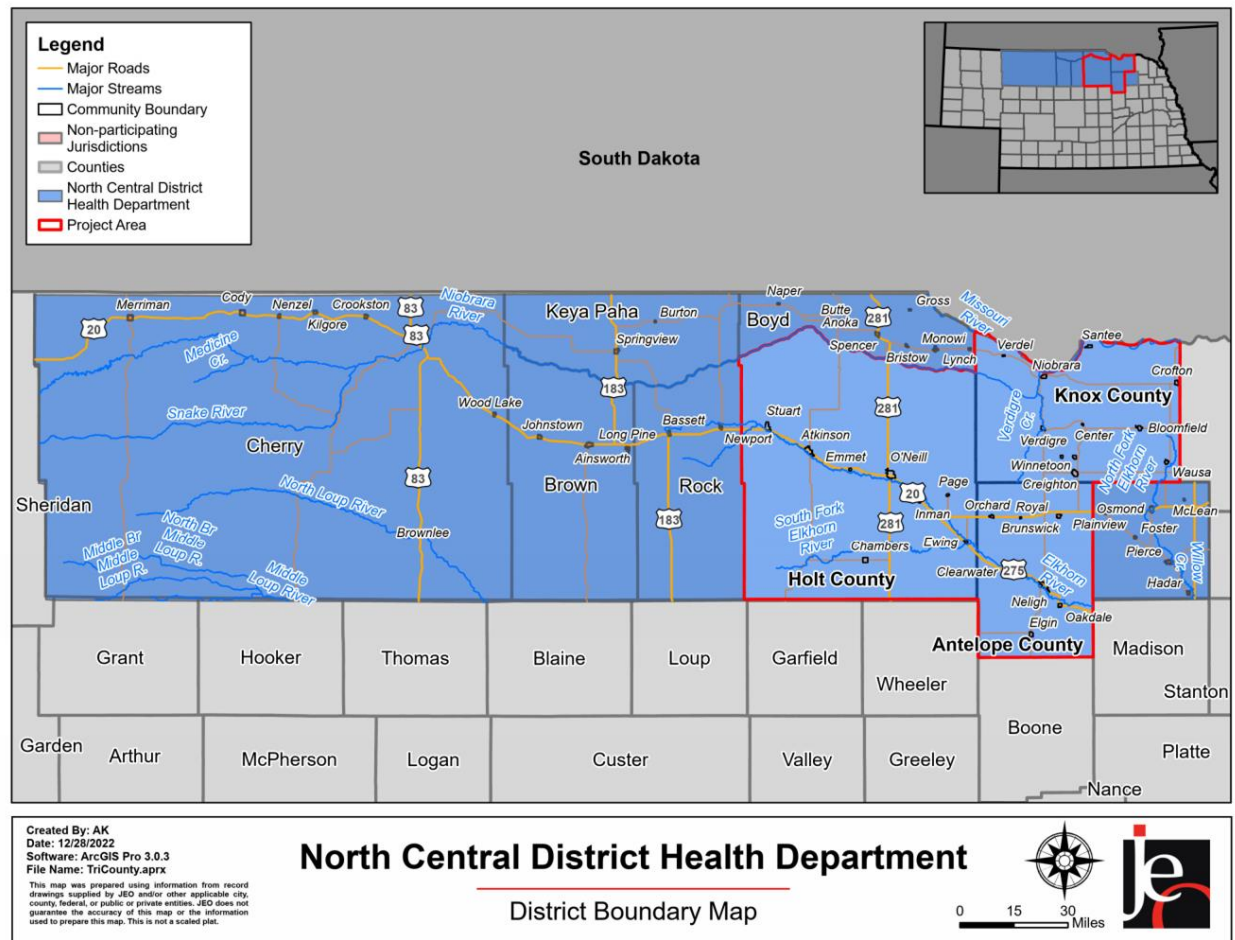
Table 1. Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
DANIELLE ROESSLER	Emergency Response Coordinator	North Central District Health Department	Attended Round 1 and Round 2 Meetings

Location and Services

The North Central District Health Department is located in northern Nebraska and covers Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce, and Rock Counties. The district has one main office site in O'Neill (Holt County).

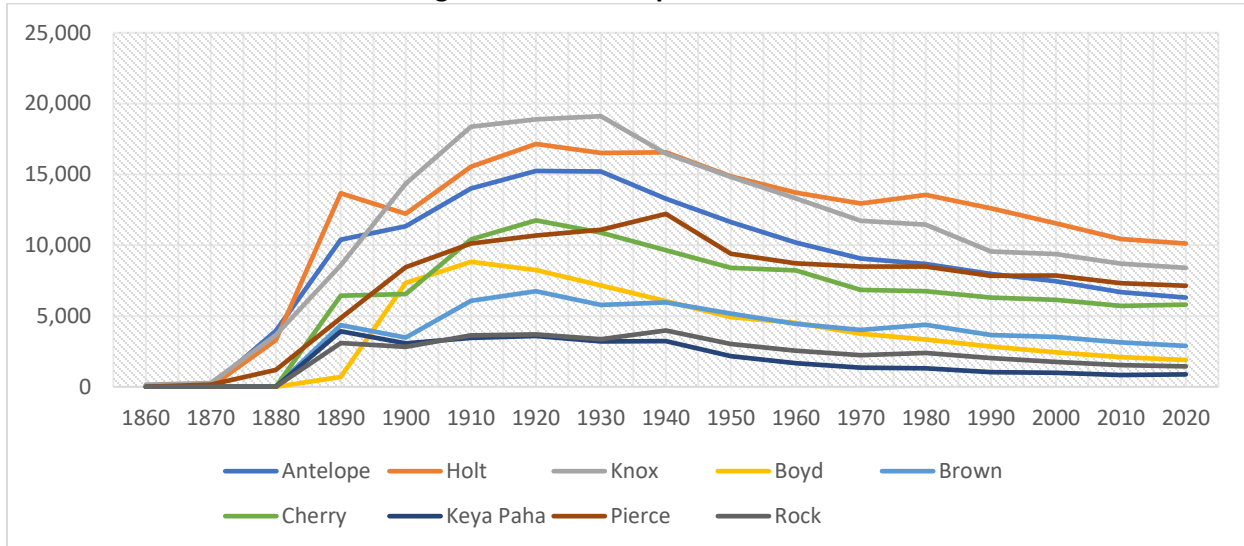
Figure NCDHD.1. Location Map



Demographics

The population served by the North Central District Health Department has been decreasing since the 1920s. In 2020, the total population of the nine county region was 44,820.

Figure NCDHD.2. Population Served



Staffing

The North Central District Health Department is supervised by an 20-member board of directors. They appoint the health department executive director, who will oversee the implementation of hazard mitigation projects. Other offices are listed below. The department has ten full-time employees and two part-time employees. Most employees live in O'Neill but some work remotely and others travel up to 30 miles to get to work.

- Emergency Response Coordinator
- Disease Surveillance Coordinator
- Environmental & Wellness Coordinator
- Vaccine Coordinator
- Community Impact Coordinator
- Health Educator
- Public Health Nurse
- Contact Investigator

Capability Assessment

As outlined by the department, the mission is "to promote and protect the health and wellness of our communities." The following programs and services are offered to residents throughout the district.

- Dental Services
- Disease Surveillance
- Emergency Response
- Immunizations
- Minority Health
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Rural Region One Medical Response System (RROMRS)
- Working on Wellness

Each of the above programs and services are funded by grants that are specific to that program. Each funding source has its own requirements that have to be met. Currently funding at the health department is limited to maintaining current facilities and systems. Funding has increased in some areas in response to COVID-19. Otherwise, it has stayed the same and the programs that received additional funds have returned to normal.

Table 2: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
Financial resources to implement mitigation projects	Limited
Staff/expertise to implement projects	Moderate
Public support to implement projects	Moderate
Time to devote to hazard mitigation	Moderate
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Moderate

Plans and Studies

The North Central District Health Department has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each applicable planning mechanism is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. Participating jurisdictions will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Emergency Response Plan (2022)

The Emergency Response Plan establishes policies, plans, guidelines, and procedures that allow health department resources to function effectively when a disaster event occurs. The plan includes provisions for accomplishing necessary actions concerning disease control activities, surveillance, investigation, treatment, and reporting of communicable diseases. It also covers assignment of responsibilities, response protocol and notification, surveillance activities, community disease containment, and dispensing medical countermeasures. Updates to the plan are performed regularly by the Emergency Response Coordinator.

Hazard Vulnerability Analysis Tool (2018)

The department's Hazard Vulnerability Analysis Tool looks at natural, technological, and human caused hazards and gives a risk and risk management score for each hazard. According to the tool blizzard, ice storm, epidemic, mass casualty, and cyber-attack were the hazards that received the highest risk score for the health department. An updated analysis is currently underway.

Pandemic Influenza Response Plan (2022)

The purpose of the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan is to:

- Define preparedness activities that should be undertaken prior to a pandemic.
- Determine the response, coordination, and decision-making structure that will incorporate the health department, healthcare system, other local response agencies, and state and federal agencies during a pandemic.
- Define roles and responsibilities for North Central District Health Department, local health care partners and local response agencies during all phases of a pandemic.
- Describe public health interventions in a pandemic response and the timing of such interventions to minimize serious illness, loss of life, and disruption of services.

- Describe command, control, and communication during an event.

The plan primarily focuses on the roles, responsibilities, and activities of the North Central District Health Department. It also discusses communications, mitigation, surveillance, public education, isolation and quarantine, and social distancing strategies. This plan is regularly updated by the health department.

Future Development Trends

Over the past five years the health department has doubled their office space and completed renovations to the building. In addition, a mobile trailer and POD (moveable office space) has been purchased. In the next five years there are anticipated renovations to the office building, equipment updates, and new vehicle purchases. Staffing is anticipated to remain the same in the next five years, unless there is a need to hire temporary employees due to an emergency.

Community Lifelines

Community lifelines are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team.



Table 3: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
North Central District Health Department Building	1	N*	Y**	

*Department has stand alone generators but not anything that powers the entire building.

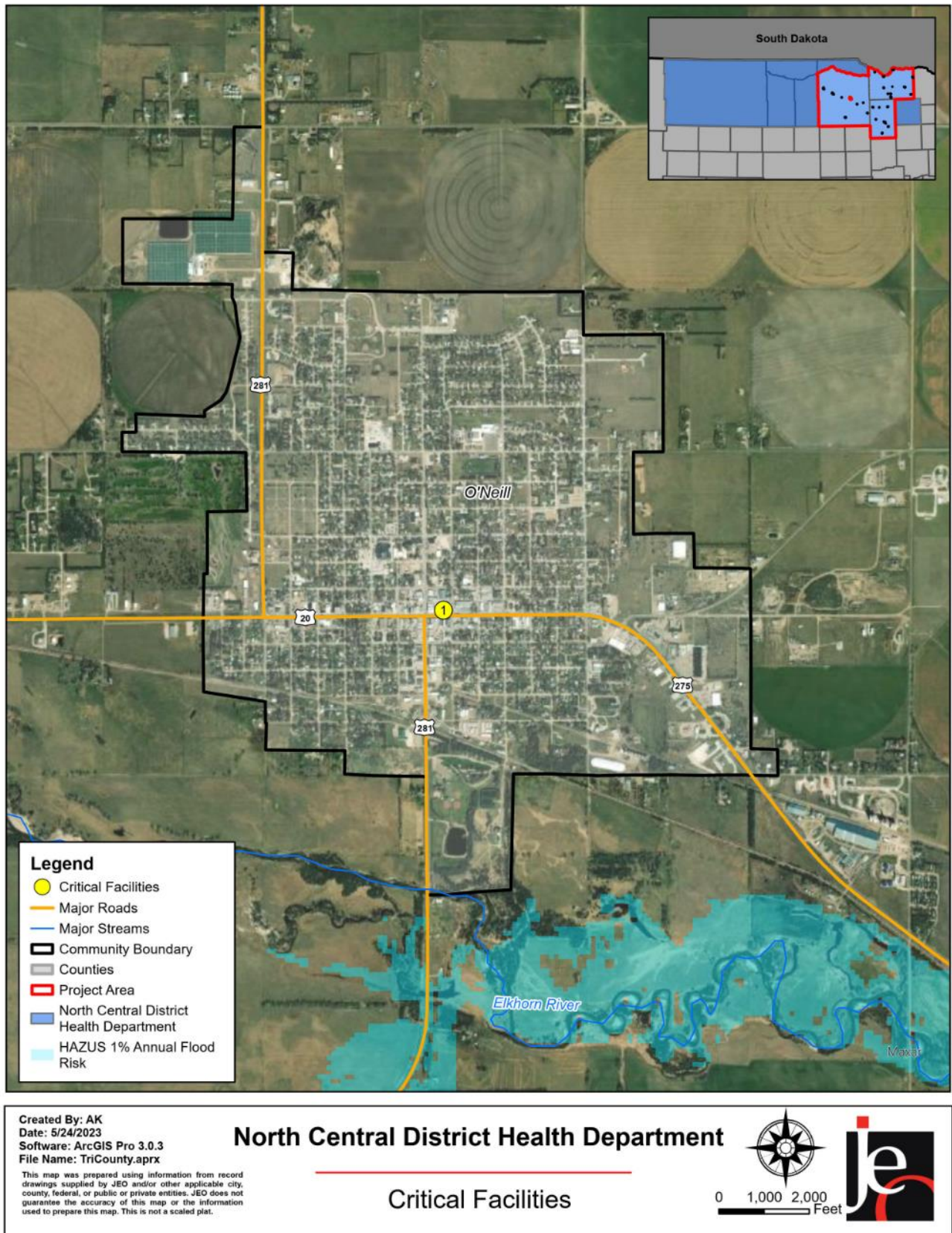
**Located in the basement, which is not handicap accessible.

Although not listed in the table above, critical infrastructure also includes power substations, cell towers, and alert sirens which provide service to the district. These assets are typically owned and maintained by other agencies and are not the responsibility of the health department.

Transportation

The district's major transportation corridors include U.S. Highways 20, 81, 83, 183 275, 281 and State Highways 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 37, 59, 61, 70, 84, 95, 97, 98, 121, and 137. There is one Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail line in the district that travels through Antelope County and ends near O'Neill. This information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the district, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

Figure NCDHD.3. Community Lifelines



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for North Central District Health Department which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the health department. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	86	4,375 animals	N/A
	Plant Disease	57	N/A	\$2,176,447
Dam Failure		12	\$0	N/A
Drought		483/1,512 months	\$50,000,000	\$125,296,676
Earthquakes		4	\$0	\$0
Extreme Heat		Avg. 3 days per year	\$0	\$38,452,710
Flooding	Flash Flood	47	\$1,089,000	\$1,512,674
	Flood	40	\$6,505,000	
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	17	\$5,000	N/A
	Transportation	8	\$50,000	
Landslides		86	\$0	N/A
Public Health Emergency		2 outbreak events	>6,926 cases	N/A
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	872	\$3,798,500	\$68,254,470
	Heavy Rain	8	\$0	\$67,283,772
	Lightning	5	\$15,500	N/A
	Thunderstorm	309	\$2,298,400	N/A
	Wind			
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	40	\$5,441,000	\$6,507,635
	Extreme Cold	27	\$0	
	Heavy Snow	31	\$0	
	Ice Storms	8	\$0	
	Winter Storms	125	\$8,603,000	
	Winter Weather	21	\$0	
Tornadoes & High Winds	High Winds	55	\$166,000	\$6,045,886
	Tornadoes	111	\$15,719,590	\$10,608
Wildfire		1,205	55,663 acres \$507,572	\$215,112
Total		1,371	\$93,690,990	\$315,755,990

Hazardous Materials Spill

The department's risk to a mass casualty HazMat event was rated highly on the department's Hazard Vulnerability Analysis Tool. This is due to a high likelihood of occurrence, very high human impact, and high business impact. In addition, the department's ability to manage that risk is low. This is due to low preparedness planning and very low inter response and recovery capability. The North Central District Health Department has identified this hazard as an opportunity for improvement in the future.

Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase awareness of natural and manmade hazards to staff and residents.
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500+
Local Funding Source	General Budget
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Emergency Response Coordinator
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Public Health Emergency

The health department's primary focus is dealing with public health emergencies, and the most significant event in recent times that impacted the district is the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic had far-reaching consequences in the region, presenting numerous challenges that required active response and mitigation. Within the nine-county region, the North Central District Health Department played a crucial role as the primary source of information and tracking for COVID-19. During the pandemic the department provided essential services such as COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, dissemination of public health guidelines, and making available various informational resources related to the virus.

