TOWN OF MORRISTOWN AND VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN




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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

The impact of expected, but unpredictable, natural, and human-caused events can be reduced through community planning. The goal of this plan is to provide all-hazards local mitigation strategies that make Morristown more disaster resistant.

Hazard mitigation is any sustained action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to lives and property resulting from the effects of natural and human-caused hazards. Based on the results of previous Project Impact efforts, FEMA and state agencies have come to recognize that it is less expensive to prevent disasters than to repeatedly repair damage after a disaster has struck. This plan recognizes that communities have opportunities to identify mitigation strategies and measures each phase of Emergency Management – Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

Hazards cannot be eliminated, but it is possible to identify what the local hazards are, where the hazards are most severe, and what local actions can be taken to reduce the severity of incidents.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is to assist the Town of Morristown and Village of Morrisville to identify all hazards facing the community and develop strategies to begin reducing risks from these identified hazards.

Morristown strives to be in accordance with the strategies, goals and objectives of the 2018 Vermont State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The benefits of mitigation planning include:

- Aligning risk reduction with other plan and community objectives
- Prioritizing resources on the highest risks and vulnerabilities
- Identifying actions for risk reduction that have agreed upon by the community
- Increasing education and awareness of threats and hazards, as well as the level of risk

3. COMMUNITY PROFILE

3.1 GEOGRAPHY

Morristown is centrally located in Lamoille County covering 50.5 Square miles. The town abuts Johnson to the west, Stowe to the south, Elmore and Wolcott to the East and Hyde Park to the North. It is located 44.6 miles from Burlington and 25.3 miles from Montpelier.

Morristown is a predominantly rural, residential community. Morristown's village center is Morrisville, which has its own legislative body of Trustees and oversees the community's water and electric utilities. Morrisville is located around Route 100 between the intersections of Route 12 and 15. The town and the village share many services, including a road crew, a Planning Commission, a Development Review Board, emergency responders, some municipal staff, and numerous other resources. The Village, however, operates the Morrisville Water & Light Department, the primary utility for residents and businesses in both Morristown, Morrisville, and some surrounding communities.

There are just over 106.969 miles of road in Morristown, of which said total excludes Class 4 Roads and Legal Trails. Of the 106.969 total highway miles, 14.756 are state highways, 3.053 are class 1,15.41 are class 2, 73.75 are class 3. (Vermont Agency of Transportation, 2021) The Street Department is located on Old Creamery Road, and the Town highway facilities are located off Cochran Road. The four state highways in town are Route 15, Route 100, Route 12, and Route 15A. All are maintained by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Route 15 is the main east-west highway; it carries 14,099 vehicles towards Johnson, Route 12 carries 2,869 vehicles toward Elmore and Route 100 carries 10,559 vehicles towards Stowe (Vermont Agency of Transportation, 2020). Morristown has numerous (40) bridges and (646) culverts it must maintain on local roads. Because of the high cost of bridge repairs, the Town relies heavily on state aid for such work.

The Morrisville-Stowe State Airport is owned by the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation. It is located on Route 100, two miles south of Morrisville Village. There are 14 hangars, 32 "tie downs" for aircraft, 50 parking spaces for cars, a concrete fueling apron serviced by two 12,000-gallon underground tanks for low lead and Jet-A fuel. There is no control tower at the airport. Air traffic is controlled out of Nashua, New Hampshire. The airport is classified as a "general aviation" facility and provides service to small private users including some charter activity. The communication frequency for the airport is APP Boston Center 135.7; UNICOM/CTAF 122.8; GCO 135.075. (Morrisville-Stowe (MVL), n.d.).

3.2 DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Morristown is a small community, and between 2010 and 2020 the town's population increased from 5,227 residents to 5,434 residents (3.96%). (US Census, 2021) A large uptick in new home construction and multi-family apartment building construction in the latter half of the decade provided for most of this population growth, with the new multi-family housing especially present within the Village of Morrisville. The majority of housing units in the Town are single units detached and 68.8% of them are owner occupied.

During the plan update process, it was also noted that no substantial changes in development patterns have occurred in Morristown that would affect vulnerability or mitigation measures. Accordingly, the mitigation strategy approach remains appropriate and focused on the issues of greatest concern to the town. As identified in the Morrisville/Morristown Town Plan, new development is largely directed into the Village Center and at elevations above the Special Flood Hazard Area. Development outside the Village, that is located out in the Town tends to be at higher elevations, and generally away from most Special Flood Hazard Areas.

Regardless of a village or town location development is prohibited in the floodway unless a professional registered engineer determines that the encroachment will not result in any increase in flood levels during occurrence of the base flood discharge. Furthermore, development is strictly limited in unstudied flood zones, and any development that happens therein must prove that the bottom floor of the swelling will be located above the Base Flood Elevation. The procedures that new development must follow is outlined in section 323 Flood Fringe Areas of the Morrisville/Morristown Zoning Bylaws which can be found here: http://morristownvt.org/planzone.

Conditions of growth and revisions of priority have changed very little in the community. Changes in vulnerability have changed little in Morristown. Thus, this text remains relatively unchanged from the 2014 plan. As conditions and priorities in the community change, the plan update will reflect the documentation of the community's process or changes in the hazard mitigation program, along with the community's continued engagement in the mitigation planning process. (For FEMA reviewers, please see page 26 of the *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide*, 10/1/2011, available for download on the www.FEMA.gov website. It is worth noting that the FIRM has not been updated since 1987. When that map is updated to reflect current flood expectations, it is presumable that this section will change as well.)

The governing of the town is conducted by five elected members of the Selectboard, located in the Municipal Building in the village. Guidance for Town planning is provided by a five member Planning Council, statutorily appointed Planning Director, and seven-member Development Review Board. The Town's subdivision bylaw was originally adopted on October 14,1991 and has been updated on a nearly annual basis during the last decade. Flood hazard bylaws were incorporated into Zoning on November 27, 1995.

3.3 UTILITIES AND FACILITIES

There are two utilities that provide service to the Town: Morrisville Water and Light and Vermont Electric Cooperative. Morrisville Water and Light operates three power generation plants: Cady's Falls Dam constructed in 1906 with two generators; Morrisville Dam constructed in 1924 with two generators; and the Sanders Plant at the Green River Reservoir. The Morrisville Water and Light office and garage is located at 857 Elmore Street just inside the village of Morrisville.

3.4 PUBLIC SAFETY

The town's fire department has 19 full member and 2 junior members of the Volunteer Fire Department. The fire station is located on Elmore Street just south of the Village. They have seven vehicles; 1967 Utility Trailer, 2003 Spartan Pumper, 1999 Chevrolet 1 Ton Utility Brush Truck, 2014 Freightliner Tanker/Pumper, 2019 Ford Pumper Rescue Truck, 2019 Quint Aerial Pumper, 2021 Freightliner Tanker. They participate in the Lamoille County Mutual Aid Network for dealing with large fires. According to the 2021 Fire Report, the Morrisville fire department firemen responded to 233 calls. (DiGregorio, 2021)

There are three levels of police coverage in Morristown: the Morristown Police Department, the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department (LCSD) and the Vermont State Police (VSP). The town primarily relies on the services of the Morristown Police Department, with LCSD and VSP providing back up. The department consists of 11 full time police officers including the chief, plus one desk officer /dispatcher. They are located at the Morrisville Public Safety Building on Lower Main St., just as you come into the village. The LCSD dispatch is located on Main Street in Hyde Park Village. Apart from providing back up for the Morristown Police, the LCSD provides law enforcement to Johnson, Hyde Park and Wolcott. The Vermont State Police has an outpost located in Cambridge, but the barracks is located in Williston.

