

Alta Town Council

Staff Report



To: Town Council

From: Chris Cawley, Assistant Town Administrator

Re: Town of Alta Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date: December 4, 2019

Attachments: Town of Alta Hazard Mitigation Plan; Proposed New Actions

Background

The Town of Alta is working alongside Salt Lake County Emergency Management and every local jurisdiction in the county to update the Salt Lake County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires these plans to be updated every five years, and it requires county plans to include an annex providing specific hazard analysis and mitigation actions for every jurisdiction within counties.

The Full Plan

The 2019 Town of Alta Hazard Mitigation Plan will be a large document comprised mostly of information describing Alta, our context in the region, the presence of various hazards in Alta that all jurisdictions must acknowledge in our plans, and an inventory of past, present, and future hazard mitigation actions. The county is compiling completed local annexes, and completing its own plan, by the end of December in order to submit the entire compilation to FEMA for approval in early 2020. The legislative body of each local jurisdiction will be asked to adopt their own plans by resolution some time in 2020.

The process followed by the county, its consultants on the project, and the local jurisdictions in Salt Lake County has not yielded a complete version of the Alta plan at this time, and so we have opted to provide the council with limited, key excerpts of the material in the plan, which will be described below.

Hazards Identified in the Plan

FEMA is requiring 2019 plans to identify the following hazards in the applicable jurisdiction:

- Earthquake
- Severe Winter Weather
- Severe Weather
- Wildfire
- Avalanche
- Public Health Epidemic/ Pandemic
- Cyber Attack
- Drought
- Terrorism
- Landslide and Slope Failure
- Hazardous Materials Incident
- Flooding
- Dam Failure
- Civil Disturbance
- Tornado
- Radon

Town of Alta Proposed Hazard Mitigation Actions

Since so much of the plan that is still in development consists of descriptive information and inventories of past actions, we determined the most important element of the plan to present to the council at this point is the list of proposed new hazard mitigation actions the town can take over the next five years. The attached document includes a list of actions responsive to the more prominent hazards in Alta. Including these actions in the plan does not obligate the town to complete them, and it does not limit the town from pursuing other projects.

Town Council Input Requested

Town staff would like input from the council—either during the meeting on December 11th, or prior to December 31st, 2019, about the actions proposed in this list. Town staff will consider including additional actions on this list, with the following caveats:

- Additional actions should be focused on mitigation of specific hazards, rather than planning for emergency operations. An example of this distinction is that “supporting wildfire fuels mitigation” is an appropriate goal for this list, but “develop wildfire evacuation plan” is an element of emergency operations planning.
- We will also include actions oriented around identifying and understanding the hazards listed above, such as seeking “best available data regarding” earthquake impacts in Alta.

Please contact Chris Cawley at ccawley@townofalta.com to provide input.

2.1.6.1 Mitigation Table - New Actions

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Action	Year Initiated	Goal/Objective	Hazard(s)	Agency Lead	Supporting Agency(ies)	Benefit	Cost	Funding Source	Priority	Timeframe	Comments
Update TOA Ordinance to promote fuel mitigation and structural defensibility	2019	Reduce structure ignitability	Wildfire	Town	UFA	High	Low	TOA Budget	medium	3 years	
Support UFA fuels mitigation on residential/commercial properties	2019	Reduce structure ignitability	Wildfire	UFA	Town	High	Low	UFA Budget	high	ongoing	
Maintain/improve water storage and distribution system	2019	Improve WUI response capability	Wildfire	Town	SLCO SA#3	High	High	BRIC Grant? TOA Water fund	medium	5 years	
Culverts along SR 210, Michigan City Road, additional storm water management features	2019	Reduce impacts to roadway, protect access to TOA water storage facility	Landslide/Severe Weather	Town/UDOT	USFS	Medium	Medium	BRIC Grant, UDOT	medium	5 years	
Seek best available data regarding the severity of WF earthquake in LCC	2019	Refine earthquake impact scenario	Earthquake	Town	UGS/FEMA	High	Low	--	high	1 year	
Support UDOT Remote Avalanche Control System (RACS) implementation	2019	Eliminate overhead fire w/ artillery, improve avalanche mitigation program efficiency	Avalanche	UDOT	Town, ski areas	Medium	High	UDOT	high	5 years	
Support UDOT avalanche detection system improvements	2019	Improve avalanche hazard forecasting	Avalanche	UDOT	Town, ski areas	Medium	High	UDOT	medium	5-10 years	
Seek new inundation map for improved Cecret Lake Dam	2019	Refine dam failure impact awareness	Dam Failure	SLC/DNR		Medium	Low	--	low	2 years	