The health department has conducted a vulnerability analysis reviewing both natural and manmade hazards. As a result, public health emergencies and other mass casualty events were rated highly in terms of their risk to the department. To enhance their capabilities, the health department regularly updates their emergency response plan. These updates enable the health department to better respond to and mitigate risks more efficiently.

Mitigation Actions:

Mitigation Action	Air Quality Monitoring Equipment
Description	The health department would like to acquire and install air quality monitoring equipment throughout the district. At least nine devices are needed.
Hazard(s)	Public Health Emergency
Estimated Cost	\$2,400+
Local Funding Source	General Budget, Grants
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Health Director
Status	This is a new action.

Mitigation Action	Satellite Offices
Description	The health department would like to acquire space to use on a consistent monthly basis as alternative office locations to better serve areas on a predictable schedule.
Hazard(s)	Public Health Emergency
Estimated Cost	Unknown
Local Funding Source	General Budget, Grants, Fundraising
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Health Director
Status	This is a new action.

Severe Winter Storms

There risks to both blizzards and ice storms were rated highly on the health department's Hazard Vulnerability Analysis Tool. This was mostly due to the high likelihood of occurrence and business impact that could occur. While severe winter storms risk is high, the department's ability to manage that risk is also high due to high preparedness planning and external response and recovery capability. The department owns a couple of small generators but they are not designed to power the buildings or automatically turn on when power is lost. Past power loss events have caused several vials of vaccine to go out of temperature range causing waste.

Mitigation Actions:

Mitigation Action	Backup Generators
Description	Provide a stationary source of backup power for the health department main building.
Hazard(s)	Severe Winter Storms, Severe Thunderstorms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$60,000+
Local Funding Source	General Budgets, Grants, Fundraising
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Health Director
Status	This is a new action.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The department's emergency response coordinator, executive director, and epidemiology coordinator are responsible for reviewing and updating this profile as changes occur or after a major event. The plan will be reviewed and revised as needed annually. The health department will share information with the public through Board of Health meetings.

ORCHARD VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue’s local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

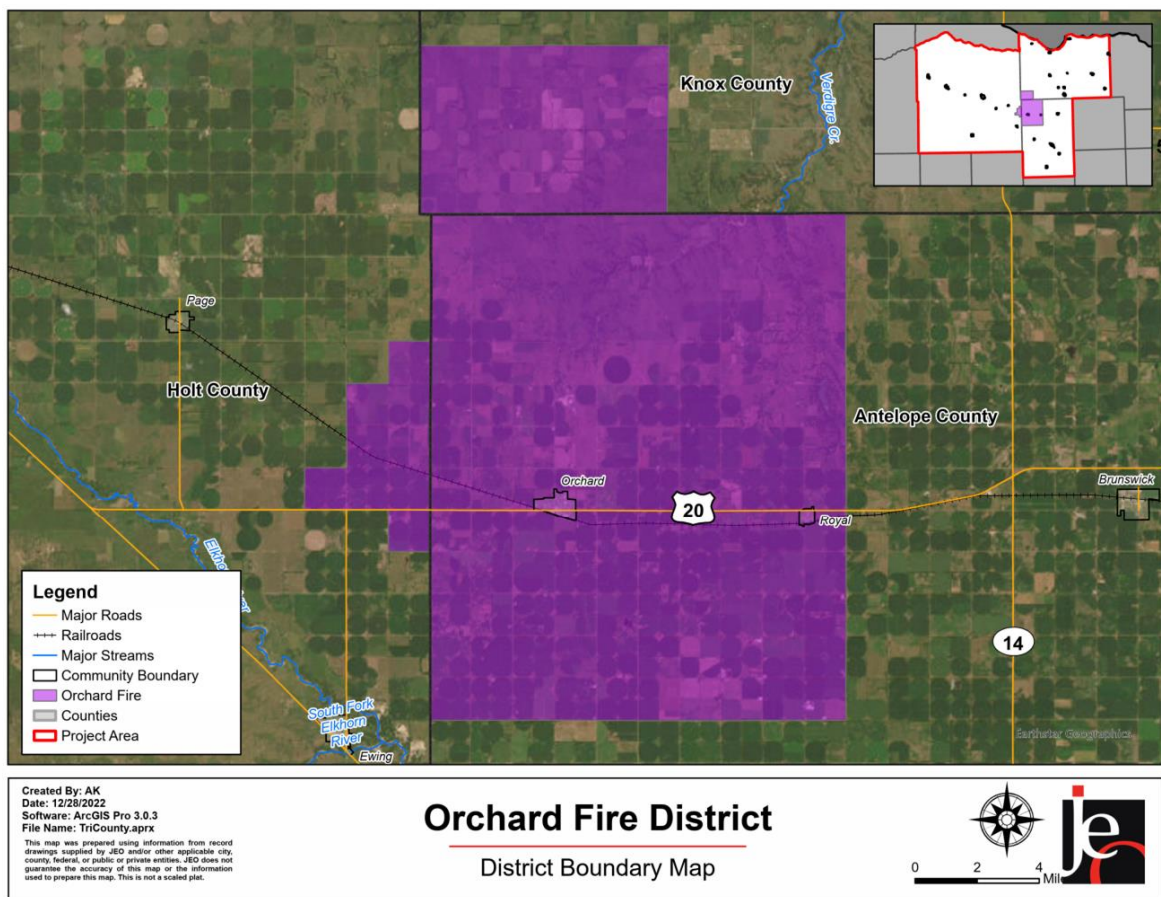
Table OFD.1: Fire District Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPANTS
Patrick Bergman	Fire Chief	Orchard Volunteer Fire & Rescue	Attended Round 1 Meeting
Colton Hahn	Rescue Chief	Orchard Volunteer Fire & Rescue	Attended Round 1 Meeting
Ryan Bergman	Assistant Chief	Orchard Volunteer Fire & Rescue	Assisted with plan development
Josh Stelling	President	Orchard Volunteer Fire & Rescue	Attended Round 2 Meeting

Location and Geography

Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue covers the Village of Orchard, Village of Royal, and surrounding rural areas, totaling 97,920 acres of land. The Villages of Orchard and Royal are at the most risk of fire.

Figure OFD.1: Fire District Boundary



Demographics

See the Village of Orchard, Village of Royal, and Knox County profiles for regional demographic information. Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue services approximately 430 residents plus additional rural residents.

Staffing/Leadership

Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue is supervised by a Fire Chief, Assistant Chief and a fire board who will oversee the implementation of hazard mitigation projects. External offices would assist the district with hazard mitigation related activities are listed below:

- Region 11 Emergency Manager
- Nebraska State Patrol

Future Development Trends

The past five years have seen various improvements within the fire district including a new pump truck, a new rescue unit, and a new rescue bay added to the fire hall. After adding a new rescue bay to the fire hall, the district installed an above ground tornado shelter and a backup generator to the hall as well. There are no new developments planned for the next five years.

Capabilities

Due to the unique structure of fire districts, the typical capability assessment table was not used. The following table summarizes the district's overall capabilities. Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue will continue to utilize existing relationships with local, county, state, and federal agencies in the implementation of mitigation projects. According to the local planning team, district funds are limited and have remained the same over recent years.

Table OFD.2: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Limited
Community Support to Implement Projects	Limited
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Limited
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

Plan Integration

Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue has multiple planning documents, including a Response Plan and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG). SOGs outline the district's response to a variety of different calls that could be received. The district's SOGs were last updated in 2020. The district will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current HMP into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Response Plan

Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue's Response Plan shares goals and objectives with the hazard mitigation plan of preparing the district to connect with mutual aid resources if a situation becomes beyond the abilities of the Orchard volunteer firefighters. The Response Plan identifies three weaknesses of the district including lack of equipment, personnel, and low manpower. The plan also identifies strengths including the ability to call for mutual aid when needed.

Transportation

Major transportation corridor in the district is Highway 20. The local planning team identified their highest concerns as the amount of traffic that occurs on Highway 20 and the limited number of roads in the northern part of the district, creating access problems. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the community, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents. Highway 20 is of concern due to the amount of diesel fuel, propane, and anhydrous ammonia traveling on the route. Railroad tracks along the edge of town were also identified by the local planning team as a concern due to the ethanol and anhydrous moved on BNSF. No chemical spills have occurred locally. When evacuations are issued, the towns of Orchard and Royal are the most difficult portion of the district to evacuate. The difficulty occurs in the number of people needing to be noted of the evacuation in a timely manner. Evacuations orders could be improved by use of the same system Amber Alerts are sent through by phone notifications, text, and emails.

Community Lifelines

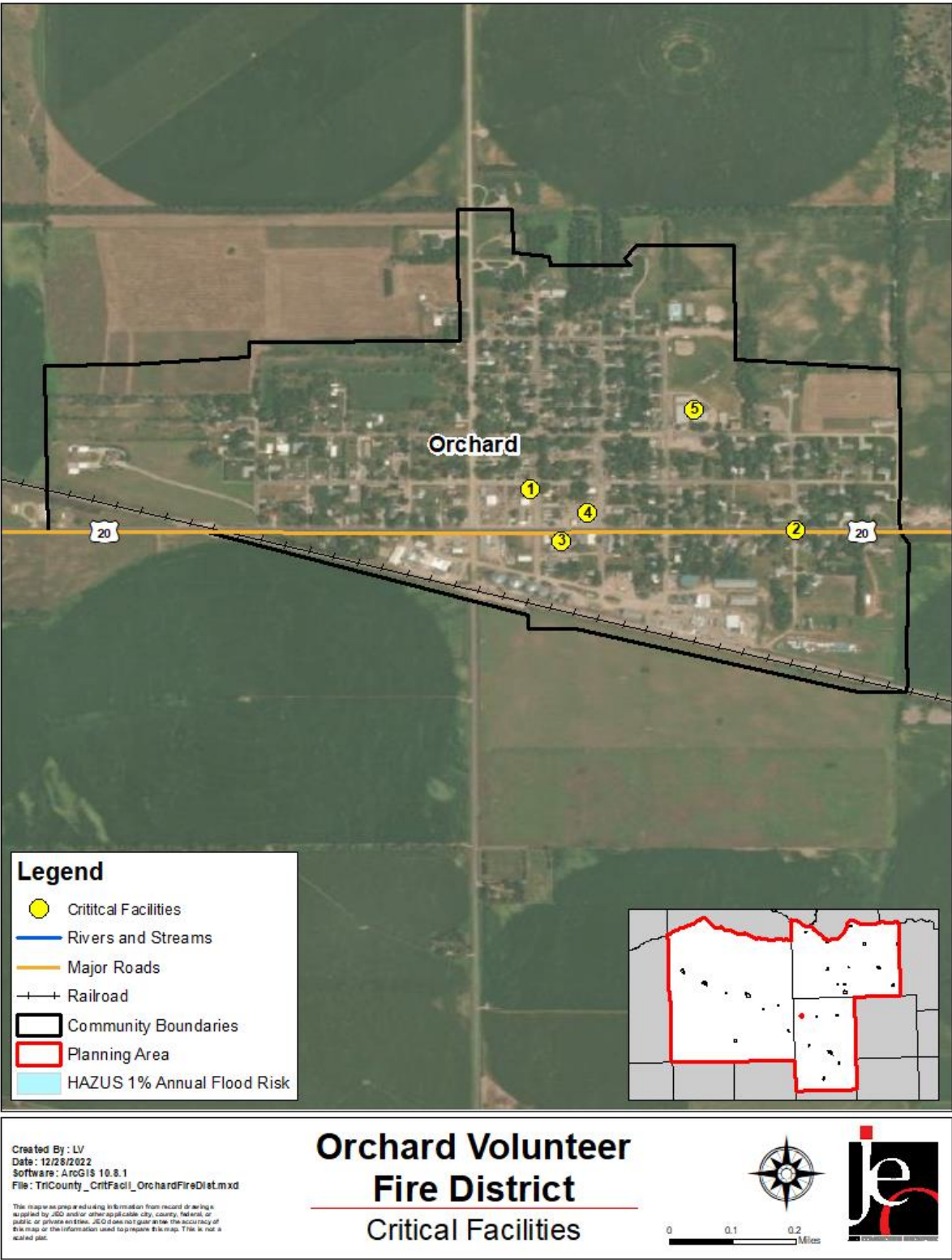
Community lifelines are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team.



Table OFD.3: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	ADDRESS	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Orchard Fire Department	1	240 N Windom Street	Y	Y	Radios
AMH Clinic	2	103 Washington Street	N	N	
TJ's Market	3		N	N	
Dusty's Gas Station	4	241 2 nd Street	N	N	Gasoline/Propane
Community Center "Old School"	5	4 th Rusk	N	Y	

Figure OFD.2: Critical Facilities Map



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entirety of Antelope County. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP	OTHER IMPACTS
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	22	132 animals	N/A	
	Plant Disease	23	N/A	\$754,950	
Dam Failure		2	\$0	N/A	
Drought		483 out of 1,512 months	\$0	\$19,092,325	
Earthquakes		0	\$0	\$0	
Extreme Heat		Avg 3 days per year	\$0	\$7,591,187	
Flooding	Flash Flood	14	\$240,000	\$750,586	
	Flood	11	\$4,050,000		
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	7	\$5,000	N/A	2 injuries
	Transportation	0	\$0		
Landslides		0	N/A	N/A	
Public Health Emergency		~1,765 cases	N/A	N/A	
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	175	\$216,000	\$23,403,344	
	Heavy Rain	2	\$0	\$18,158,742	
	Lightning	1	\$5,000	N/A	
	Thunderstorm	85	\$45,000	N/A	1 fatality
	Wind				
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	12	\$0		
	Extreme Cold	7	\$0		
	Heavy Snow	11	\$0		
	Ice Storms	3	\$0	\$1,907,566	
	Winter Storms	40	\$5,000,000		
	Winter Weather	14	\$0		
Tornadoes & High Winds	High Winds	18	\$13,000	\$3,448,218	
	Tornadoes	18	\$62,000	\$0	
Wildfire		644	38,956 acres	\$96,484	8 structures threatened; 3 structures destroyed
Total		1,109	\$9,636,000	\$75,203,402	

Hazard: Wildfire

The local planning team's top hazard of concern is wildfires occurring within their district. Wildfires are a concern due to an abundance of land surrounding the town. The land is made up of crop land, CRP land, and forested area, providing an abundant amount of dry fuel during drought years. In April 2018 a wildfire occurred in a corn field south of the Village of Orchard. Wind blew smoke towards the town and Highway 20, reducing visibility for cars on the highway and trains on the rail line. The Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue responded with two other departments to assist farmers with discs and water tanks in fighting the fire. No property was damaged. According to the local planning team, to protect the community from future fires, the creation and practice of an evacuation plan for Orchard and a plan for when to call for mutual aid for assistance.

Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION	EQUIPMENT UPGRADES
Description	Purchase new firefighting equipment and recruit more volunteer manpower.
Hazard(s)	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$212,000
Local Funding Source	General Funds, Taxes, and Fund Raising
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from the hazards
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500 +
Local Funding Source	General Fund, Taxes, and Fund Raising
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	TRAINING
Description	Provide evacuation and mutual aid training for all firefighters that volunteer with the district.
Hazard(s)	Wildfires
Estimated Cost	\$200/person
Local Funding Source	General Funds, Taxes, and Donations
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue President
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this community profile as changes can occur before or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Orchard Volunteer Fire and Rescue Chief, President, and Vice President. The plan will be reviewed bi-annually, and the public will be notified through the community board meetings and social media updates.