The Morristown EMS Department is a combination department of four paid professional staff, six part time staff members and 7 well trained volunteer members, serving the residents of Morrisville/Morristown and other surrounding communities in Lamoille County. According to the 2021 Annual EMS Report, Morristown Rescue/EMS responded to a record 801 calls, making 582 patient transports. 679 calls were in the primary Morristown EMS coverage area and 122 calls were requests for mutual aid or paramedic intercept in support of our Lamoille County neighbors. MEMS received mutual aid 12 times. (Mapes, 2021)

The primary healthcare facilities servicing the town are Copley Hospital and Community Health services of Lamoille County. Copley Hospital is a 25 bed critical access hospital that serves as an emergency care center, provides in-patient and out-patient services, a family oriented birthing center, and physical therapy and rehabilitation services. More specialized services are available in Burlington, Berlin, and Hanover, New Hampshire. Other outpatient care is available at other community clinics available in neighboring towns.

3.5 MUNICIPAL PLAN

Like the *Morrisville/Morristown Municipal Plan*, this hazard mitigation plan covers Morristown, which includes the Village of Morrisville. Throughout this plan, "Morristown" or the "Town" will be used interchangeably to cover both Morristown and Morrisville.

4. PLANNING PROCESS

4.1 PLAN DEVELOPERS

Stephanie Magnan from SEAM Solutions was hired to assist the Town with updating its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Hazard Mitigation Program funds from FEMA supported this process. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee members who assisted with the update are listed as follows:

Table 1: Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Committee Member	Title
Eric Dodge	Town Administrator
Bill Mapes	EMS
Kevin Barrows	Highway Superintendent
Jason Luneau	Police Chief
Andrew Glover	PD Corporal/Desk Officer
Denny Digregorio	Fire Chief
Todd Thomas	Planning Director/Zoning/Health

4.2 PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

This 2022 plan is the first single jurisdiction mitigation plan drafted for the Town. The previous Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted by the Town of Morristown in 2014 as an Annex to the Lamoille County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan adopted by the Lamoille County Planning commission in 2014.

This plan has been reorganized and reconstructed as a single jurisdiction plan that will be submitted for individual approval to FEMA. A summary of the process to update this Plan is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Plan Development Process

April 2, 2021: Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee kick-off meeting. Planning Committee members were confirmed. Discussed the LHMP, its benefits, how it ties into other plans, overview of community government and strategized how to accomplish the plan update.
June 16, 2021: Planning Committee met in person to discuss the purpose of the plan, review the data needs for the community profile, review the current hazards and added additional man-made hazards. It was decided the best way to encourage community feedback was via surveys to be posted on the Town's website and have paper surveys available at the Town Office.
June 21, 2021: Public notice of the plan update was posted on the Town's website for 30 days along with a notification that was sent to the Selectboard. Town Administrator's name and contact information was provided for feedback and comments. No comments were received.
July 20, 2021: Community survey was posted on the Town's website for 2 weeks. Received five responses. A separate survey was also sent to the hospital to get their input and it was filled out.
October 21, 2021: Planning Committee met to complete review of hazard identification, risk assessment and ranked them. Developed draft list of mitigation strategies.

October 27, 2021: Finalized data needs request. Developed updated list of critical facilities.
February 2, 2022: Reviewed list of strategies that were in the 2014 plan, determined all were accomplished and/or ongoing. Finalized list of new strategies to be included in the updated plan.
February 22, 2022: During the Regular Selectboard meeting the Draft plan presented to the Selectboard and community for feedback. Members of the public were present. No comments were received.
March 4, 2022 The Draft plan was submitted to VEM for review.
March 11, 2022 The Draft plan was distributed via email to the community Emergency Management Directors included in the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) region by an Assistant Planner at LCPC. The email included the draft plan and a request to review and to provide feedback to the Town Administrator. No comments were received.

In addition to the knowledgeable Planning Committee members and other community members, it is important to mention that in the process of updating this Plan; numerous plans, studies, reports, and technical information were utilized as listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Existing Plans, Studies, Reports, and Technical Information

2015-2022 Morrisville/Morristown Town Plan
2020-2030 DRAFT Morrisville/Morristown Town Plan
2020 Local Emergency Management Plan
2021 Town Zoning Bylaws
2021 FEMA NFIP Insurance Reports
VTrans Repeat Damage Tool
Vermont Center for Geographic Information
VT Agency of Natural Resources – Environmental Research Tool
2020 US Census

4.3 CHANGES SINCE THE 2014 PLAN

Morrisville/Morristown's 2022-2030 Town Plan "looks to preserve the existing rural feel of the undeveloped or lightly developed, remote sections of town, while also protecting the ridgelines that give our town its scenic backdrop." The town is bustling with new business growth such as the Manufacturing Solutions Inc. MSI and along with it comes the need for additional housing. Which currently is in the works with new residential townhouses and multi-family development. This means the amount of conserved land for recreation options need to be

bolstered for the growth in population that is anticipated. The Conservation Fund will be initiated. In addition, the town is also committed to protect waterbodies such as bogs, wetlands, rivers, etc., resources are important in filtering pollutants from stormwater as written in Chapter 12: Flood Resiliency of the new Town Plan.

The Town made significant progress in completing the mitigation projects identified in the 2014 Annex. Since the 2014 Annex the Town has had to respond to and recover from COVID-19. The primary change in priorities for this plan have been reflecting on lessons learned from COVID-19 and how better to plan and prepare to withstand infectious diseases. This plan focuses on natural hazards to align with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and ranks flooding, fluvial erosion, snow, cold, ice and wind as the communities' highest natural risks. The plan still recognizes manmade and technological hazards but are not the focus of mitigation actions. The Town has identified six new mitigation actions for this new plan with five of them having a direct impact on flooding and fluvial erosion protection and prevention. The relocating and improving upon the EOC will have an impact on all hazards that the Town is subjected to. See Table 9 for the complete list of actions

5. MORRISTOWN HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 LOCAL VULNERABILITIES AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The following assessment of the hazards has changed from the 2014 Plan assessment. This is to be consistent with the approach taken in the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation Plan while including hazards that were identified in the prior plan. While only natural hazards are a requirement for the plan the town also took into consideration other hazards such as structure fires, cyberattack and crashes that include both motor vehicles and airplanes as a state owned airport is located within the town border.

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee conducted an initial analysis of known hazard events, both natural and man-made, and determined their probability of occurring in the future. The Planning Committee then ranked the hazard impacts to infrastructure, life, economy, environment, then averaged. This average was then multiplied with the probability to arrive at the score outlined in Table 4.

Based on the scoring the Town identified the following natural hazards as being high risk and their community is most vulnerable to:

Flood Inundation	Fluvial Erosion	Snow
Ice	Cold	High Winds

Even though the town recognizes drought and heat as a hazard and may pose a threat to the residents the lack of occurrences and lower potential impact, they have been excluded from this plan. Other natural hazards that scored lower and were identified as lower risk hazards are not discussed in this plan, but more detailed information can be found in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Invasive Species

Invasive species was not discussed or formally assessed by the Planning Committee however the town has a Shade Tree Commission that continuously monitors for invasive species such as the Emerald Ash Borer. The Emerald Ash Borer was first detected in Vermont and in the Town of Morristown in 2018 and the Commission has made recommendations to the community and is taking preemptive public safety measures by removing smaller ash trees located on public property.