Santee Community Schools

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Santee Community Schools local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

Table SCS.1 Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
David Mroczek	Superintendent	Santee Community Schools	Watched Round 1 meeting recording Attended Round 2 Meetings

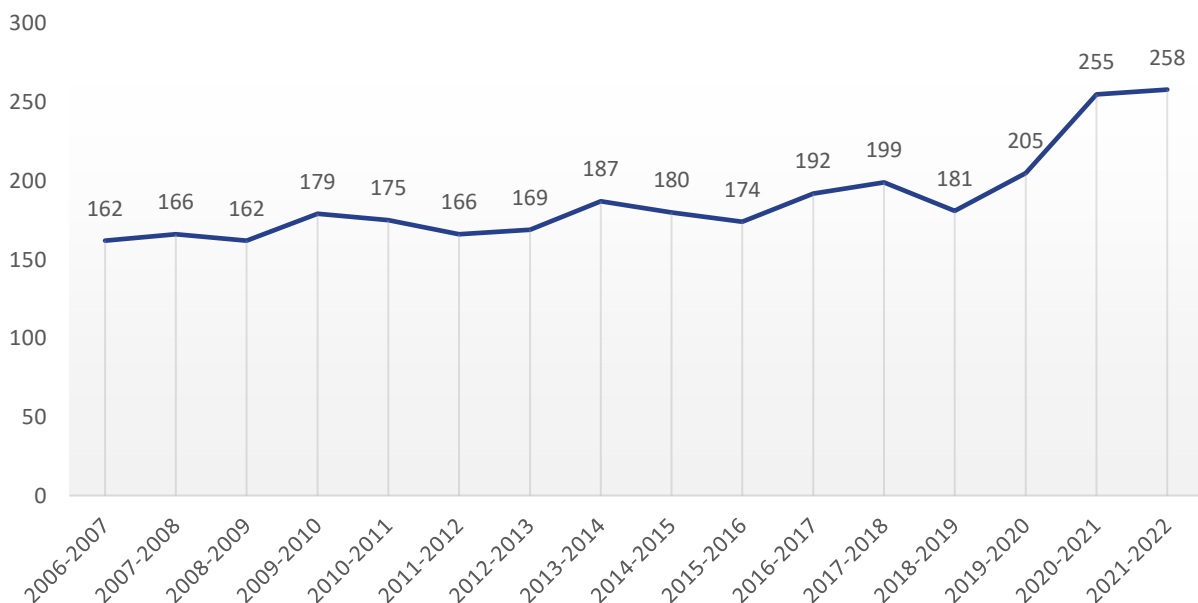
Location and Geography

Santee Community Schools is a rural school district located in Knox County, in northeastern Nebraska. Its offices are located at 206 E Frazier Ave E., Niobrara, NE 68760. The district is comprised of two buildings, the main building and an unattached south building, that houses grades Kindergarten to 12th Grade. The school district provides educational services to students outside the district in Bloomfield and Niobrara. Besides English, Dakota is spoken throughout the district.

Demographics

The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2006-07 school year and ending with the 2021-22 year. It indicates that the overall student population has increased since 2018-19 school year. There were approximately 258 students enrolled in the Santee Community Schools during the 2021-22 school year. The district serves 75 families and employs 38 certified teachers, 43 classified employees, 5 admins, and 5 external staff members.

Figure SCS.1: Student Population 2006-2021



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Figure SCS.2: Santee School District Boundary

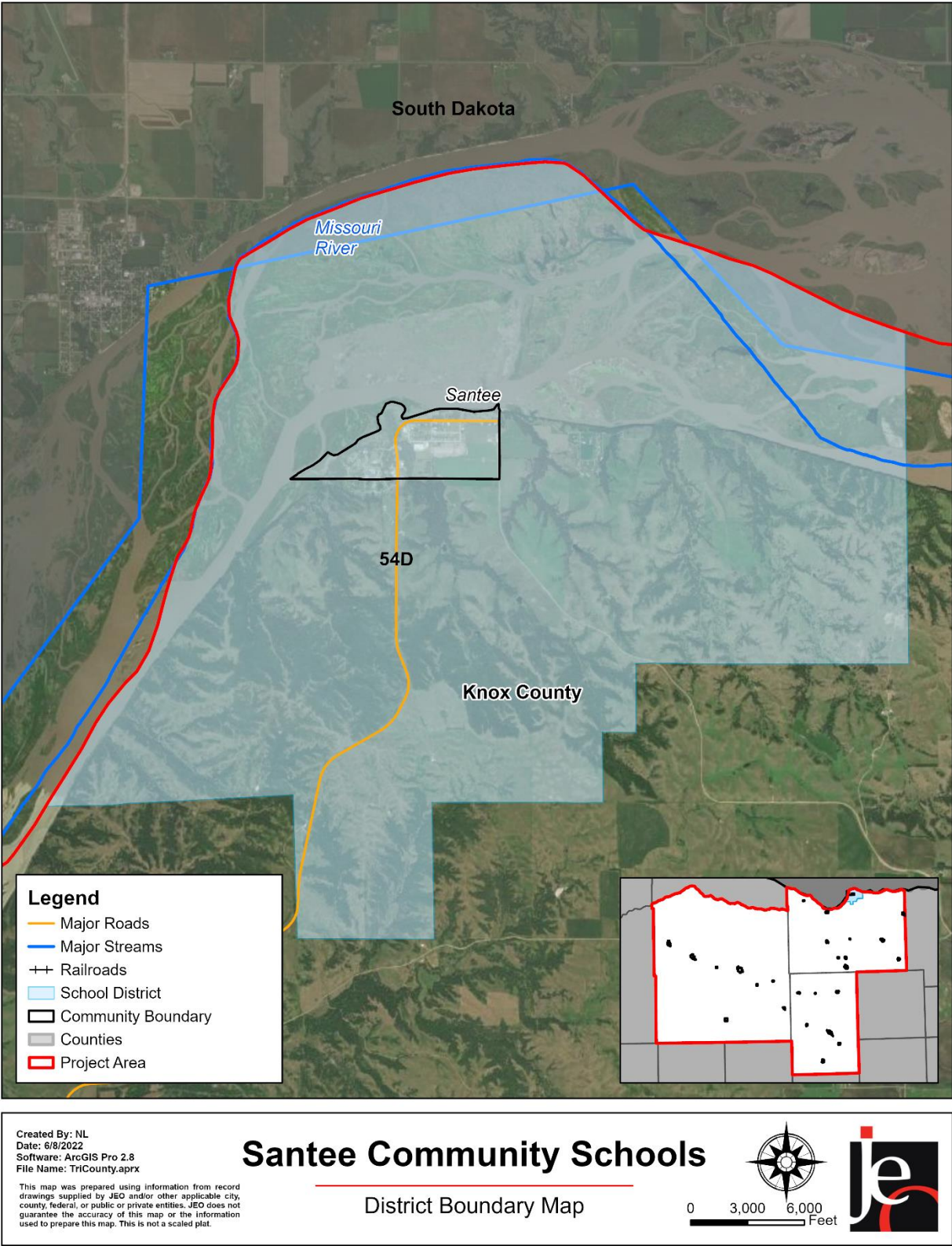
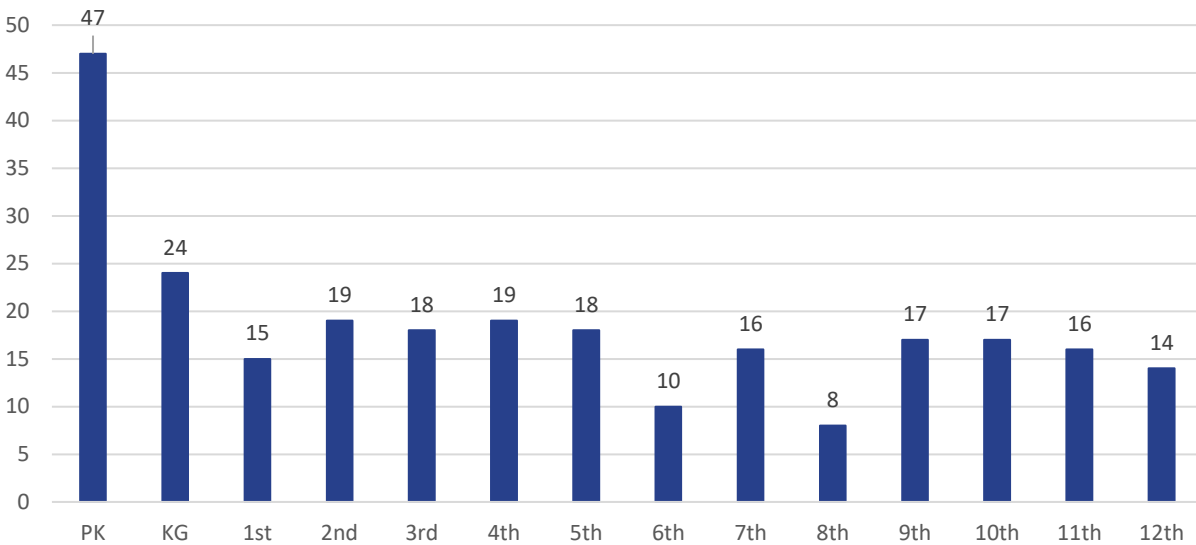


Figure SCS.3: Students by Grade, 2021-2022

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in Pre-Kindergarten, followed by kindergarten. The lowest population of students are in 8th grade. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), under 10 students receive either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, 23.30% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Table SCS.2: Student Statistics, 2021-2022

Components of Index	DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
Free/reduced priced meals	N/A*	46.33%
Special Education Students	23.30%	15.67%
English Language Learners (ESL)	N/A*	7.25%
School Mobility Rate	25.24%	9.12%

*Data is not available with fewer than 10 students.

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Administration

The school district has a superintendent, two principals, and various support staff. The school board is made up of a six-member panel. The district also has a number of additional departments and staff that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives. The district also has a Safety Team and a Crisis Team that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives.

Capabilities

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

Table NPS.3: Capability Assessment

SURVEY COMPONENTS		YES/NO
Planning Capability	Capital Improvements Plan/Long-Term Budget	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes
	Disaster Response Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	GIS Capabilities	No
	Civil Engineering	No
	Staff who can assess jurisdictional vulnerability to hazards	No
	Grant Manager	Yes
	Mutual Aid Agreements	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Fiscal Capability	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes or bonds for specific mitigation projects	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	Yes
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds in place	Yes
	Flood Insurance	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Education & Outreach	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, hazard mitigation boards, etc.).	No
	Ongoing public education or information program (Ex. Responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education, etc.)	No
	StormReady Certification	No
	Other (if any)	
Drills	Fire	12/yr
	Tornado	6/yr
	Intruder	2/yr
	Bus Evacuation	2/yr
	School Evacuation	2/yr
	Other (if any)	

Table NPS.4: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	
Financial resources to implement mitigation projects	Moderate
Staff/expertise to implement projects	Limited
Public support to implement projects	Moderate
Time to devote to hazard mitigation	Limited
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts safety drills annually for staff and students, including:

- Fire Drills – monthly
- Tornado Drills – 6 drills performed annually.
- School Hold/Shelter in Place/Intruder Drills – twice annually
- School and Bus Evacuation Drills – twice annually

The school district trains staff members on emergency procedures through SRD training. Students and families are educated on emergency procedures through the performance of drills. Parents and staff are notified of emergency events through Facebook and an auto call system.

Plan Integration

The district has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each applicable planning mechanism is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. Participating jurisdictions will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Crisis Response Plan

The district's Crisis Response Plan was last updated in 2023. It covers the district's response to a variety of natural and manmade hazard events. It directly discusses evacuation routes, shelter in place protocols, assigns responsibilities, and communication with staff, students, and families. The plan is reviewed prior to each school year and is updated during that time if needed.

Master Plan

The district's Master Plan was last updated in 2023. The Mast Plan outlines the district's goals over the next several years. School upgrades and projects are discussed in the plan along with projected enrollment and staffing. It is reviewed regularly and updated if changes are needed.

Future Development Trends

In the past five years, the district has not built or demolished any buildings. According to the local planning team, the district does not have firm plans for future construction or renovation but may consider constructing a new back building. The Nebraska Department of Education reports the student population is declining. The local planning team indicated this decrease in enrollment is due to families moving away.

Community Lifelines

Each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team.

Table SCS.5: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Santee Public School	1	236	91	N	Y	

Although not listed in the table above, critical infrastructure also includes power substations, cell towers, and alert sirens which provide service to the district. These assets are typically owned and maintained by other agencies and are not the responsibility of the school district.

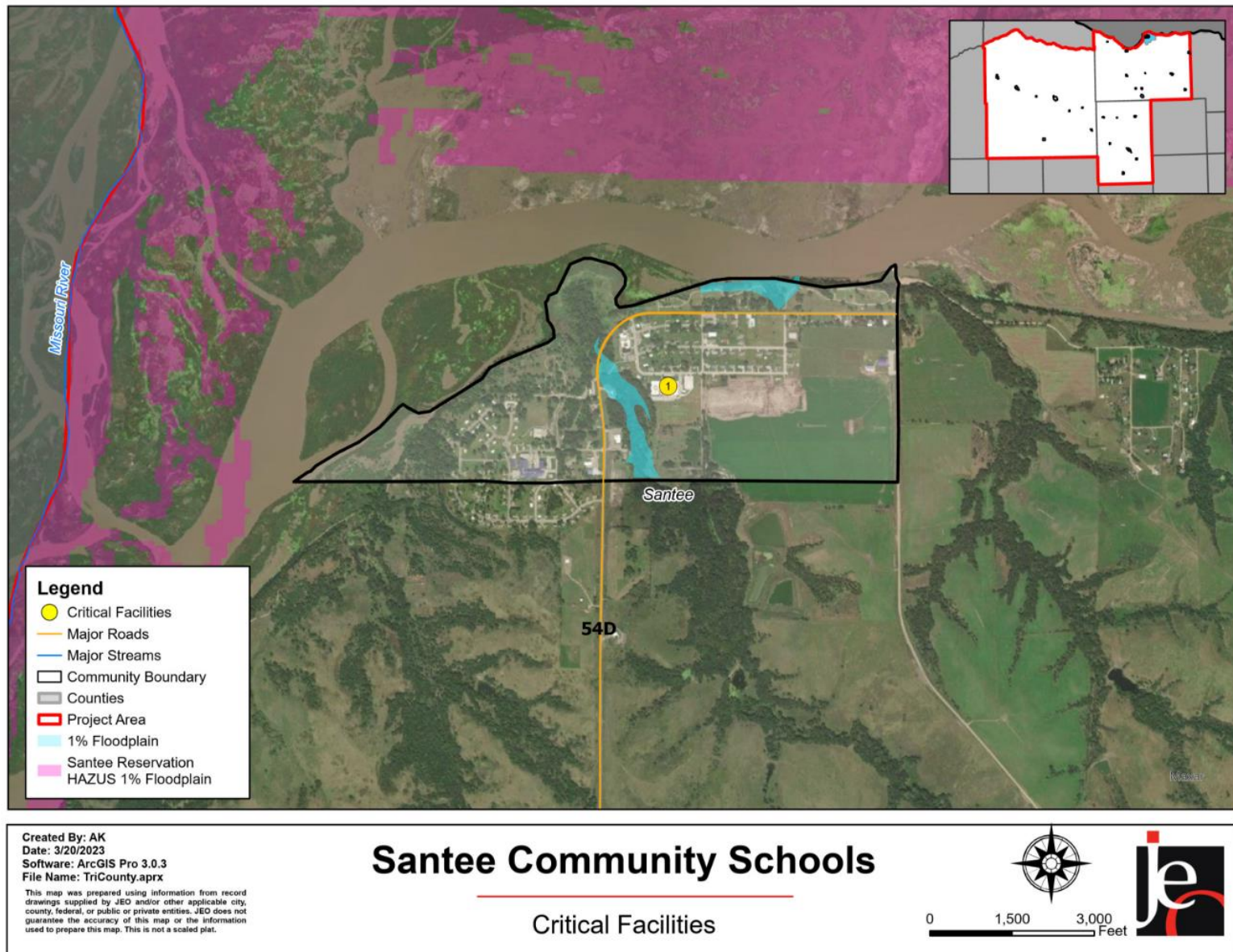
Transportation

The district's major transportation corridors include the State Spur NE-54D. According to the local planning team there is only one paved way into town and other access roads are gravel/county roads. If the highway were to be shut down, the local planning team is concerned for the impact of traffic redirection through town. The district owns one large bus, one charter bus, two small busses, and two vans. The daily bus route runs in town only transports 55 students in the passenger bus and 15 prekindergarten students. There are no rail lines in the district. This information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the district, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

Hazardous Materials – Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, there are no chemical storage sites housing hazardous materials within Santee. However, according to the local planning team there is a propane storage facility of concern across the street from the school campus. The main concern for this site is the potential for leaks. No chemical spills have occurred locally in recent years according to the local planning team.

Figure SCS.4: Santee Critical Facilities



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Santee Schools which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Santee School District. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entire planning area (Antelope, Holt, and Knox Counties). For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	86	4,375 animals	N/A
	Plant Disease	57	N/A	\$2,176,447
Dam Failure		12	\$0	N/A
Drought		483/1,512 months	\$50,000,000	\$125,296,676
Earthquakes		4	\$0	\$0
Extreme Heat		Avg. 3 days per year	\$0	\$38,452,710
Flooding	Flash Flood	47	\$1,089,000	\$1,512,674
	Flood	40	\$6,505,000	
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	17	\$5,000	N/A
	Transportation	8	\$50,000	
Landslides		86	\$0	N/A
Public Health Emergency		2 outbreak events	>6,926 cases	N/A
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	872	\$3,798,500	\$68,254,470
	Heavy Rain	8	\$0	\$67,283,772
	Lightning	5	\$15,500	N/A
	Thunderstorm	309	\$2,298,400	N/A
	Wind			
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	40	\$5,441,000	\$6,507,635
	Extreme Cold	27	\$0	
	Heavy Snow	31	\$0	
	Ice Storms	8	\$0	
	Winter Storms	125	\$8,603,000	
	Winter Weather	21	\$0	
Tornadoes & High Winds	High Winds	55	\$166,000	\$6,045,886
	Tornadoes	111	\$15,719,590	\$10,608
Wildfire		1,205	55,663 acres \$507,572	\$215,112
Total		1,371	\$93,690,990	\$315,755,990

Hazard: Flooding

The local planning team has identified flooding as a hazard of top concern due to the school's location on the Missouri River. With the school in close proximity to the major river, there is concern over where students may go during a sudden flood event. In the past, during major flooding the school has closed, and students stayed home.

Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to students and families about hazards and ways to protect people and actions to be taken if in school during the hazards
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500+
Local Funding Source	General Fund
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action

Hazard: Hazardous Materials

The local planning team is concerned about a hazardous materials release event from the propane storage facility across the street from the school. To date they have not experienced an issue or severe event at the site that has impacted the school, but it is a major concern due to the proximity of the storage site and the school buildings.

Mitigation Actions:

See "Public Awareness and Education" mitigation action to address this hazard of top concern.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this profile as changes occur or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Superintendent and school nurse. The plan will be reviewed and revised as needed annually. The school district will share information with the public through the district website and/or letters sent home with students.

Summerland Public School

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Summerland Public School local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

Table SMLD.1 Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Kyle Finke	Superintendent	Summerland Public School	Watched Round 1 meeting recording Attended Round 2 Meeting
Zach Rosenbook	JH/HS Principal	Summerland Public School	Assisted with plan development
Cathy Cooper	Elementary Principal	Summerland Public School	Assisted with plan development

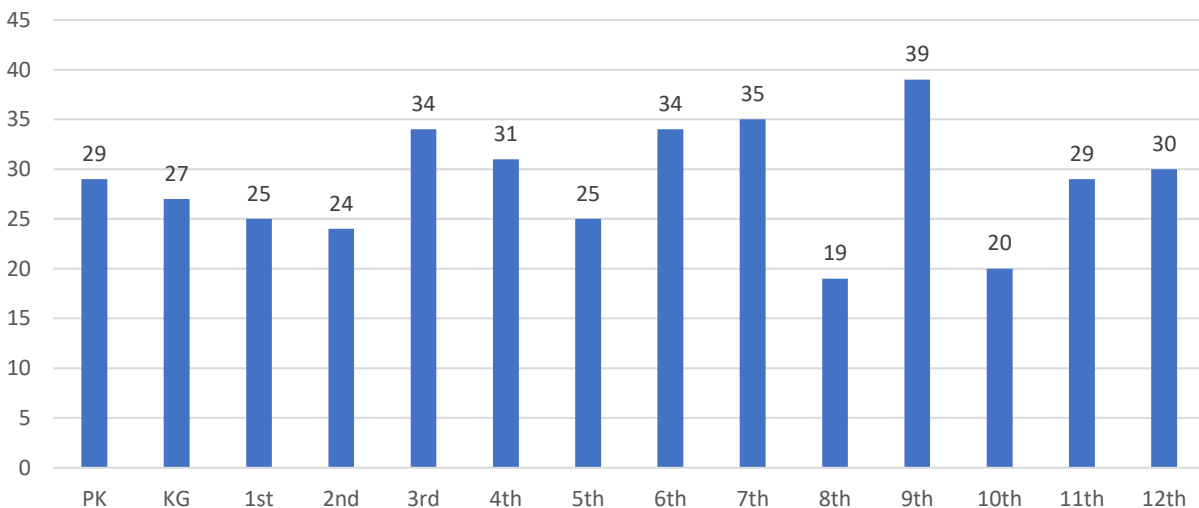
Location and Geography

Summerland Public School is a rural school district located in Holt and Antelope Counties, in northeastern Nebraska. Its offices are located at 51293 857th Rd, Ewing NE 68735. The district is comprised of one school campus with two schools: Summerland Elementary and Summerland High School. Enrollment is open to students within the district in Orchard, Royal, Page, Ewing, Inman and Clearwater and opt-in services are available to the nearby communities of Chambers, O'Neill, and Neligh. Besides English, the school district has multiple families that speak Spanish in their homes.

Demographics

Historical student population data was only available for the 2021-2022 school year through the Department of Education. There are approximately 401 students enrolled in Summerland Public School during the 2021-2022 school year. The district serves approximately 200 families. To ensure high quality education, the district employs 46 teachers, 15 bus drivers, 4 dietary staff, 5 custodians, 2 office assistants, a business manager, and 22 para-educators.

Figure SMLD.1: Students by Grade, 2021-2022



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Figure SMLD.2: Summerland School District Boundary

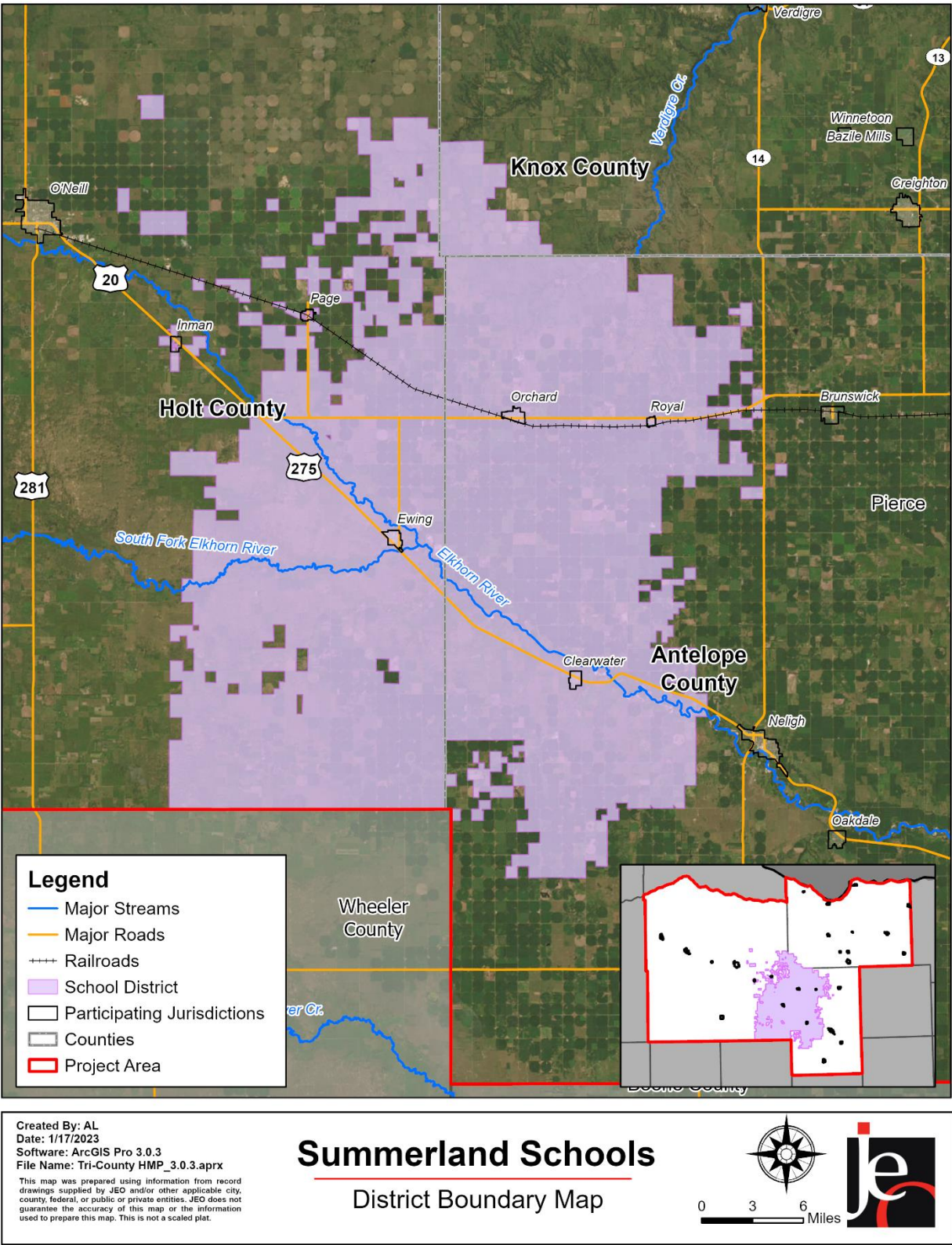


Figure SMLD.1 indicates that the largest number of students are in 9th grade, followed by 7th, 6th, and 3rd grade. The lowest population of students are in 8th and 10th grades. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), 28.43% of students receive either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2021-2022 school year. This is lower than the state average of 41.31%. Additionally, 4.03% of students are in the English Language Learners program (those who speak English as a second language). These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Table SMLD.2: Student Statistics, 2021-2022

Components of Index	DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
Free/reduced priced meals	28.43%	41.31%
Special Education Students	N/A	15.67%
English Language Learners (ESL)	4.03%	7.76%
School Mobility Rate	5.91%	5.51%

**Data is not available with fewer than 10 students.*

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Administration

The school district has a superintendent, two principals, and support staff. The school board is made up of a six-member panel. The district also has a school improvement team that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives.

Capabilities

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

Table SMLD.3: Capability Assessment

SURVEY COMPONENTS		YES/NO
Planning Capability	Capital Improvements Plan/Long-Term Budget	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes
	Disaster Response Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	GIS Capabilities	No
	Civil Engineering	No
	Staff who can assess jurisdictional vulnerability to hazards	Yes
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreements	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Fiscal Capability	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes or bonds for specific mitigation projects	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	No

SURVEY COMPONENTS		YES/NO
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds in place	Yes
	Flood Insurance	No
	Other (if any)	
Education & Outreach	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, hazard mitigation boards, etc.).	No
	Ongoing public education or information program (Ex. Responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education, etc.)	Yes
	StormReady Certification	No
	Other (if any)	
Drills	Fire	10/yr
	Tornado	2/yr
	Intruder	1/yr
	Bus Evacuation	2/yr
	School Evacuation	1/yr
	Other (if any)	

Table SMLD.4: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	
Financial resources to implement mitigation projects	Moderate
Staff/expertise to implement projects	High
Public support to implement projects	High
Time to devote to hazard mitigation	Moderate
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts safety drills annually for staff and students, including:

- Fire Drills – monthly, ten per year
- Tornado Drills – twice annually
- Bus Evacuation Drills – twice annually
- School Evacuation Drills – once a year
- Lockdown and Secure in Place Drills – once a year

Additionally, a portion of each morning staff meeting is dedicated to reviewing emergency procedures with staff such as school safety routines, staff handbooks, and “I Love U Guys” standard response protocol. Quarterly an Emergency Operations Plan Committee meets to review school procedures. The district holds an administrative meeting with students to review handbooks. Information on emergency procedures is also available to students and families on the school website and the school’s app, Apptegy.

When an emergency situation does occur, notifications are sent to students, parents, and staff through the school app and the student management system JMC. Both of these systems allow parents to choose the language of their choice.

Plan Integration

The district has planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each applicable planning mechanism is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. Participating jurisdictions will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Strategic Plan

Summerland Public School is in the process of updating their strategic plan during Spring 2023. The strategic plan will outline the district's goals for the next several years and strategies to accomplish these goals.

Crisis Response Plan

The district's Crisis Response Plan was last updated in 2022. It covers the district's response to severe weather, terrorism, and chemical spills. It identifies evacuation routes, shelter in place protocols, assigns responsibilities, and discusses communication. The plan is reviewed prior to each school year and is updated during that time if needed.

Future Development Trends

The Summerland Public School District has experienced major changes in the past five years, including the building of a new school building in August 2021 and the sale of the Clearwater, Ewing, and Orchard schools in April 2022. New equipment and infrastructure were included in the building of the new school complex. Due to the large changes the district experienced, there are no current plans for additional new construction or renovations in the near future. The current student population is holding steady at around 420 students with a spike in optional enrollment students from surrounding communities. The communities of Clearwater, Ewing, and Orchard each have economic development grants in place to build additional housing for the expected population increase as young families move to the area to enroll their children in the new school.

Community Lifelines

Each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team.

Table SMLD.5: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Summerland Elementary School	1	230	25	Y	Y	
Summerland High School	1	190	25	Y	Y	

Although not listed in the table above, critical infrastructure also includes power substations, cell towers, and alert sirens which provide service to the district. These assets are typically owned and maintained by other agencies and are not the responsibility of the school district.

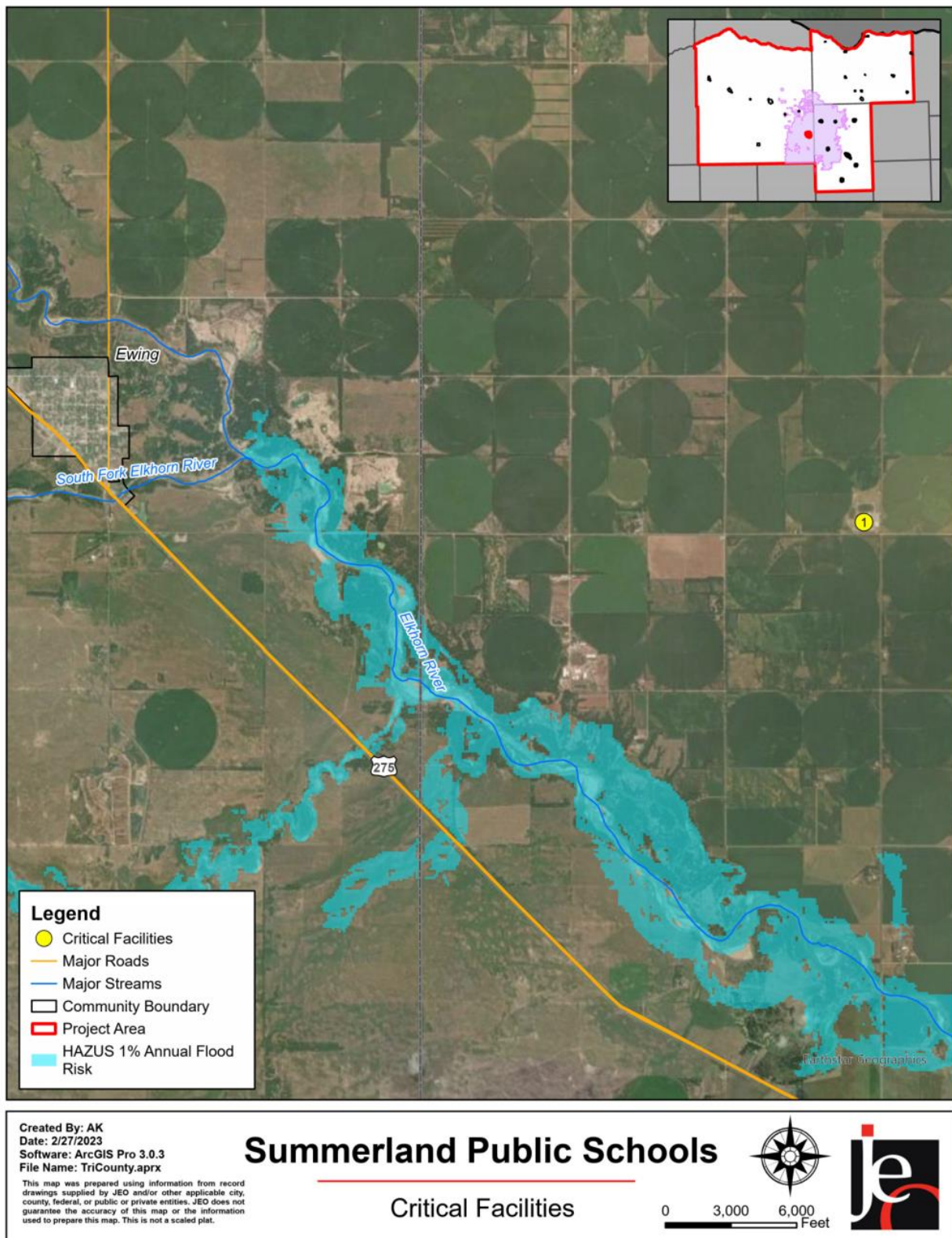
Transportation

The district's major transportation corridors include Highways 20 and 275. According to the local planning team, 513th Ave, Summerland Road, and Highway 20 are the routes of most concern due to past incidents of students having driven off the road. However, there have not been any major transportation accidents that have impacted the district. The district owns 10 buses and four 10-passenger vans that are used to transport approximately 300 students to and from school. There are no rail lines in the district. This information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the district, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

Hazardous Materials – Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

The Hazardous Materials Lifeline includes chemical storage facilities, pipelines, and transported chemical tanks. According to the Tier System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, there are two chemical sites in Ewing and two sites in Orchard which house hazardous materials. One of the Tier II facilities, Battle Creek Farmers Pride, is located 5 miles west of the school buildings. The other three sites are over 5 miles away from the school. According to the local planning team, no chemical spills have occurred locally, however there is a concern regarding fertilizers used by farmers on surrounding crop land during the spring planting season. Additionally, there is a concern for how traffic on Highway 20 would be impacted by a spill at Helena Chemical outside the eastern edge of the district. In the event of a chemical spill, all three local fire departments and law enforcement officials would respond to the incident.