Table 4: Community Hazard Risk Assessment

Hazard Impact	Probability	Potential Impact					Score*
		Infrastructure	Life	Economy	Environment	Average	
Flood inundation and fluvial erosion	3	4	4	4	3	3.75	11.25
Winter storm, ice storm, extreme cold	3	4	4	4	3	3.75	11.25
High Winds	2	3	3	3	2	2.75	5.5
Wildfire	2	1	2	2	2	1.75	3.5
Drought and heat	3	3	1	2	2	2	6
Hail	1	2	1	2	1	1.5	1.5
Earthquake	1	2	2	2	1	1.75	1.75
Landslide	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Infectious Disease	1	1	4	4	1	2.5	2.5
Major highway crashes	4	2	4	2	3	2.75	11
Cyber Attack	3	3	3	3	3	3	9
Public place violence	2	1	4	3	1	2.25	4.5

*Score=Probability x Average Potential Impact

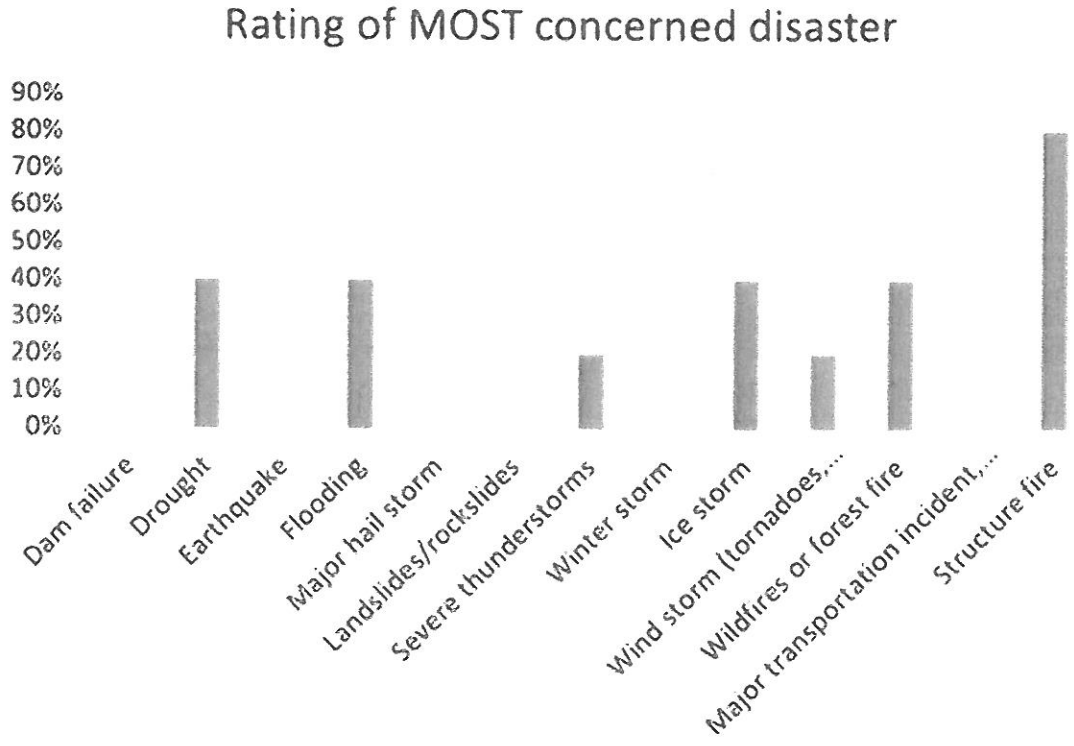
	Frequency of Occurrence: Probability of a plausibly significant event	**Potential Impact:** Severity and extent of damage and disruption to population, property, environment and the economy
1	Unlikely: < 1% probability of occurrence per year	Negligible: Isolated occurrences of minor property and environmental damage, potential for minor injuries, no to minimal economic disruption
2	Occasionally: 1% to 10% probability of occurrence per year, or at least one chance in the next 100 years	Minor: Isolated occurrences of minor property and environmental damage, potential for minor injuries, no to minimal economic disruption

3	Likely: >10% but <75% probability per year, at least one chance in the next 10 years	Moderate: Severe property and environmental damage on a community scale, injuries or fatalities, short-term impact
4	Highly Likely: > 75% probability in a year	Major: Severe property and environmental damage on a community or regional scale, multiple injuries or fatalities, significant economic impact

5.2 COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS BY HIGH RISK HAZARD

Based on the results of the Community Hazard Questionnaire conducted during the 2021 plan development, the history of disasters in the town, and the Morristown Hazard Assessment, the following hazards were consistently identified as threats to the community by its residents: structure fire, drought, flooding, ice storm, and wildfires.

Figure 1: Community Rating of Disaster Concern



The communities' concerns fall primarily in line with the Community Hazard Risk Assessment that the Planning Committee conducted. More data and historical information were made available to the Planning Committee during the evaluation.

A. FLOOD INUNDATION AND FLUVIAL EROSION

According to the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation Plan, "Flooding is the most common recurring hazard event in Vermont". Many flood inundation, fluvial erosion and flash flooding incidents have occurred over time and with climate change will only increase in both frequency and in extent. Flood inundation is the overflowing of rivers, streams, ponds and lakes due to excessive rain, rapid snow melt or ice. Flash flooding is a rapidly occurring flood event usually from excessive rain.

Fluvial Erosion is a "streambed and streambank erosion associated with physical adjustment of stream channel depth and width" according to the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation Plan. This usually occurs naturally over time as the channel adjusts. Fluvial erosion can occur more quickly and severely during flood events and as with flood inundation or flash flooding, can pose a significant risk to transportation infrastructure, buildings and farm land.
Fluvial erosion extent and historical occurrence data is not available, however the Lamoille River is recognized, by the Lamoille County Regional Planning Commission's Lamoille River Corridor Plan, as experiencing high rates of bank erosion and have implement numerous projects to stabilize the banks. The Lamoille River meanders through the town and has wreaked havoc on the community over the years. Since 1953 there have been 15 severe storms, 8 flood, and 3 hurricane declared disasters. More recently the following declarations have occurred. The most significant event occurred in August of 1995 when the Lamoille crested at 19.88 feet, 6.88 feet above flood stage. In 2011, a spring flood caused the Lamoille to crest at 16.97 feet. The following declarations provide more detail of these and more recent events:

Previous FEMA-declared natural disasters
Since 1990 Morrisville/Morristown has received public assistance funding from FEMA for the following natural disasters: (Officer, 2021)

DR 1063 - August 1995: Record setting heavy rains caused flooding in six north-central counties. This was the first time since 1927 that a flood not only affected public infrastructure, but also personally impacted the residents of Vermont. Preliminary damage assessments indicated individual losses greater than damages to public infrastructure. Flood levels exceeded the 500-year event in several areas along the Lamoille River. Morristown received $14,572 in public assistance.

DR 1228 - July 1998: Eleven of the fourteen Vermont counties experienced severe damage from excessive rainfall. The torrential rains came in much the same pattern as they had in the summer of 1997 but occurred further south than the 1997 floods. The flash flooding left many homes destroyed, roads and bridges damaged, and communities cut off from the rest of the state. Morristown received $108,403 in public assistance.

DR-1995 - April 23- May 9, 2011: Excessive rain and severe floods sweep across northern Vermont and the Champlain Valley, with a federal disaster declared for Addison, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille and Orleans counties on June 15, 2011. This declaration extended both Public Assistance and Individual Assistance funds to Lamoille County communities. Morristown used funds to repair 19 project worksheets. Road infrastructure received the most damage. Morristown received $242,448 in public assistance.

DR-4022 - August 30-31, 2011: Flooding and wind damage associated with Tropical Storm Irene led to the extension of a federal disaster declaration for all fourteen Vermont counties. While the damage sustained in Lamoille County was far less severe than other parts. Morristown sustained damage to roads, bridges, and culverts. Morristown received $18,000 in public assistance.

DR-4474 - October 31 – November 1, 2019: A powerful storm system tracked across the eastern Great Lakes late on October 31st and produced rainfall amounts from 3- 5 inches of rain, causing flooding across Addison, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans and Washington Counties. Another significant impact were the high winds (71 mph gusts) also in the area causing major power outages. This declaration extended both Public Assistance and Individual Assistance funds and Hazard Mitigation statewide. The Town of Morristown received

$190,721 in Public Assistance funds and Morristown used funds to repair two project worksheets for road infrastructure fixes. FHWA ER funds will also be applied to slope and culvert rehabilitation along VT-15.