Figure SMLD.3: Summerland Critical Facilities



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Santee Schools which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Santee School District. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impact for the planning area including Antelope, Holt, and Knox Counties. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	86	4,375 animals	N/A
	Plant Disease	57	N/A	\$2,176,447
Dam Failure		12	\$0	N/A
Drought		483/1,512 months	\$50,000,000	\$125,296,676
Earthquakes		4	\$0	\$0
Extreme Heat		Avg. 3 days per year	\$0	\$38,452,710
Flooding	Flash Flood	47	\$1,089,000	\$1,512,674
	Flood	40	\$6,505,000	
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	17	\$5,000	N/A
	Transportation	8	\$50,000	
Landslides		86	\$0	N/A
Public Health Emergency		2 outbreak events	>6,926 cases	N/A
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	872	\$3,798,500	\$68,254,470
	Heavy Rain	8	\$0	\$67,283,772
	Lightning	5	\$15,500	N/A
	Thunderstorm	309	\$2,298,400	N/A
	Wind			
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	40	\$5,441,000	\$6,507,635
	Extreme Cold	27	\$0	
	Heavy Snow	31	\$0	
	Ice Storms	8	\$0	
	Winter Storms	125	\$8,603,000	
	Winter Weather	21	\$0	
Tornadoes & High Winds	High Winds	55	\$166,000	\$6,045,886
	Tornadoes	111	\$15,719,590	\$10,608
Wildfire		1,205	55,663 acres	\$215,112
			\$507,572	
Total		1,371	\$93,690,990	\$315,755,990

Hazard: Severe Thunderstorm

Severe Thunderstorms are a common hazard for the planning area and include impacts from heavy rains, lightning, hail, and heavy winds. The three communities closest to the Summerland Public School, Clearwater, Ewing, and Orchard have experienced numerous severe thunderstorm events from 1996 to 2021, including 70 hail events, 33 thunderstorm wind events, and one lightning strike in Clearwater. These weather events caused \$331,000 in property damage and \$50,000 in crop damages across the three towns. To ensure the safety of students and staff, education should be provided on a regular basis to ensure widespread knowledge of procedures to take during severe storms.

Mitigation Action:

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase awareness of natural and manmade hazards for students, staff, and families.
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$100
Local Funding Source	General fund
Timeline	1 year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Severe Winter Storms

Severe Winter Storms are a regular part of the climate and weather for Orchard. Severe winter storms include extreme cold, blizzards, ice accumulation, heavy snow, and winter storms. These storms can cause power outages during bitterly cold temperatures and road blockages due to heavy snowfall amounts. The NCEI database reports severe winter storm events at the county level. Within Holt County there have been 61 severe winter storm events from 1996 to 2021. To ensure the safety of students and staff, education should be provided on a regular basis to ensure widespread knowledge of procedures to take during severe storms.

Mitigation Action:

See the “Public Awareness and Education” mitigation action to address this hazard of top concern.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this profile as changes occur or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Superintendent, JH/HS Principal, and Elementary Principal of Summerland Public School. The plan will be reviewed and revised as needed annually during a school board meeting. The public will be notified of the plan review and revision through a post on the school website.

Verdigre Public School

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Verdigre Public School's local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

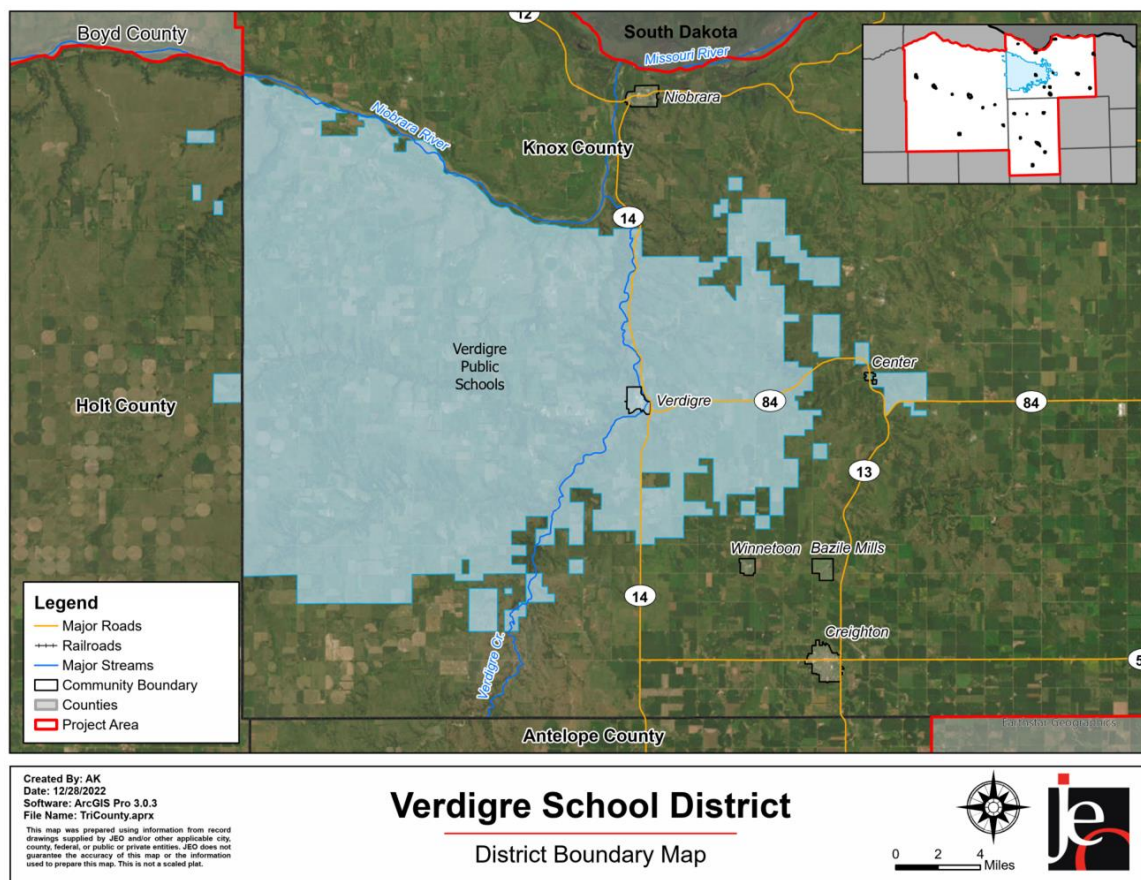
Table VPS.1 Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Chuck Kucera	Superintendent/Principal	Verdigre Public School	Assisted with plan development
Crystal Sandman	Administrative Assistant	Verdigre Public School	Assisted with plan development
Karla Faehnrich	Assistant Principal	Verdigre Public School	Attended Round 1 and Round 2 Meetings
Nancy Pavelka	Business Manager	Verdigre Public School	Assisted with plan development

Location and Geography

Verdigre Public School is a rural school district located in Knox County, in northeastern Nebraska. Its offices are located at 201 S 3rd St., Verdigre, Nebraska 68783. The district is comprised of two schools: Verdigre Elementary and Verdigre High School. The school district provides open-enrollment educational services to students in Orchard, Center, Bloomfield, Creighton, and Niobrara. English is the primary language spoken in the district with less than one percent of the student population speaking Spanish fluently and in home settings only.

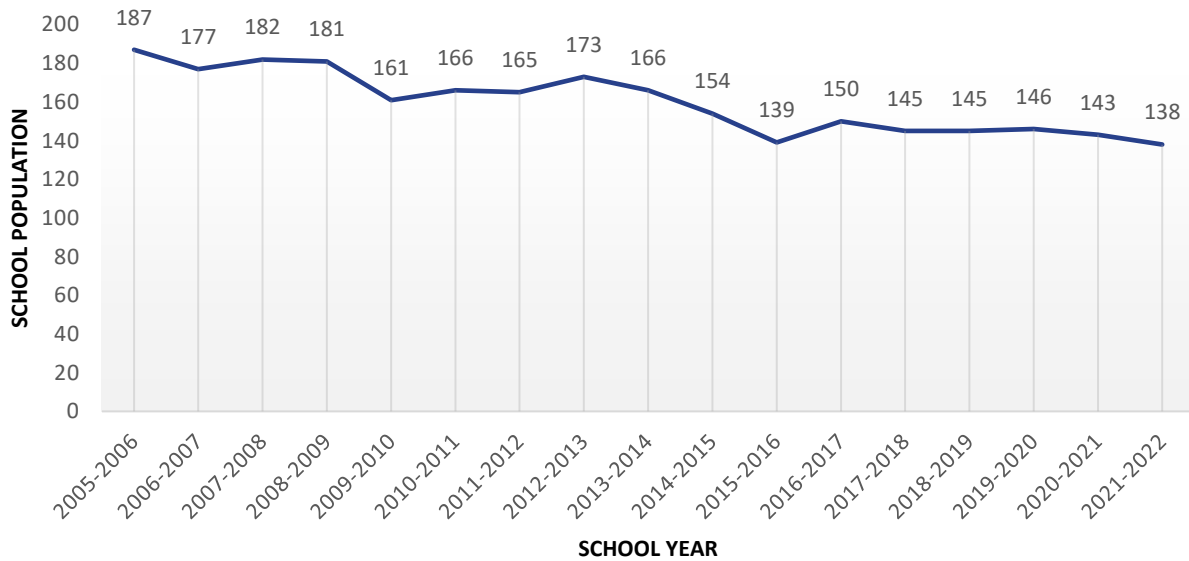
Figure VPS.1: Verdigre School District Boundary



Demographics

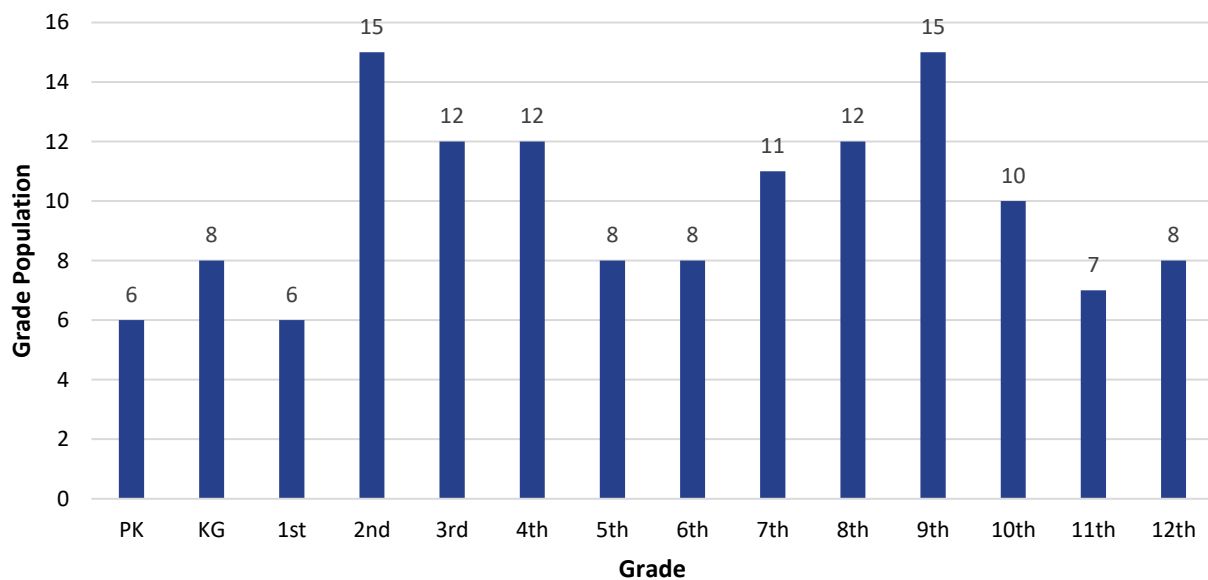
The following figure displays the historical student population trend for Verdigre Elementary School, Verdigre Middle School, and Verdigre High School starting with the 2006-07 school year and ending with the 2021-22 year. It indicates that the student population has been decreasing since the 2017-2018 school year. Before August 2020, Verdigre Public School was part of the Unified District 1. As of August 2020, Verdigre Public School became an independent school district. There were approximately 138 students enrolled during the 2021-22 school year in the Verdigre Public School. The district serves 81 families for the 138 students enrolled. The district employs 21 certified teachers, 16 classified staff, and two administrators.

Figure VPS.2: Student Population 2006-2020



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Figure VPS.3: Students by Grade, 2021-2022



The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in 2nd and 9th grade, followed by 3rd, 4th, and 8th grade. The lowest population of students are in Pre-Kindergarten and 1st grade. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), 46% of students receive either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2020-2021 school year. This is equal to the state average of 46.33%. The NDE did not have information on the percentage of students enrolled in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Table VPS.2: Student Statistics, 2020-2021

Components of Index	DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
Free/reduced priced meals	46%	46.33%
Special Education Students	19%	15.67%
English Language Learners (ESL)	N/A*	7.25%
School Mobility Rate	N/A*	9.12%

*Data is not available with fewer than 10 students.

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Administration

The school district has a superintendent, a principal, and support staff. The board of education is made up of a six-member panel. The district also has a number of additional departments and staff that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives. Verdigre Public School has an organized Safety Team comprised of certified and classified staff, as well as emergency personnel from the Village of Verdigre, including the fire chief, EMS/EMT, Knox County Emergency Management, the police chief, and Knox County law enforcement.

Capabilities

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects. Additionally, according to the local planning team, a Stakeholder Committee was established at the district level with a strong focus on family and community involvement within the school setting.

Table VPS.3: Capability Assessment

SURVEY COMPONENTS		YES/NO
Planning Capability	Capital Improvements Plan/Long-Term Budget	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes
	Disaster Response Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	GIS Capabilities	No
	Civil Engineering	No
	Staff who can assess jurisdictional vulnerability to hazards	No
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreements	No
	Other (if any)	
Fiscal	Applied for grants in the past	Yes

SURVEY COMPONENTS		YES/NO
Capability	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes or bonds for specific mitigation projects	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	Yes
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds in place	No
	Flood Insurance	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Education & Outreach	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, hazard mitigation boards, etc.).	Yes
	Ongoing public education or information program (Ex. Responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education, etc.)	Yes
	StormReady Certification	No
	Other (if any)	
Drills	Fire	10/yr
	Tornado	2/yr
	Intruder	4/yr
	Bus Evacuation	1/yr
	School Evacuation	12/yr
	Other (if any)	

Table VPS.4: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	High
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate
Community Support to Implement Projects	High
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts safety drills annually for staff and students, including:

- Fire Drills – monthly
- Tornado Drills – 2 drills performed annually
- Bus Evacuations
- Building Evacuations (includes fire drills) - 12 drills performed annually
- Intruder and Lockdown Drills – 4 drills performed annually

Additionally, the school district follows initiatives offered via NDE to adopt the I Love You Guys Foundation emergency plans and procedures. The information and training offered through the NDE is the guideline used by the school district to conduct drills and communicate with parents and other district stakeholders

regarding school drills and safety procedures. The school district sends annual reminder letters to update students and families on district safety steps and highlight critical safety information in the school handbook. Drills and exercises are communicated to parents via emails and phone calls. All emergency notifications are conveyed in English. The school district uses an All-Call system to reach every family first in the event of an active threat or emergency situation. During the call parents and guardians are then instructed on steps to follow when dismissing because of an event or evacuating and reunification.

Plan Integration

The district has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each applicable planning mechanism is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. Participating jurisdictions will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Grants and Funding

Currently the school district's funds are sufficient to pursue new capital projects when in conjunction with grants and other federal program funding applied for. The district is reliant on a relationship with the School Foundation to allocate funds to projects that are supported by the community based on the needs of the district. District funds have increased due to an increase in local taxes by nearly 2 percent. In 2011, the Verdigre Public School successfully passed a bond for a new wing of the school building that has resulted in lower budget for the building fund due to accounting for bond payments. No other immediate projects have funds allocated currently. To help bolster funds, the school district has applied for several grants in the last five years, including Head Start Program Grant, CTE Perkins Grant, and Technology Grant, all of which were awarded to the district.

Crisis Response Plan

The district's Crisis Response Plan was last updated in 2022. The school's plan covers natural hazards such as flood, severe storms, windstorms, and fire and addresses shelter in place protocols and locations to shelter. The plan also identifies scenarios that would require evacuation and critical routes for evacuations.

Future Development Trends

In the past five years, Verdigre Public School has built a new school building for middle school and high school students, locker rooms and band and choir rooms built as part of a bond project in 2011. According to the local planning team, the student population has seen an increase in the last few years due to young families moving back to the area from the Omaha and Lincoln areas. Additionally, student populations have increased after Verdigre Public School performed a consolidation project with Summerland Schools in 2019 when families from Orchard and Creighton opted into the district over moving students to the Summerland facilities. In 2018, the school district applied for and received a grant to partially fund a new playground system with remaining funds raised via community and school fundraising.

The local planning team indicates multiple future development plans including the update of the Career and Technical Education area that has an ag shop, art classroom, and Special Education facilities. These structures date back to the early 1960s and are a safety concern for the district. The school district also identified exterior structures such as playgrounds, fencing, and a retaining wall as structures that will be updated or replaced in the future years.

Community Lifelines

Each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following table lists those community lifelines, as identified by the local planning team.

Table VPS.5: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Verdigre Elementary School	1	81	22	Y	Y	
Verdigre High School	1	66	17	Y	Y	

Although not listed in the table above, critical infrastructure also includes power substations, cell towers, and alert sirens which provide service to the district. These assets are typically owned and maintained by other agencies and are not the responsibility of the school district.

Transportation

The district's major transportation corridor includes State Highways 14. With most families served by the school district living in rural areas, roadways are not all paved or have adequate right-of-way. According to the local planning team, several county bridges cause travel concerns when weather conditions are poor. Road conditions have led to minor accidents in the last few years, many attributed to deteriorating gravel or pavement. Students and staff have also experienced impacts with deer and other wildlife. The district owns 3 buses and transports 47 students to and from school. There are no rail lines in the district. This information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the district, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

Hazardous Materials – Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, there are three chemical storage sites that house hazardous material in Verdigre. The school is approximately 6 blocks northwest of Herbert Feed and Grain Co., which is listed as a Tier II facility in Verdigre that houses large amounts of chemicals for farm use. According to the local planning team, the location of Herbert Feed and Grain Co. is of high concern as the facility is adjacent to Verdigris Creek, which supplies water to Verdigre and flows into the Missouri River. The school football field lies within the floodplain and could sustain damage from a chemical spill if the chemicals entered the watershed.

In the event of a chemical spill occurring in the district, Verdigre Fire and Rescue would be the first to respond. According to the local planning team, the emergency first responders have been trained and are certified to clean and contain chemical spills. There have not been any chemical spills reported having occurred in the district within the last 10 years.

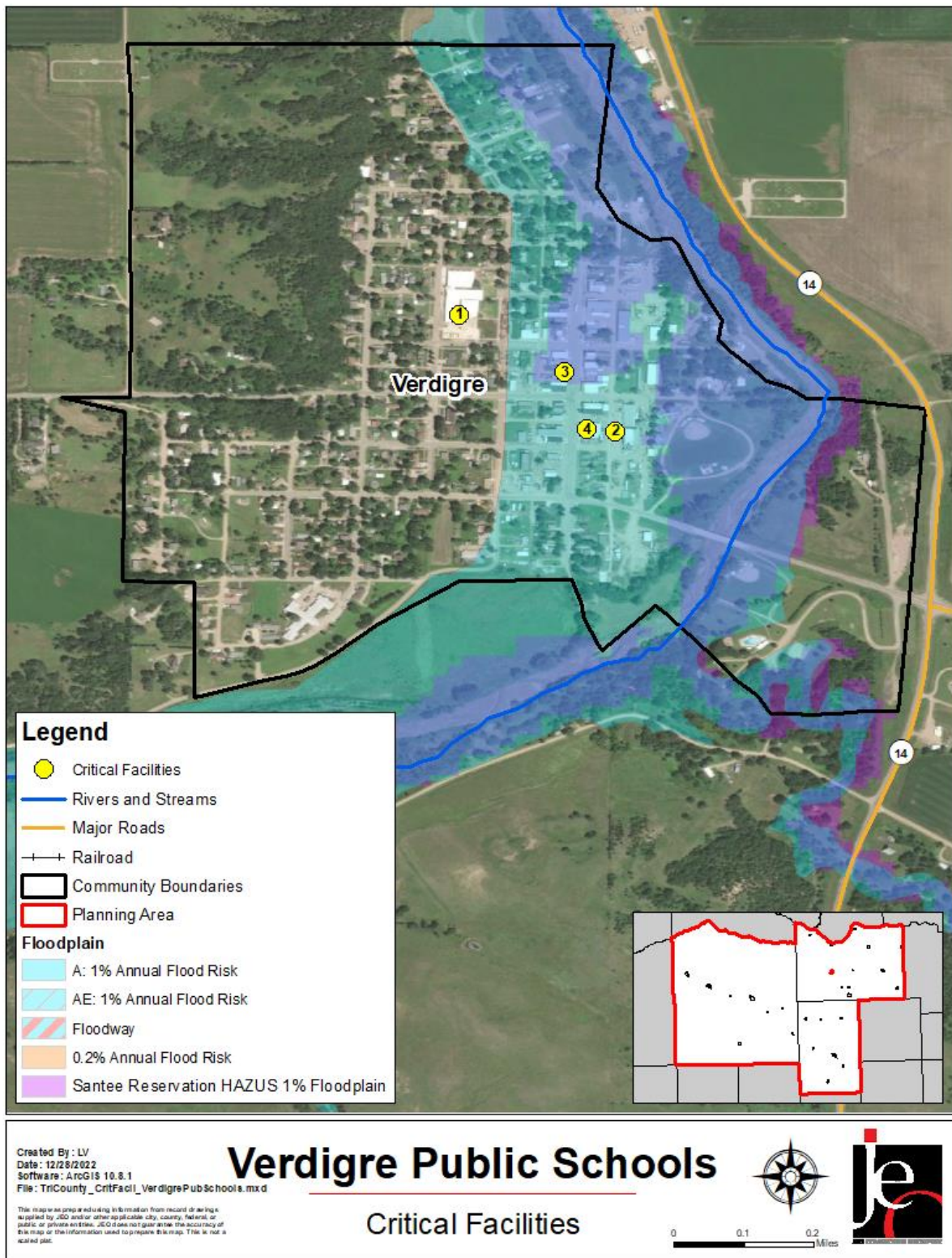
Table VPS.6: Hazardous Materials Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	GENERATOR (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Herbert Feed and Grain Co.	2	N	In Floodplain
N&B Gas Co	3	N	In Floodplain
Verdigre Farm Service	4	N	In Floodplain

Source: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy⁴

⁴ Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. "Search Tier II Data." Accessed September 2022.

Figure VPS.4: Verdigre Critical Facilities



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Verdigre School District which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Verdigre School District. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entirety of Knox County. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP	OTHER IMPACTS
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	22	1,877 animals	N/A	
	Plant Disease	17	N/A	\$103,555	
Dam Failure		2	\$0	N/A	
Drought		483 out of 1,512 months	\$0	\$97,025,214	
Earthquakes		1	\$0	\$0	
Extreme Heat		Avg 3 days per year	\$0	\$16,885,534	
Flooding	Flash Flood	17	\$79,000	\$195,618	
	Flood	23	\$1,555,000		
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	4	\$0	N/A	
	Transportation	2	\$50,000		
Landslides		81	N/A	N/A	
Public Health Emergency		~2,378 cases	N/A	N/A	
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	234	\$1,575,000	\$5,468,531	
	Heavy Rain	3	\$0	\$1,620,841	
	Lightning	2	\$500	N/A	
	Thunderstorm	88	\$5,900	N/A	
	Wind				
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	16	\$0		
	Extreme Cold	8	\$0		
	Heavy Snow	13	\$0	\$691,005	
	Ice Storms	3	\$0		
	Winter Storms	46	\$3,500,000		
Tornadoes & High Winds	Winter Weather	7	\$0		
	High Winds	18	\$53,000	\$685,654	1 injury
	Tornadoes	31	\$4,845,060	\$207	3 injuries
Wildfire		252	8,438 acres	\$19,389	31 structures threatened; 1 structure destroyed
Total		890	\$11,663,460	\$122,695,548	

Hazard: Flooding

Flooding is the primary hazard of top concern for the Verdigre Public School. This is a top concern for the school based on the natural landscape of the Village of Verdigre, which is situated at the bottom of a valley. The Verdigre school is directly outside the floodplain but is still concerned about flooding and experiencing flood damage. The district's main concern is the safety of students and staff when stormwater or creek water threatens to inundate school grounds or buildings. The school has experienced severe flooding in the past, including the entire football field being flooded in 2019 when the Verdigre Creek overflowed. Along with natural flooding due to heavy rains, flooding may occur if a water pipe breaks or the failure of the village's dike. Flooding can lead to the pitting of roadways, eroding sidehills and retaining walls, loose gravel and pooling water all create hazards for travel in and around town, creating dangers for students and staff when getting around the school campus. To mitigate this impact, the school district resurfaced the parking lot in 2012 and portions of the sidewalk from 2012 to 2017. The resurfacing helped reduce traffic in and around the more hazardous areas of the school's retaining wall to help reduce stress on the wall. Currently the local planning team's biggest desire is to reinforce or rebuild the retaining wall that helped reduce flooding within the school property when heavy rains occur.

Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase awareness of natural and manmade hazards to students, staff, and families.
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500 +
Local Funding Source	Building Fund
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Verdigre Public School Safety Committee
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Mitigation Action	Retaining Wall
Description	Reinforce and rebuild the school's retaining wall.
Hazard(s)	Flooding
Estimated Cost	\$120,000
Local Funding Source	School Foundation, Building Fund, Grants
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Verdigre Public School Safety Committee and Building/Grounds Committee
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Extreme Heat/Severe Winter Storms

A combined hazard of extreme heat and severe winter storms was identified as a top hazard of concern due to the stress the extreme temperatures may have on the school's heating/cooling system. According to the local planning team, power outages after a 2022 windstorm, the schools' boiler system was damaged and has caused issues with keeping the school building properly heated. Additionally, the boiler system is outdated and the district has limited resources for its replacement. A large portion of the heating and cooling system is located on the roof of the school, causing issues during severe winter storms when

heavy snowfall may bury it and cause performance problems, leading to a loss in heating during cold temperatures. The local planning team stated the new 7-12 grade wing of the school was built in 2011 and has all major duct work and ventilation in place but still does not receive proper heating and cooling during extreme heat or extreme cold. To provide proper heating and cooling for students and staff, the local planning team would like to install a new system in the school.

Mitigation Actions:

Mitigation Action	New Heating/Cooling Unit
Description	Purchase and install a new heating and cooling unit to provide proper climate control of the school during extreme heat and extreme cold temperatures.
Hazard(s)	Extreme Heat, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	\$75,000
Local Funding Source	Building Fund
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Building and Grounds Committee
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Hazardous Materials

According to the local planning team, the elementary school building was built in the 1970s when asbestos was used in building materials. Per health regulations, as repairs and updates are made to the building, removal of the asbestos is required. Most asbestos removal has been complete or contained per regulations. The school's kitchen is in need of reconfiguration and will require heavy asbestos removal to meet all codes and regulations and to provide a safe food preparation location for the school's meal program.

Mitigation Actions:

Mitigation Action	Asbestos Abatement
Description	Removal, rebate, or cover all asbestos within the old portion of the Verdigre School. Reconfigure school kitchen and serving area and removal all asbestos within it.
Hazard(s)	Hazardous Materials
Estimated Cost	\$150,000
Local Funding Source	School Foundation, Building Fund
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Building/Grounds Committee
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this profile as changes occur or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Superintendent/Principal, Safety Team, and the Building and Grounds Committee. The plan will be reviewed annually and revised on an as needed basis. The public will be notified of the review through notices in the local newspaper and any revisions will be included in the board meeting agenda. Discussion items will be added to the safety team agendas.

VERDIGRE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Verdigre Rural Fire District local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

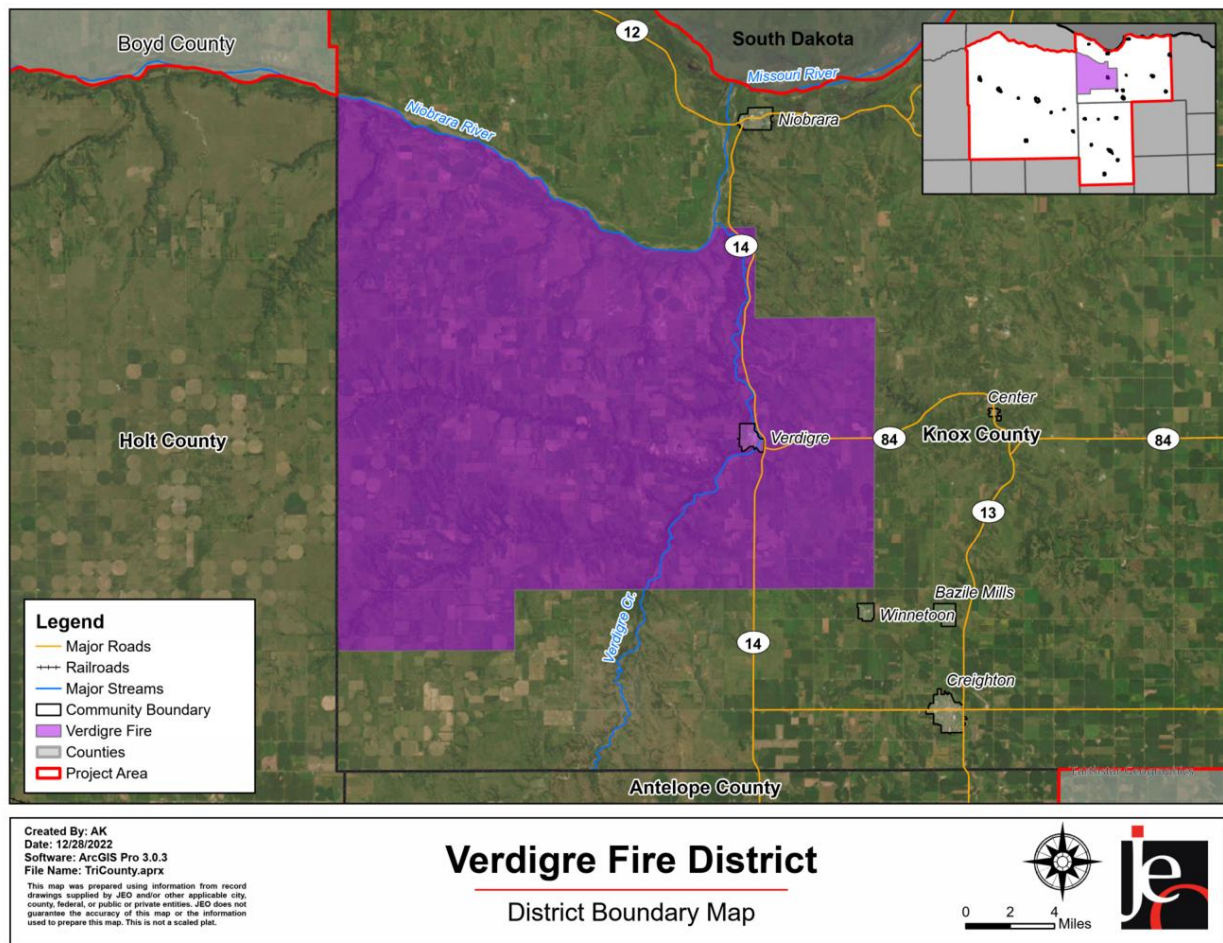
Table VRF.1: Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Jeff Bartling	Fire Chief	Verdigre Rural Fire District	Attended Round 1 and Round 2 Meetings
Jon Hansen	President	Verdigre Rural Fire District	Attended Round 1 Meeting
Mitch Mastalir	Rescue Captain	Verdigre Rural Fire District	Attended Round 1 and Round 2 Meetings

Location and Geography

The Verdigre Rural Fire District covers the Village of Verdigre and surrounding rural areas, totaling 151,000 acres of land. The rural areas are most at risk to fire.