Based on the results of utilizing GIS to overlay the digital FIRM flood maps with the location of structures in Morristown, which were GPS located for the development of the Enhanced 911 Emergency services dispatch system, 26 vulnerable locations were identified to have potential of flood inundation based on the 100-year floodplain. The estimated loss for damage to these properties was calculated by using the median housing estimated by the 2019 American Community Survey.

Table 5: Morristown Potential Flood Loss (American Community Survey - US Census, 2019)

Town	Median Housing Value	Structures in Floodplain (% of total)	Potential Flood Loss
Morristown	$227,700	26 (1.0%)	$5,920,200

The Floodplain, Bridge and Culvert are included in the "Local Areas of Concerns" Map in Appendix_B, which identifies the areas of town that are within the 100-year floodplain. The Local Areas of Concern map Appendix B identifies other areas of potential loss to infrastructure due to erosion and road flooding. A culvert maintenance and replacement project list are formulated each year for culverts that have large spalls, heavy scaling, wide cracks, holes, integral wing walls nearly severed from culvert, severe scour or erosion, extreme distortion/defection, and extensive corrosion. Morristown historically has recorded numerous floods. Annual flood events are common in some form. Damage covers a wide range. The 1927 flood caused extensive damage in the community, structural damage, destruction of roads, bridges, railroad bed/bridges and loss of crops and supply interruptions. The floods of 1984, 1995 and 1997 also caused significant damage.

Roads, bridges, residences, and businesses along the Lamoille River have experienced repeated damage caused by flooding. The Duhamel and Goeltz Roads as well as Route 15 near the boat access above Riverview Garage have been repeatedly affected by flood events. Other vulnerable sites include:

- Houses on Lower Bridge St. on both sides of Lake Lamoille that are susceptible to flooding
- Mountain View Campground on Route 15 during camping season
- Two houses at the end of Duhamel Road
- Tenny Bridge Area, well sites and all houses near Riverview Garage
- Sterling Valley area for Road damage

In 2018, the Town with the aid of the Lamoille Regional Planning Commission completed an inventory of hydrologically-connected roads for the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). This inventory identified areas that are vulnerable to flash flooding and recommended corrective actions to make the transportation infrastructure more resilient.

Water contamination of private wells and springs is a potential problem during flood events. Both Village public drinking water wells are housed in concrete or cinder block buildings that provide significant protection from contamination. In the case of an extreme flood (1995), the Lamoille

River can overtop the primary well casing. This leads to river water being discharged directly into the well and results in a boil water notice. The Village does accommodate requests for water by users outside its systems, and they provide several thousand gallons annually. Typically, the water is collected from a designated hydrant and hauled in bulk milk tanks.

B. WINTER STORM/ICE STORM/COLD

Snowstorms are heavy accumulations of snow that can sometimes be accompanied by high winds that cause hazardous travel due to low visibility. Because of its geography winter storms and ice events are common in the community and will continue indefinitely into the future. Morristown encounters varying levels of snow and ice during the winter months but on average receives 97.8 inches of snow annually. One of the largest snowfalls occurring in February 2007 in upwards of 36" of snow fell over the region. Due to the region's mountainous terrain, it is not uncommon for precipitation to range from rain in the valley area, to ice in the middle elevations, with heavy snows in the higher terrain. This poses a major challenge for highway maintenance personnel.

Winter Storms have resulted in structural damage to residences and businesses in the past. Normally damage is the result of heavy snow causing roof failures. Ice events and heavy wet snows have caused numerous power outages due to power line damage.

Roadways closed due to heavy snows are opened as quickly as possible. Snow removal equipment is maintained for all town highways and the Vermont Agency of Transportation maintains equipment for state highways. Snowfalls that are within normal snowfall limits are handled effectively, however during heavy snowfall for extended periods of time, removal of snow becomes an issue. Historically, these events are not frequent and are short in duration. During such events, radio communication is maintained between highway crews and town emergency responders.

Ice Storms are events in which rain or wet snow freezes as it comes in contact with the ground, trees, power lines, roads etc. and create hazardous situations. Prolonged ice storms tend to cause power outages and can pose a threat to the community and their ability to heat homes and have access to running water. While an ice event may only occur once every 10 years the impact on a community can be significant.

DR 1201 - January 1998

A storm system moved from the Tennessee Valley on Wednesday (January 7) and Thursday (January 8) into New England thereafter. A cold front across New England and New York associated with an Arctic High Pressure system across Canada resulted in a flow of low level cold air into Vermont. Warm moist air riding over this low level cold air resulted in icing across portions of this area. Significant icing was generally restricted between 1500 and 2500 foot level. Ice accumulations during this event were generally 3/4 of an inch or less. The impact on the region ranged from ice accumulations damaging tens of thousands of trees. Downed power lines resulted from the weight of the ice with several thousands of Vermont residents without power. Farmers who lost electricity were unable to milk cows with loss of income and damage to cows. Automobile travel was negatively impacted with a number of roads closed due to ice and fallen trees. Morrisville Water & Electric received $114,655 in public assistance.

Extreme cold can have significant effects on human health, businesses, and can significantly impact infrastructure. The definition of extreme cold depends on the local climate. Extended

periods of cold during winters are likely to occur. One of the most prolonged cold episodes lasted from January 18 to February 3, 1969. The temperature remained below 0°F consistently and water mains around the state burst in record numbers. Other instances include February 1993 and January 1997, both of which were caused by Arctic high-pressure systems. In the winter of 2015, below freezing temperatures were maintained for 27 days. Frigid Arctic air has continued to impact longer or very cold weather events in the past few years

Local construction equipment, such as generators, in the community has been used in the past to augment community resources. Most residents are accessible during severe weather conditions, although access may be delayed.

In the event of a major incident that causes power failure, Morrisville Water & Light could likely restore and direct power to critical facilities as the rest of the system is repaired. Morrisville Water and Light, along with the VT Department of Health, Lamoille County Sheriff's Department, and United Way, also maintain a list of vulnerable populations who may require additional assistance during long term outages.

C. WINDSTORMS/HIGH WINDS

Windstorms are high wind events without precipitation. High winds can also occur with precipitation during tropical storm, hurricanes, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and blizzards. Powerful windstorms represent a four-season hazard in Vermont. Impacts may vary from highly localized events to storms causing widespread damage. These storms frequently damage structures, trees, and powerlines and cause power outages. In December 2010, a damaging windstorm in central and northwest Vermont led to a federal disaster declaration for Chittenden, Franklin, and Lamoille counties. Windstorms pose risk to the entire community.

Damaging winds and flooding may also be caused by hurricanes and tropical storms, which travel up the Atlantic coastline. While the risk to Vermont is not on par with the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast states, the associated rain and flooding caused by these storms has had devastating impacts locally. In 1938, a hurricane swept across New England, causing what was once cited as the worst flooding in the state's history (reaching a force of 12 on the Beaufort Wind Scale, with estimated winds of 74 mph). In some regions, the 1938 hurricane was only recently eclipsed by the impact of Tropical Storm Irene, which devastated southern and central Vermont in August 2011. In November 2019 a powerful storm system tracked across the eastern Great Lakes late on October 31st and produced rainfall amounts from 3- 5 inches of rain, causing flooding across Addison, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans and Washington Counties. Another significant impact were the high winds (71 mph gusts) also in the area causing major power outages. This declaration extended both Public Assistance and Individual Assistance funds and Hazard Mitigation statewide. The Town of Morristown received $190,721 in Public Assistance funds and Morristown used funds to repair two project worksheets for road infrastructure fixes. FHWA ER funds will also be applied to slope and culvert rehabilitation along VT-15.

D. OTHER HAZARDS

Major Highway Accidents

A number of High Accident Locations have been identified within Morristown (See Section 4.2.2 below). The town has been in contact with VTrans to improve the safety of these areas.

Hazardous material traffic accidents are less likely but are of particular concern as Route 15 is a major east-west thruway and the proximity of critical facilities, schools and residences to the road creates potential for mass casualty incidents (more than 4 injured people) including motor vehicle accidents (particularly tour or school busses) where response agencies may be overburdened.

Structure Fires

Village of Morrisville contains a concentration of densely developed structures that pose a risk for large-scale, multiple structure fires. Mutual aid agreements with surrounding municipalities are in place and the water supply meets NFPA codes.

Wild/Forest Fires

Across much of Vermont, small wildland and brush fires are common, but the probability of major forest fires is very *low*. Peak wildfire season is in April, just after spring "green-up." A second window of wildfire vulnerability typically occurs in early fall. Every town in Vermont has a designated Forest Fire Warden, who receives daily updates from the Division of Forestry during periods of elevated risk. The Division of Forestry also hosts annual Forest Fire Warden training at locations throughout the state. The risk of wildfires is most severe in outlying areas of development– away from the town's major highways– where structures are surrounded by ignitable hard and softwood forests. The potential for wildfires exists although the town has adequate equipment and mutual aid agreements in place to respond appropriately.

Air Crash

The potential for an air crash is considered *moderate* and exists due to the proximity of the Morrisville-Stowe airport. While the Morrisville Fire Department has minimal training to deal with large scale accidents, smaller crashes (2-4) people would not overburden the department. The potential for development of the airport creates the possibility of larger aircraft to fly into town. Overall, more training on this hazard is needed.

Dam Failure

There is one dam located in the Village and one in the Town that have the potential for dam failure. The Green River Dam is located about 4.3 miles above the confluence with the Lamoille River in the Garfield area of Hyde Park. The Green River Dam is owned and operated by Morrisville Water and Light and has been operated as a water storage project since its construction in 1947. Hydroelectric generating facilities have been installed at the site and are now in operation. An Emergency Action Plan for the Green River Dam was developed (02/22/06) and is housed at the Morrisville Water and Light Department and LCPC offices. The plan was developed to minimize loss of life and property along the Green and Lamoille Rivers in the downstream communities that would potentially be affected by a dam failure or flooding including Garfield, Morrisville, Cadys Falls Hyde Park, Johnson and Ithiel Falls. The plan provides procedures to notify emergency response entities in the event of a dam failure. The Green River Dam is classified as a high hazard facility, meaning that should the structure fail, there is potential for loss of life and extensive economic loss. The project is an unmanned facility operated from Morrisville Water and Light. A qualified employee inspects the facility at a minimum of two times a week. Sensors and alarms are installed that would alert Morrisville Water and Light of possible emergency situations. Probable causes of dam failure emergencies may include earthquakes, extreme storms, equipment malfunctions, structural damage and/or deteriorations, and sabotage.

Hailstorm

With Vermont's variable weather patterns, hail is a four-season threat to both public and private

property. While the likelihood of a severe hailstorm is low, smaller storms may damage homes and automobiles. Hailstorms pose risk to the entire community.

Earthquakes

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the risk of earthquakes in Vermont and much of northern New England is rated moderate, compared with the high risk attributed to much of the West Coast and lower-Midwest. Lamoille County has not experienced any property damage or loss of life attributed to an earthquake in its history.

Landslides

The risk of a landslide is most often associated with flooding, erosion, and other impacts of heavy rain. Although landslides have caused property damage in the nearby Towns of Johnson and Cambridge in recent years, there are no known risks in Morristown and the susceptibility of landslides is low. Landslides usually occur along steep slopes with thick soils. Most are in proximity to fluvial (riverine) systems. There is a probability of landslides depending on the relationship between rocks and soils to natural or artificial cutting or loading of slopes, or high precipitation. For more information on landslides, see the State of Vermont Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Impact of Power Shortage/Failure

One of the most common impacts of major natural disasters can be the prolonged loss of electricity, whether from localized damage to distribution systems or from remote impacts to generation and transmission facilities. Based on the rural character of the town and its concerns with transportation infrastructure in inclement weather, protracted loss of power could significantly endanger health and safety, have substantial economic consequences, or cause stress and severe inconvenience to the town's residents and businesses. The shortage of energy and food supplies could threaten the welfare of the citizens of Morristown. The dependency upon out of state sources can become a problem when normal deliveries are interrupted.

The Morristown Police Department (EOC), Fire Department, Rescue facility, Senior Center, and Copley Hospital each have generators at their facilities, with the Highway department possessing a portable unit.

Hazardous Materials(HAZMAT) Spill

In Vermont, businesses and facilities storing hazardous materials are required to file a report with Vermont Division of Emergency Management (VEM) and their Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC), detailing the volume and type of substance. REMC's receive funds from VEM to carry out planning and preparedness activities, including commodity flow studies to track the transport of hazardous substances and outreach to non-reporting HAZMAT storage sites.

HAZMAT Tier II Sites

The inventory maintained by VTHAZMAT identifies 36 Tier II sites in the Town of Morristown. A Tier II site is defined by federal law under the Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and is generally any facility which uses or possesses reportable quantities of chemicals requiring material safety data sheets by VOSHA, known human carcinogens, extremely hazardous substances, explosives which require licensing or certain threshold quantities of petroleum products.

A large number of Tier II sites are located within one mile of the center of Morrisville. This location houses all emergency response equipment, the town offices, elderly housing, the EOC and the local schools. It is also important to note that many hazardous materials that pass through two identified High Accident Locations in the town are also within 1 mile of

the school, EOC and town offices. There are 42 critical facilities in the town, see Appendix C, with 33 of the critical facilities located within 1,000 feet of a Tier II site, 4 are within the flood zone, 21 are within 500 feet of a major road and 16 critical facilities that are impacted by at least two known hazards.

Hazardous waste sites have the potential to contaminate and pollute water systems and other ecosystems. According to the State's Waste Management Interactive Database, between 2015 and 2021, 65 incidents involving hazardous materials spills have occurred. Most of the spills involved small quantities of petroleum products. These spills mostly involved very limited quantities of oil or other petroleum products. (Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, 2015-2021)

As of November 2021, the following table lists the 10 active hazardous waste site locations identified in the State's Waste Management Research Tool. (Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, 2015-2021)

Table 6: Morristown Hazardous Spill Sites

Site#	Site Name	Site Address	Site Town	Priority	Discovery Date
20204914	26 Hutchins	26 Hutchins Street	Morristown	LOW	12-11-2019
20073663	Bournes Bulk Plant	Route 100	Morristown	MED	07-02-2007
20043300	DeNoia's Dry Cleaners	140 Portland Street	Morristown	MED	12-09-2004
20053352	Emerson Property	120 Pleasant St.	Morristown	LOW	09-16-2004
20204953	Hess Salvage Yard Solar Site	1141 Laporte Road	Morristown	LOW	06-18-2020
961962	Lakeside Garage	Bridge St	Morristown	MED	03-01-1996
20215068	Mac's-Morrisville-New Release	302 VT RT 15 West	Morristown	LOW	07-07-2021

931469	Morristown Corner Store	Stage Coach Rd	Morristown	LOW	10-01-1993
20104112	Morristown Rite Aid	48 Congress Street	Morristown	LOW	09-30-2010
20114207	Morrisville Water and Light	56 ; 36 A Street	Morristown	LOW	
20174699	Ransom property	49 Foundry Street	Morristown	MED	01-26-2017

The State's database also lists 42 hazardous waste generators and 15 active underground storage tank facility locations in the Town. The potential for severe pollution impacts to water quality and ecosystems exists from hazardous waste sites and/or from facilities which use hazardous materials. (Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, 2015-2021)

The accompanying Areas of Local Concern map Appendix B outlines the potential impact of a HAZMAT incident in terms of structures affected within a community from a fixed site and in terms of structures affected along a HAZMAT transportation corridor or route where an accident might occur.