Figure VRF.1: Fire District Boundary



Demographics

See the Village of Verdigre and Knox County profiles for regional demographic information. The Verdigre Rural Fire District services approximately 1,300 residents.

Staffing/Leadership

The Verdigre Rural Fire District is supervised by a President, Fire Chief, Rescue Captain and a fire board who will oversee the implementation of hazard mitigation projects. External offices would assist the district with hazard mitigation related activities are listed below:

- Village of Verdigre Board and Employees
- Knox County Emergency Manager
- Verdigre Police Department
- Knox County Sheriff's Department
- Nebraska State Patrol
- Nebraska Game and Parks Department

Future Development Trends

The past five years have seen various improvements within the fire district including a new reserve unit and a new fire tanker. The district needs a new fire station outside of the floodplain and has been fundraising for the past ten years, but high costs keep the new building unbuilt. Additionally, the existing firehall requires a new generator.

Capabilities

Due to the unique structure of fire districts, the typical capability assessment table was not used. The following table summarizes the district's overall capabilities. The Verdigre Rural Fire District will continue to utilize existing relationships with local, county, state, and federal agencies in the implementation of mitigation projects. According to the local planning team, district funds are very limited and have only slightly increased due to property valuations. The district has applied for and been awarded forestry grants for fire gear.

Table VRF.2: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate
Community Support to Implement Projects	High
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

Plan Integration

Verdigre Rural Fire District has multiple planning documents, including a Strategic Plan, Response Plan, and a Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG). SOGs outline the district's response to a variety of different calls that could be received. The district will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current HMP into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Strategic Plan

The Verdigre Rural Fire District was last updated in 2020 and addresses multiple natural and/or man-made hazards including evacuation plans, housing and relocation plans, and locations of food and shelter in the district. The district's plan also discusses the relocation of the fire hall to outside of the floodplain and how the district can prepare for flood events.

Transportation

Major transportation corridors in the district include Highway 14 and Highway 84. The local planning team identified their highest concerns as access on minimum maintenance roads, remote grass areas, and inadequate bridges. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the community, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents. A wide variety of farm chemicals and unknown chemicals are regularly transported along local routes. The local planning team reports spills have occurred within the district that have resulted in cleanup and evacuations being issues. The water supply, creeks, and streams are of most concern during a chemical spill in the area. When evacuations are issued parts of the district have difficulty evacuating including the Village of Verdigre, Alpine Village Nursing Home, and schools. These locations have difficulty due to the number of residents. The Verdigre Rural Fire District is currently working to improve evacuation plans and transportation issues.

Community Lifelines

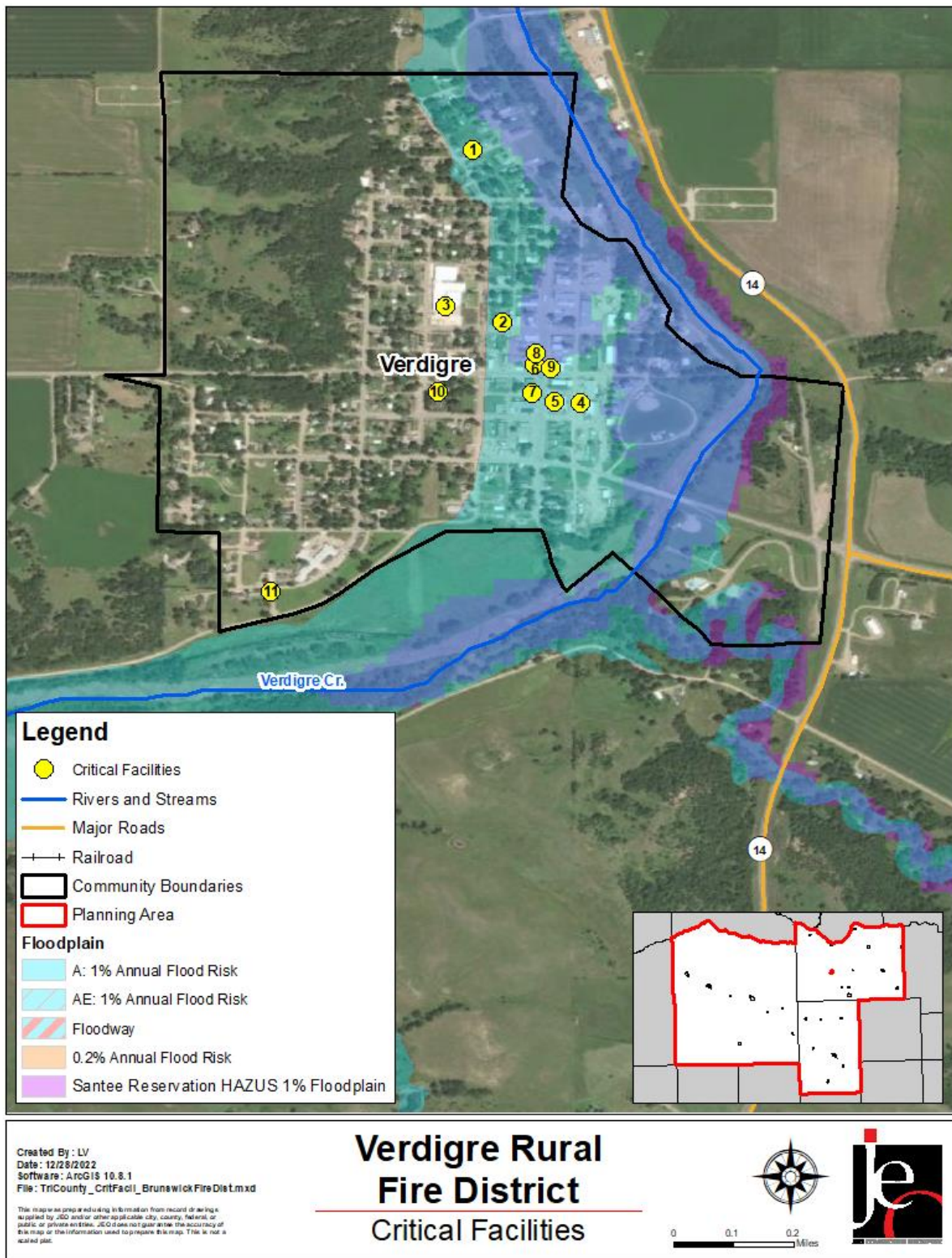
Community lifelines are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team.



Table VRF.3: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	ADDRESS	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Alpine Village	1	706 James St.	Y	Y	Floodplain
Verdigre Fire Hall	2	106 3 rd Ave	Y	Y	Floodplain
Verdigre Public School	3	201 S 3 rd St	N	Y	
Herbert Feed and Grain	4	102 5 th Ave	N	N	Chemical Storage Floodplain
Verdigre Farm Service	5	417 S Main St	N	N	Fuel and Chemical Storage Floodplain
Tom's Family Foods	6	320 S Main St	N	N	Food Supply Floodplain
Post Office	7	408 S Main St	N	N	Floodplain
N&B Gas Co	8	312 S Main St	N	N	Propane Supply Floodplain
Hardware Hawk	9	319 Main St	N	N	Hardware and Supplies Floodplain
St. Wenceslaus Church	10	411 4 th St	N	Y	Shelter for Community
Medical Clinic	11	703 James St	N	Y	Medical Service
Great Plains Communications	-	306 S 2 nd St	Y	N	Phone and Internet

Figure VRF.2: Critical Facilities Map



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Verdigre Rural Fire District which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Verdigre Rural Fire District. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. The table below shows hazard counts, property damages, crop damages, or other impacts for the entirety of Knox County. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP	OTHER IMPACTS
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	22	1,877 animals	N/A	
	Plant Disease	17	N/A	\$103,555	
Dam Failure		2	\$0	N/A	
Drought		483 out of 1,512 months	\$0	\$97,025,214	
Earthquakes		1	\$0	\$0	
Extreme Heat		Avg 3 days per year	\$0	\$16,885,534	
Flooding	Flash Flood	17	\$79,000	\$195,618	
	Flood	23	\$1,555,000		
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	4	\$0	N/A	
	Transportation	2	\$50,000		
Landslides		81	N/A	N/A	
Public Health Emergency		~2,378 cases	N/A	N/A	
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	234	\$1,575,000	\$5,468,531	
	Heavy Rain	3	\$0	\$1,620,841	
	Lightning	2	\$500	N/A	
	Thunderstorm	88	\$5,900	N/A	
	Wind				
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	16	\$0		
	Extreme Cold	8	\$0		
	Heavy Snow	13	\$0	\$691,005	
	Ice Storms	3	\$0		
	Winter Storms	46	\$3,500,000		
	Winter Weather	7	\$0		
Tornadoes & High Winds	High Winds	18	\$53,000	\$685,654	1 injury
	Tornadoes	31	\$4,845,060	\$207	3 injuries
Wildfire		252	8,438 acres	\$19,389	31 structures threatened; 1 structure destroyed
Total		890	\$11,663,460	\$122,695,548	

Hazard: Wildfire

Local concerns regarding wildfires are the prevalence of rural terrain that makes up the Verdigre Rural Fire District. The district experienced a large wildfire in March 2022 that burned 3500 acres where 17 fire departments and five rescue departments responded. During the March 2022 wildfire, extensive damage was caused to irrigation systems and fences causing upward of \$20 million in damages. The district has attempted to lessen the impacts of wildfires through performing controlled burns and educating landowners on how to clear trees and other fuels from their property.

A major concern for the local planning team is for the local fire hall. The Village and the Verdigre Fire/Rural Fire Board are currently working on a project to address vulnerabilities from flooding to the Verdigre Fire Hall. The primary concern for the facility is to remove it from the floodplain and/or floodproof the facility.

Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION	FIRE HALL
Description	Build a new fire hall that is located outside of the floodplain or floodproof existing fire hall.
Hazard(s)	Wildfire, Flooding
Estimated Cost	Unknown
Local Funding Source	General Funds
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Board, Fire Chief, Village of Verdigre
Status	This is a new mitigation action. This would need to be a joint project between the fire department and the village.

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase public awareness of natural and manmade hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from the hazards
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500 +
Local Funding Source	General Funds
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this community profile as changes can occur before or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Verdigre Rural Fire District, the Village of Verdigre, and the Verdigre Fire and Rescue. The plan will be reviewed bi-annually, and the public will be notified through social media updates, website updates, and announcements at the board/council meetings.

Wausa Public Schools

District Profile

**Tri-County
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2023

Local Planning Team

The Wausa Public Schools local planning team members for the hazard mitigation plan are listed in the table below along with the meetings attended. All applicable worksheets from meetings were filled out and returned by local planning team members.

Table WSD.1 Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	PARTICIPATION
Brad Hoelsing	Superintendent	Wausa Public Schools	Held one-on-one meeting with JEO to cover both Round 1 and Round 2

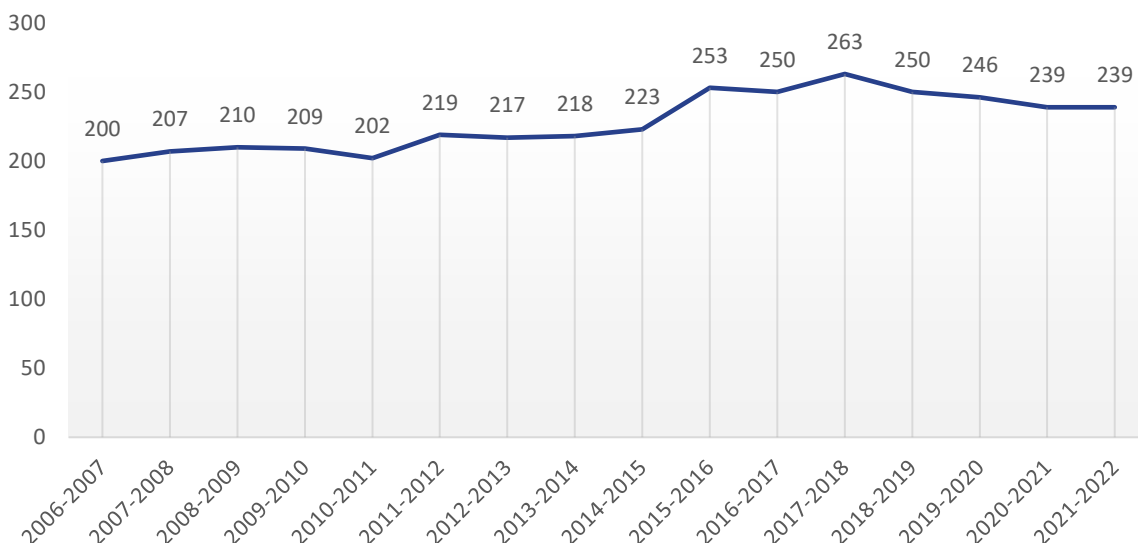
Location and Geography

Wausa Public Schools is a suburban school district located in Knox County, in northeastern Nebraska. Its offices are located at 300 South Bismark St., Wausa, Nebraska 68786. The district is comprised of one school that houses grades Kindergarten to 12th Grade. The school district provides educational services to students in Bloomfield, Osmond, Magnet, and Randolph.

Demographics

The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2006-07 school year and ending with the 2021-22 year. Historical data was provided by the Nebraska Department of Education. This data indicates that the student population has been slightly decreasing since the 2017-18 school year. There are 239 students currently enrolled in Wausa Public Schools during the 2022-2023 school year. The district employs 23 teachers, two administrators, and approximately 20 other staff members.