When assessing community vulnerability, the impact of both fixed site and transportation were considered. Using the U.S. Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook, a 1000 foot buffer was selected. For fixed site facilities, a 1000 foot radius circle was drawn around that site to determine the area of potential impact. For potential transportation incidents, a 500 foot buffer on each side of US and State Highways, Class I and II roads was used to determine potential impact. The estimated potential loss for properties within 500 feet of a major roadway is $7,969,500. Average of 35 properties within 1000 feet, say of an incident occurring on a major roadway.

Table 7: Morristown Potential Hazard Loss (Transportation)

Town	Median Housing Value	Structures within 500' of a major road (% of total) and 1000' buffer of a single hazardous spill incident	Potential Hazard Loss

Morristown	$227,700	1,092 (45%) Total Approx. 35 within a 1000' of a single incident	$7,969,500

Of the 2,416 structures within the town 722 structures are within 1000 feet of a Tier II site. Structures include all residential, commercial, and public buildings in a town. Structures are only counted once. This means that if a 3 unit apartment building is within 1000 feet of three Tier II sites, it is only counted once, not three times. Based on the median housing value for Morristown, 2019 American Community Survey, the estimated potential loss for all properties within 1000 feet of a Tier II is $105,528,500.

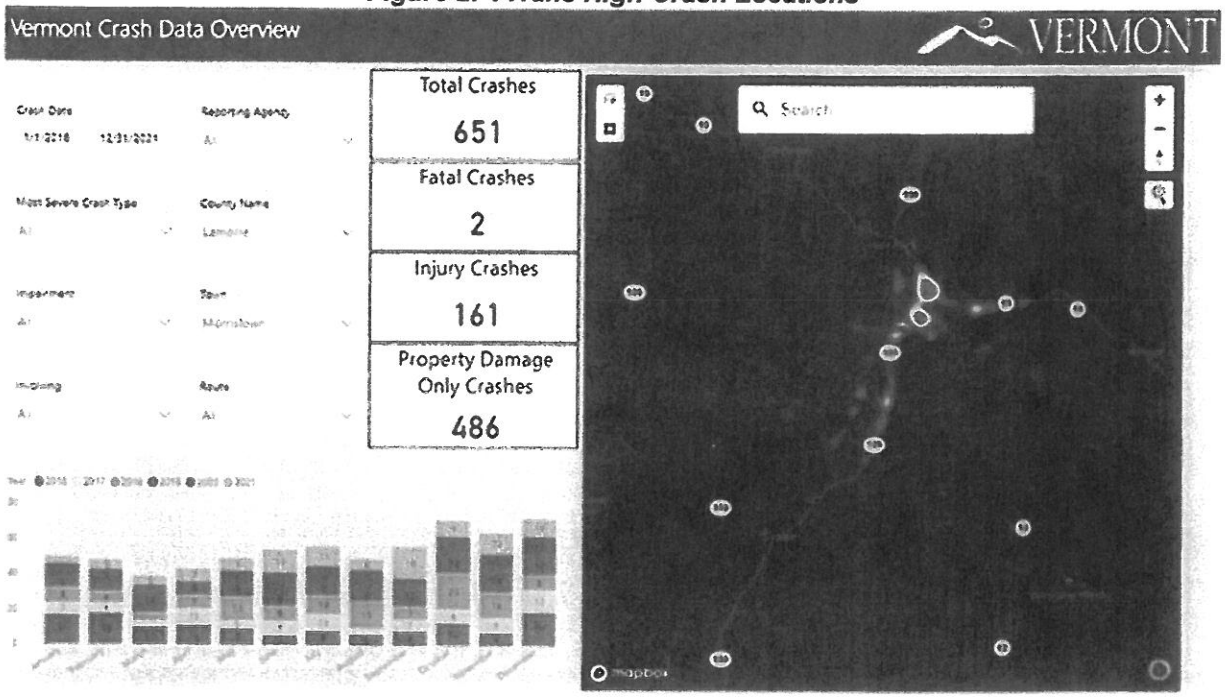
Table 8: Morristown Potential Tier II Hazard Loss (fixed) (Department of Fire Safety - HazMat Division)

Town	Median Housing Value	Structures within 1000' of Tier II site (% of total)	Potential Tier II Hazard Loss
Morristown	$227,700	705 (29.18%)	$106,528,500

Transportation Hazards

Two major intersections, the VT Route 100 and 15A intersection, the VT Route 15 and 100 intersections have been identified by VTRANS as being high crash locations. Including the two intersections above, sixteen total High Accident Intersections and Road Sections have been identified. The town is most concerned with the south end of the bypass, the intersection of Silver Ridge Rd, Needles Eye Rd and VT 15, and Morristown Corners Rd and VT 100. The town has been in contact with VTRANS to improve the safety of these areas. (Office of Highway Safety Data Unit, n.d.)

Figure 2: VTrans High Crash Locations



A culvert study was conducted in 2001 and has been periodically reviewed. VTrans maintains an inventory of state owned long and short bridges along with town long bridges and regularly inspects them. Bridges with a federal sufficiency rating of less than 50 (out of 100) should be considered for replacement. Morristown currently has only one bridge that has a lower than 50 sufficiency rating but is currently looking at grant money to make the necessary repairs in order to improve that number. However, as bridges are reinspected this could change over the next 5 years and should be reviewed annually. (Structures Division, n.d.)

Cybersecurity

Cyber attacks represent a potential threat to information security, a hacker can gain access through a weak point in a firewall and then gain access to data. Attacks are becoming an everyday occurrence that shows no slowing down in the future. It is important for town governments to protect their information including access to banking information.

Infectious Diseases

The Vermont State Hazard Mitigation Plan states, "an epidemic emerges when an infectious disease occurs suddenly in numbers that are in excess of normal expectancy. Infectious disease outbreaks put a strain on the healthcare system and may cause continuity issues for local businesses. These outbreak incidents are a danger to emergency responders, healthcare providers, schools, and the public. This can include influenza (e.g. H1N1), pertussis, West Nile virus, and many other diseases."

DR-4532 - January 2020 - An unprecedented major disaster was declared a pandemic. COVID-19 was of the severity and magnitude that the need for supplemental Federal assistance was determined to be necessary prior to the completion of joint Federal, State, and Local government Preliminary Damage Assessments. This declaration made emergency protective measures (Cat B) available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations

on a cost-sharing basis for all areas in the State of Vermont. Morristown initially received $20,071.68 based on population (verifying with VEM – PA officer)

Communities quickly needed to learn how to adapt to remote working and continue operating of their government and conducting business as a public entity. Many lessons have been learned and adapted into their continuity plans for future events.

6. HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGIES AND GOALS

6.1 TOWN OF MORRISTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS

The following universal hazard mitigation goals have been identified through recent and past mitigation planning efforts to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerability to identified hazards:

- Reduce the loss of life and injury resulting from all hazards
- Reduce the economic impacts from natural and human-caused hazards, by protecting private property and public infrastructure
- Minimize disruptions to the local road network to maintain emergency access
- Encourage hazard mitigation planning to be incorporated into other community planning projects, including updates to the Town Plan, Basic Emergency Operations Plan, Capital Plan and other special planning projects
- Continue to incorporate broad public input into the hazard mitigation planning process
- Continue to encourage public preparedness, including efforts such as: vegetation removal, securing fuel tanks, storm resistant building materials, or snow load roofs
- Develop continuity of operations (COOP) and continuity of government (COOC) plans

6.2 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES THAT SUPPORT HAZARD MITIGATION

An updated version of the Morristown Town Plan will be adopted in the Spring of 2022. Morristown integrates hazard mitigation planning efforts through its Town Plan goals and policies. The Town's subdivision bylaw was originally adopted on October 14, 1991 and has been updated annually over the last decade. Flood hazard bylaws were incorporated into Zoning on November 27, 1995. Special protection areas addressed in the Morrisville/Morristown Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws include Flood Hazard Areas based on the 1987 FEMA Flood Hazard Boundary Maps (FHBMs) for the town of Morristown and the Village of Morrisville.

Primary Town Plan goals and policies that support hazard mitigation are:

- Flood Risk and flood resiliency
  - Identifying the 32 structures in the SFHA
  - "Structures located in SFHA that are substantially damaged, or substantially improved, should have their lowest floor elevated at least 2 feet above the base flood elevation. This plan also supports the unique section of the town's existing zoning bylaws that require mechanicals in the basements of new homes to be located above the base flood elevation, even when said home is located outside, but within 100 feet of the SFHA."
- Programmatic means to increase flood resiliency
  - the town must continue to enforce the Flood Hazard Regulations found in §320 of its zoning bylaws to maintain participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. This plan strongly supports FEMA studying and mapping the undetermined flood zones in Morristown (including the

re-study of the Ward Pond area where the dam was long ago breached), as better flood date equals better flood protection. Because only 13% of the assumed structures in the SFHA carry insurance, this plan supports greater participation from property owners.
    - As such, the Planning Council should reach out to the residences at 416 Bridge Street, 965 Cadys Falls Road, 48, 51, & 69 North River Street that are believed to be in the flood zone to discuss the benefits of carrying flood insurance.
- Structural means to increase flood resiliency
    - Utilize structural means available to protect people, and property, from flooding such as the use of fill placed in the fringe of studied flood zones
- Fluvial Erosion
    - The Planning Council should evaluate these remote SFHAs in the town that have not been studied to determine in which areas it is actually logical to adopt the river corridor layer, and to develop companion zoning restrictions.
- Flood resiliency of the town's road network
    - Maintaining drainage run-outs, and the installation of check dams in drainage ditches with steep slopes, are strategies that the town road crew should look to employ more often in order to increase the resiliency of the town's rural gravel roads.

6.3 MITIGATION STRATEGIES

A. EXISTING HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES

The following is a list of ongoing activities in the Town of Morristown. Notes for each section describe the completed, deleted or deferred mitigation action as a benchmark for progress; if activities are unchanged, a description has been provided as to why no changes occurred or are not necessary.

Community Preparedness Activities

- Attendance at professional training sessions of Emergency Responders and public officials.
    - Ongoing
    - Town Staff attends professional training sessions on an as-needed basis and as time allows.
- Exercise Training
    - The Morrisville Water & Light Department/Town Administrator/EMD facilitated the Green River Reservoir Tabletop Exercise completed in 2010 and 2016.
    - The Town Administrator/EMD, along with representatives from Morrisville Water & Light Department, will facilitate a full scale exercise planned for 2022
- Continue to train public officials and local responders in the use of the Incident Command System (ICS).
    - NIMS/ICS compliant training as appropriate, LE, activity shooter, ics 100, 200 etc

    - Additional ICS training is desired for the Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and Police
- Ensure that all emergency response and management personnel receive HAZMAT Awareness training as a minimum.
    - Ongoing - HAZMAT Awareness training for all emergency response and management personnel is adequate at this time.
- Ensure procedures are in place for rapid evacuation of essential facilities.
- Ongoing.
- Evacuation procedures were discussed in the Green River Reservoir Tabletop Exercise; an increased emphasis on evacuation and sheltering is anticipated in future exercises.
- Integrate additional mitigation measures in local land use planning and ordinance development processes.
- Ongoing.
- The Zoning Bylaws are updated annually in Morristown. As such, any hazard mitigation considerations are never more than 12 months away from being incorporated in the next zoning update. The next update to the Zoning Bylaws is currently scheduled for the fall of 2022

Activities being removed - Completed/Deferred/Deleted

- Adopt a BEOP – Completed as of 2014 Plan update
- Support of mission and maintain members in the Lamoille County Community
- Emergency Response Team (CERT) – Deferred in last plan and deleting, defunct non active team
- Review and study the need for additional foam capability by the Fire Department to minimize the impact of a HAZMAT incident. *Completed*

<u>Financial and Tax Incentives</u>

- Annual investment of local tax dollars in highway mitigation projects.
    - Ongoing.
    - Highway mitigation projects are implemented as resources allow
    - Currently, we are utilizing Grant-In-Aid money from VTrans to supplement local tax dollars in continued upsizing of culverts and armoring ditches that are hydrologically connected to our roadways.
- Use of State and Federal funding for mitigation projects and activities.
    - Ongoing.
    - Town staff monitors opportunities for the use of State and Federal funding for mitigation projects and activities. However, cost benefit analysis makes some programs difficult to use.

<u>Hazard Control and Protective Works</u>

- Highway Maintenance Program (culvert survey & replacement, ditching along roadways, cutting vegetation to allow visibility at intersections).
    - Completed/Ongoing.

- The Town has a strong Highway Maintenance Program that is constantly ditching, cutting vegetation, and up-sizing culverts, based on most evident needs.

National Flood Insurance Program Compliance

- Participation in NFIP since July 2,1987
  - Ongoing
  - The Zoning & Flood Zone Administrator reviews all development applications for NFIP compliance and works with homeowners to properly elevate their homes prior to building. Larger development applications are handled by the Morrisville/Morristown Development Review Board for compliance. Any development has its foundation inspected by the Flood Plain Administrator prior to vertical construction. Post development Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) submittal by the applicant proving that the bottom floor is above the base flood elevation. Non-compliance will result in a fine of $200 a day until the violation has been corrected.

  - There are 10 structures located in Morrisville that are estimated to be located in the Special Flood Hazard Area. Only two of these structures have flood insurance in place. There are 22 structures located in Morristown that are estimated to be located in the Special Flood Hazard Area. Again, only two of these structures have flood insurance policies in place. To encourage greater flood resiliency, the Town should encourage greater participation in the flood insurance program from the properties, both town and village, located in the Special Flood Hazard Area. The NFIP repetitive losses database reports that there are two residential structures in Morristown and one within the village that have suffered repetitive loss. The Town believes that there are 3 structures located in the Village that have suffered repetitive losses due to flooding, and there another 2 structures repetitive loss structures located in the Town. The Town should work with the owners of these repetitive loss properties to ascertain if elevating these properties to an elevation above the base flood can make them reasonably safe from flooding. In the interim, the Town will continue to regulate and enforce NFIP requirements through its floodplain Management ordinance, including new and substantially improved construction in Special Flood Hazard Areas, and providing floodplain identification and mapping determinations.

- Chapter 12, Flood Resiliency, of the (pending approval) Morrisville / Morristown Town Plan:

  - Structures located in Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) that are substantially damaged, or substantially improved, should have their lowest floor elevated at least 2 feet above the base flood elevation.
  - The plan supports avoiding new construction in identified flood hazard, fluvial erosion, and river corridor protection areas when a Floodway has not been determined.
  - The town must continue to enforce the Flood Hazard Regulations found in §320 of its zoning bylaws to maintain participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

- This plan strongly supports FEMA studying and mapping the undetermined flood zones in Morristown (including the re-study of the Ward Pond area where a dam was long ago breached), as better flood data equals better flood protection.
- This plan strongly supports FEMA studying and mapping the undetermined flood zones in Morristown (including the re-study of the Ward Pond area where a dam was long ago breached), as better flood data equals better flood protection (the Planning Council should reach out to the residences at 416 Bridge Street, 965 Cadys Falls Road, 48, 51, & 69 North River Street that are believed to be in the flood zone to discuss the benefits of carrying flood insurance).
- This plan is categorically opposed to the use of fill-in Floodway, unless compensatory storage is provided on more than a 1:1 basis (in addition to the FEMA required hydrological and hydraulic studies).
- This plan supports the use of fill inside the SFHA to protect people and property from floodwaters, when said fill is placed outside the adjacent Floodway. However this plan does not support the use of fill in a SFHA where a Floodway has not been determined, unless there is an accompanying requirement for compensatory storage on at least a 2:1 basis (which will improve flood readiness by increasing the area's capacity to store and attenuate flood waters).
- This plan believes there is merit to adopting river corridor regulations in the rural sections of town where the base flood level of an SFHA has not been determined. Fill is not recommended in areas without a base flood elevation, and these floodplains should be preserved to allow for flood attenuation, fluvial erosion, and the actual meandering of the river over time. The Planning Council should evaluate these remote SFHAs in the town that have not been studied to determine in which areas it is actually logical to adopt the river corridor layer, and to develop companion zoning restrictions.
- This plan supports the proactive maintenance of drainage run-outs, and the installation of check dams in drainage ditches with steep slopes, as strategies that the town road crew should look to employ more often in order to increase the resiliency of the town's rural gravel roads.
- The plan supports the pending update of the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan, as continued flood emergency preparedness, and response planning, should always be encouraged.