Figure WSD.1: Student Population 2006-2021



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Figure WSD.2: School District Boundary

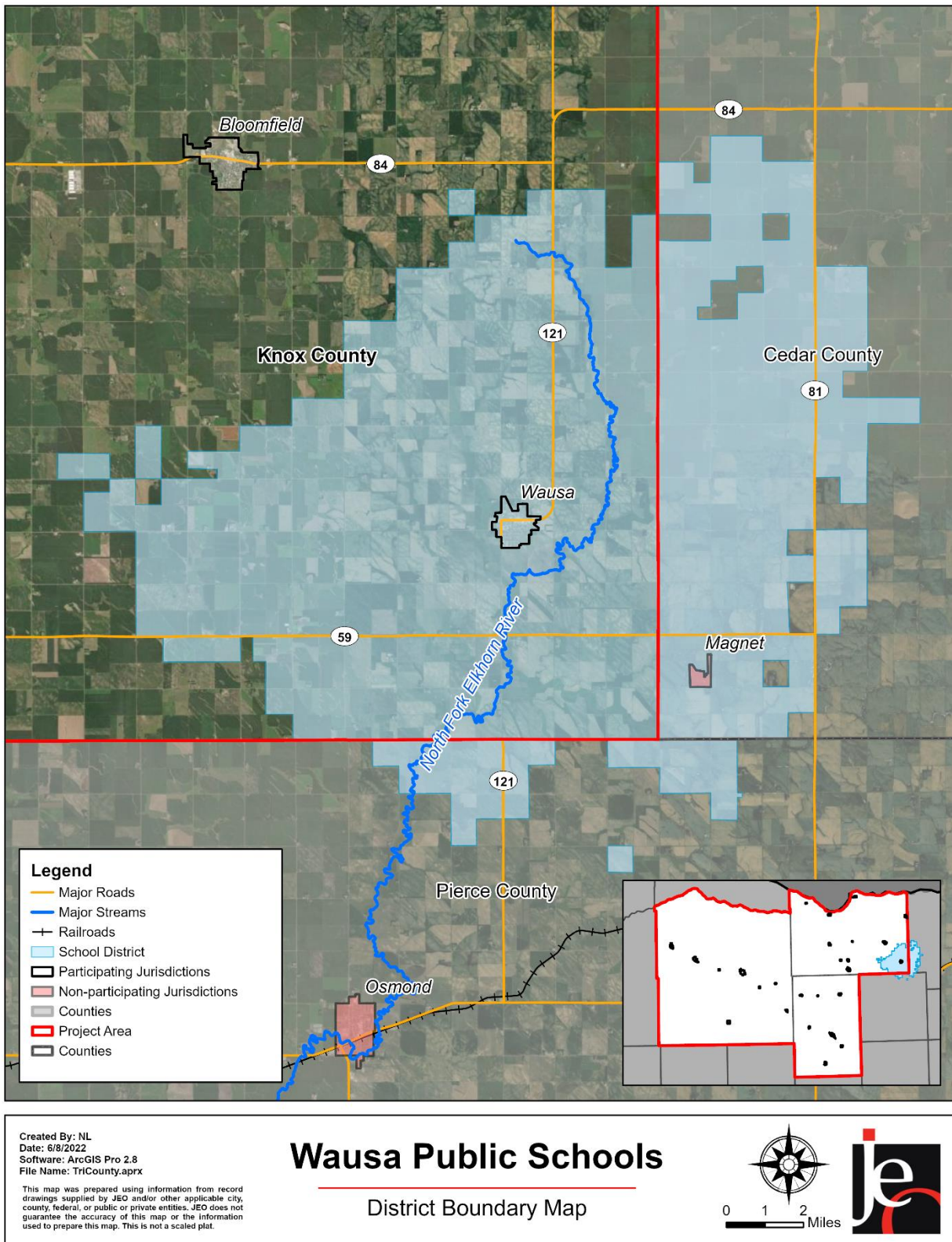
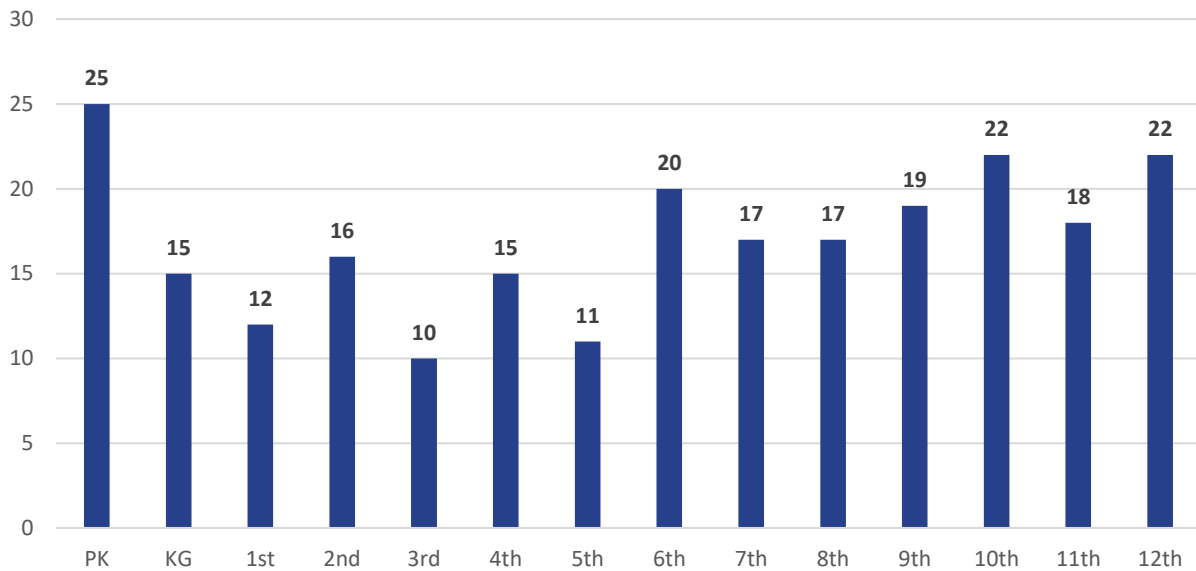


Figure WSD.3: Students by Grade, 2021-2022

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in Preschool, followed by 10th grade, and 12th grade during the 2021-2022 school year. The lowest number of students are in 3rd grade. According to the Nebraska Department of Education's (NDE) statistics for the 2020-2021 school year, 31.95% of students receive either free or reduced priced meals. This is lower than the state average of 46.33%. Additionally, 13.43% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Table WSD.2: Student Statistics, 2021-2022

Components of Index	DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
Free/reduced priced meals	23.43%	41.31%
Special Education Students	11.68%	15.92%
English Language Learners (ESL)	N/A*	7.76%
School Mobility Rate	N/A*	5.51%

*Data is not available with fewer than 10 students.

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Administration

The school district has a superintendent who also serves as the elementary school principal, a junior high/high school principal, and support staff. The school board is made up of a six-member panel. The district also has relationships with various external departments and staff that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives including:

- Cedar County Sheriff's Department
- Knox County Sheriff's Department
- Knox County Emergency Management

Capabilities

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

Table WSD.3: Capability Assessment

SURVEY COMPONENTS		YES/NO
Planning Capability	Capital Improvements Plan/Long-Term Budget	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	No
	Disaster Response Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	GIS Capabilities	No
	Civil Engineering	No
	Staff who can assess jurisdictional vulnerability to hazards	Yes
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreements	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Fiscal Capability	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes or bonds for specific mitigation projects	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds in place	No
	Flood Insurance	No
	Other (if any)	
Education & Outreach	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, hazard mitigation boards, etc.).	Yes
	Ongoing public education or information program (Ex. Responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education, etc.)	Yes
	StormReady Certification	No
	Other (if any)	
Drills	Fire	10/yr
	Tornado	2/yr
	Intruder	1/yr
	Bus Evacuation	1/yr
	School Evacuation	1/yr
	Other (if any)	

Table WSD.4: Overall Capability

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate
Community Support to Implement Projects	High
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Limited

School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts safety drills annually for staff and students, including:

- Fire Drills – monthly
- Tornado Drills – 2 drills performed annually.
- Lockdown and Reunification - annually

Additionally, school district staff are provided emergency procedure handbooks and training annually. Specific training is also taken for student specific concerns, suicide prevention, reunification guidelines and emergency plan activation. The school does have an active shooter drill; however, the local planning team noted some updates are needed to the active shooter drill. Parents and staff are notified of emergency events through the school's notifications system via phone calls, text messages, emails, the school website, and social media.

Plan Integration

The district has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each applicable planning mechanism is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. Participating jurisdictions will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

Grants and Funding

Currently the school district's funds are limited to maintaining current facilities and systems, but the district has utilized past funding opportunities to make significant improvements to school facilities. The district passed a bond measure in 2019 to improve fire safety concerns throughout the school including enclosing stairwells and updating some ADA requirements. Grants are pursued and managed by the Superintendent and the Business Manager. The district has received grant funding in the past from FEMA, NDEE, and Department of Education.

Crisis Response Plan

The district's Crisis Response Plan is updated annually. The school's plan covers some natural hazards including severe storms or tornadoes that require sheltering in place. The plan identifies shelter locations and protocols that should be followed during these events. The plan identifies scenarios that require evacuation, critical evacuation routes, and reunification locations.

Future Development Trends

In the past five years, the district has not built or demolished any buildings, however the district has purchased a new school bus, updated ADA requirements, and improved fire safety. The local planning team noted the student population is anticipated to decline in the next ten years as many of the surrounding communities are also experiencing population decline.

Community Lifelines

Each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities.

Table WSD.5: Community Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	GENERATOR (Y/N)	SHELTER LOCATION (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Wausa Public Schools	1	239	40	N	Y	
Bus Barn	2	-	-	N	N	

Although not listed in the table above, critical infrastructure also includes power substations, cell towers, and alert sirens which provide service to the district. These assets are typically owned and maintained by other agencies and are not the responsibility of the school district.

Transportation

The district's major transportation corridors include State Highways 59 and 121. The district has five buses in their fleet including three for routes, one backup, and one for activity charter. There are no rail lines in the district. The local planning team noted the largest concern for transportation is from lack of adequate cell coverage. However, Verizon may be putting in a new tower in the area to improve coverage. This information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the district, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

Hazardous Materials – Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, there are three chemical storage sites that house hazardous materials in Wausa. These include Carlson Home and Auto, SHS Inc, and CHS Inc Country Operations facilities. The local planning team noted no specific concerns for chemical storage facilities in or near the district. In the event of a chemical spill occurring in the district, local fire departments and law enforcement would be the first to respond to the incident.

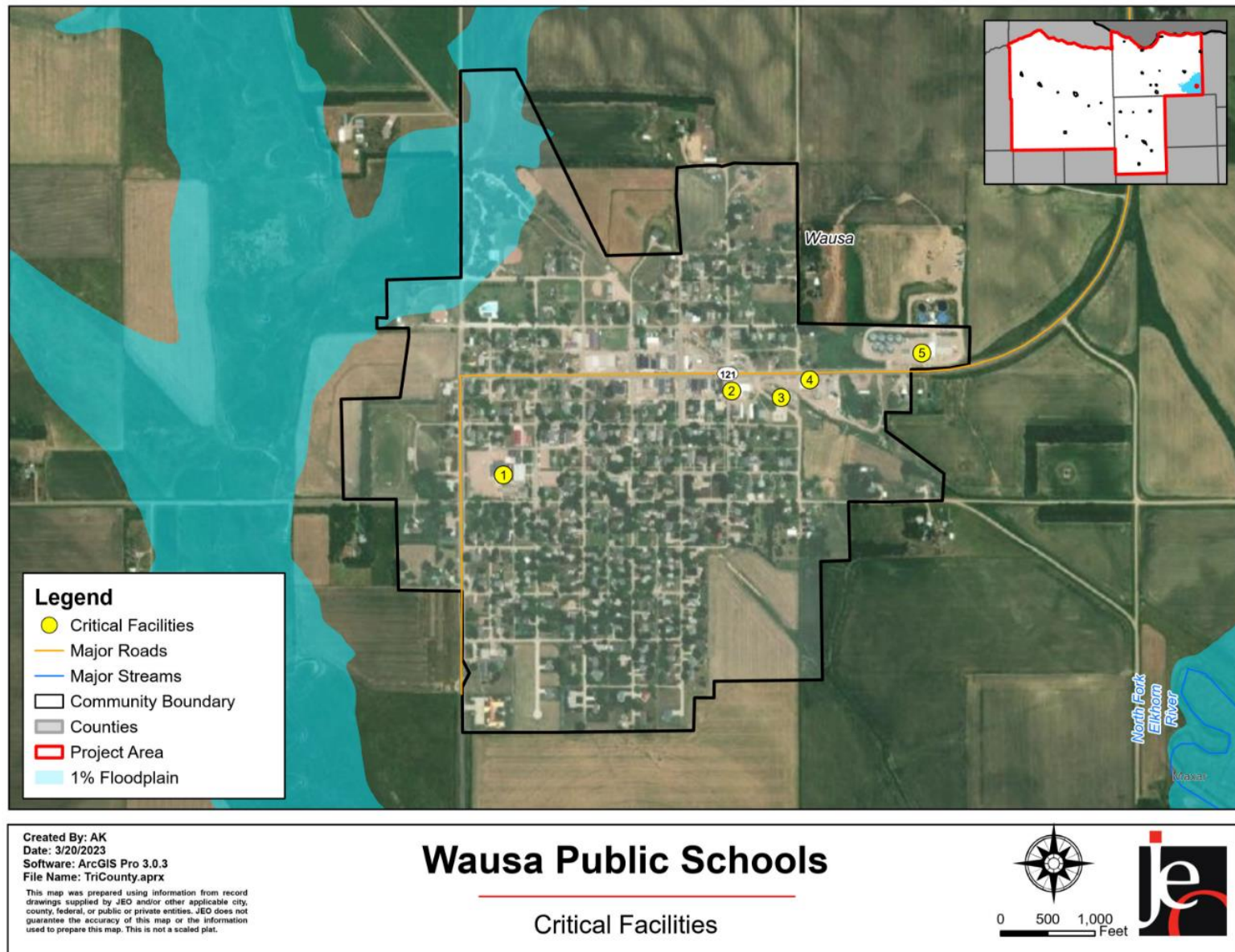
Table WSD.6: Hazardous Materials Lifelines

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	#	GENERATOR (Y/N)	HAZARD TYPE CONCERNS AND NOTES
Carlson Home & Auto Inc	3	N	
CHS Inc	4	N	
CHS Inc Country Operations	5	N	

Source: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy⁵

⁵ Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. "Search Tier II Data." Accessed September 2022.

Figure WSD.4: Critical Facilities



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Wausa Schools which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Wausa School District. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

HAZARD		COUNT	PROPERTY	CROP
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease	86	4,375 animals	N/A
	Plant Disease	57	N/A	\$2,176,447
Dam Failure		12	\$0	N/A
Drought		483/1,512 months	\$50,000,000	\$125,296,676
Earthquakes		4	\$0	\$0
Extreme Heat		Avg. 3 days per year	\$0	\$38,452,710
Flooding	Flash Flood	47	\$1,089,000	\$1,512,674
	Flood	40	\$6,505,000	
Hazardous Materials	Fixed Site	17	\$5,000	N/A
	Transportation	8	\$50,000	
Landslides		86	\$0	N/A
Public Health Emergency		2 outbreak events	>6,926 cases	N/A
Severe Thunderstorms	Hail	872	\$3,798,500	\$68,254,470
	Heavy Rain	8	\$0	\$67,283,772
	Lightning	5	\$15,500	N/A
	Thunderstorm	309	\$2,298,400	N/A
	Wind			
Severe Winter Storms	Blizzards	40	\$5,441,000	\$6,507,635
	Extreme Cold	27	\$0	
	Heavy Snow	31	\$0	
	Ice Storms	8	\$0	
	Winter Storms	125	\$8,603,000	
	Winter Weather	21	\$0	
Tornadoes & High Winds	High Winds	55	\$166,000	\$6,045,886
	Tornadoes	111	\$15,719,590	\$10,608
Wildfire		1,205	55,663 acres \$507,572	\$215,112
Total		1,371	\$93,690,990	\$315,755,990

Hazard: Severe Thunderstorms

This hazard was identified as a top hazard of concern for the school district due to the frequency of severe thunderstorms and the risks to student safety. The school district has experienced damages from lightning strikes and hail specifically to the buildings. The school building does not have a backup generator or lightning rods for the facility. There are no trees on campus which are of concern.

Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION	LIGHTNING RODS
Description	Purchase and install lightning rods on the facility
Hazard(s)	Severe Thunderstorms
Estimated Cost	\$20,000
Local Funding Source	Bond Fund
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

MITIGATION ACTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
Description	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps, and environmental education increase awareness of natural and manmade hazards to students, staff, and families.
Hazard(s)	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$500 +
Local Funding Source	General Fund
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Hazard: Severe Winter Storms

The local planning team has identified severe winter storms as a hazard of top concern due to the possibility of heavy snow which blocks transportation routes or loss of power to the school. The local planning team removes snow on their campus and contracts with a local resident with equipment to assist.

Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION	BACKUP GENERATORS
Description	Purchase backup generators for school buildings in case of loss of power during a severe weather event.
Hazard(s)	Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$150,000+
Local Funding Source	Bond funding
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this profile as changes occur or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Superintendent, head of transportation, and head maintenance. The plan will be reviewed and revised as needed annually. The school district will share information with the public through the district website, the alert call system, and/or send letters home.