The Town Plan does not speak to the purchase of properties, or development rights, for flood protection. However, there is ample regulation in the Town's Zoning Bylaws that achieves more than reasonable Flood Hazard protection from the 100-year storm event, especially when it comes to private property and newly proposed development.

The second to last policy listed above (from the Flood Resiliency Chapter of the Town Plan) also briefly speaks to water quality measures by promoting proper drainage runout maintenance, and the installation of check dams to curb erosion on steep sections of Town Roads. The Utility & Facility Chapter of the Town Plan includes an entire section that speaks to stormwater infrastructure. Language from that section provides direct support for "the separation of contaminated stormwater in parking lots from clean rooftop runoff, which can be infiltrated back into the ground without treatment. Another water quality related policy from the Town Plan very succinctly states that "the town should continue to partner with the Conservation District to retrofit areas where stormwater is an issue, or where significant water quality results can be achieved.

Land Use Planning/Management

- Flood Hazard Ordinance adopted November 27, 1995
- Municipal Development Plan adopted March 13, 2008
- The current Town Plan was adopted September 22, 2015; a plan update is currently underway and anticipated to be complete sometime in 2022. In accordance with Vermont planning statute, the updated Plan will contain a land use element, addressing hazard mitigation issues including floodplain storage and storm water, among others.

Protection/Retrofit of Infrastructure and Critical Facilities

- Mapping of Critical and Essential Facilities.
    - Ongoing
    - As part of the Lamoille County Planning Commission's FY12 Emergency Management Planning Grant
    - As the electric companies replace lines and poles, consider burying lines underground and upgrade rating/ resistance to snow and ice loads.
        - Ongoing.
        - Repairs are made continually as needed and as financial situations allow.

Public Awareness, Training & Education

Use this plan for Hazard Identification and Mapping, including public partners.

- Since the first plan iteration, the disaster/declaration and response process has informed Town operations and the general public concerning the need for infrastructure and systems evaluation, monitoring and documentation especially as related to floods, winter storms, and power outages. This process will continue as public discussion, input and funding options for hazard mitigation projects are brought forward to the Selectboard.
- Additionally, all local and regional partners will use disaster events as a trigger to evaluate and improve the efficacy of this plan and necessary mitigation efforts.

Institute an Emergency Preparedness Education Program in the school.

- Completed/Ongoing
- Morristown Elementary School completed an Emergency Operations Plan and tabletop exercise in 2008.
- The Morristown Police Department coordinates this training and exercise coordination with all Morristown Schools.
- Ongoing actions will continue in future planning cycles through REMC activities.

Enhance public education and community outreach regarding the National Flood Insurance Program.

- Ongoing

Support Family and Community Disaster Preparedness.

- Deferred from last planning cycle
- Progress was made on emergency preparedness planning to address local educational institutions and special populations. In this planning cycle efforts will focus on community notification of evacuation plans and mitigation resources.

Collaborate with the American Red Cross chapter to assist with community education programs and shelter agreements.

- Ongoing
- Morrisville has 7 shelters with American Red Cross shelter agreements in place. Morrisville will continue to maintain these shelters and coordinate with the Disaster Program Manager for Northern Vermont
- The three main emergency shelters include the People's Academy Gym, Morrisville Elementary, and the National Guard Armory.

Activities being removed - Completed/Deferred/Deleted

- Conduct HAZMAT Drills involving all elements of the community to practice procedures associated with a simulated HAZMAT incident.
  - Completed.
  - The 2010 Green River Reservoir Tabletop Exercise was funded through the federal Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning grant and tested response capabilities to a regional HAZMAT incident.2016 branch out to other incidents

<u>Public Protection</u>

- Maintain emergency communications and information systems (NOAA weather receivers, Emergency Alert System (EAS).
  - Ongoing.
    - The Town has a NOAA weather receiving, but the EAS must be activated by VT Emergency Management (VEM).
- Auxiliary Power for School (Emergency Operations Center/Shelter).
  - Deferred.
  - The Town has a sufficient number of facilities and potential shelters with emergency generators and therefore does not see a need for additional auxiliary power sources.
- Hazard Vulnerability Assessments.
  - Ongoing assessments following exercises and real events.
- Review and modify evacuation and sheltering plans based on the results of drills and exercises or procedures implemented in an actual incident, sharing results with the community.
  - Efforts will continue following planned drills and exercises by the REMC.
- Structurally inspect Municipal Offices and designated emergency shelters to ensure roofs are capable of supporting maximum anticipated winter snowloads.

- Efforts will continue as staff time allows. However, public awareness on roof snow-loading can be increased through educational materials.
- Clearing streets and roads of snow to insure passage of emergency vehicles and public traffic.
- Ongoing.

Activities being removed - Completed/Deferred/Deleted

- Survey and designation of shelter(s).
  - Completed
  - Morristown has Red Cross certified shelters at the Lamoille County Civic Association, Peoples Academy, and Morrisville Elementary School.

Science and Technology

Stream Geomorphic Assessments to identify flood and erosion hazards.

- Ongoing.
- Assessment work on two rivers was completed at various stages in Morristown during the previous planning cycle: Lamoille River Mainstem and Rodman Brook.
  - Lamoille River Mainstem HUC2 – Phase 1 and Phase 2 fieldwork and report are completed. A river corridor management plan, project identification and municipal outreach to be completed in this plan cycle.
  - Rodman Brook – Phase 1 and Phase 2 fieldwork complete. A phase 1 and 2 report, river corridor management plan and project identification and municipal outreach

  will be completed within this planning cycle
- Fluvial Geomorphic and Landslides Hazard Assessment to evaluate landslide potential in Morristown.
- Ongoing

Traffic calming and alternate transportation project (speed studies, resurfacing, and structure replacements).

- Ongoing
- The Town is working on traffic calming techniques by installing sidewalks and reducing lane widths to reduce the overall width of roads

Annually, review the findings and recommendations of the Morristown Culvert Study to assess validity and progress in implementation.

- Ongoing
- The Town seeks to complete a new study to identify priority culverts.

Coordinate with Agency of Transportation to conduct modifications to High Accident Locations specifically:

- Ongoing
  - South end of bypass
  - Morristown Corner/Vt 100 intersection

- VT Route 15/Silver Ridge/Needle Eye
- Stafford Ave and Morrisville truck route -VTrans dangerous intersection

- Currently a traffic light installation is in design phases for the Stafford Ave and Morrisville truck route intersection

Add emergency generators to the EOC and emergency shelter.

- Ongoing
- Potential grant opportunity to install permanent generators and redesignate EOC
- Otherwise, the Town has a sufficient number of emergency generators at critical facilities and shelters. The School and police department have a full generator hook up
- Increase the quantity of emergency equipment such as pumps, generators and drinking water storage systems to mitigate risk to the community from flooding events.
- Deferred.
- The Town's current stock of emergency equipment is sufficient at this time. The Town will add and replace such equipment as town officials anticipate such a need

6.4 IDENTIFIED HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS

The following identified programs, projects and activities are new and/or planned for the Town of Morristown. In Morristown, the major concern is the impact of a serious flooding, fluvial erosion, snow or ice storm and wind incident where power may be out and transportation routes to the town would be impacted, effectively leaving the general public and special needs populations at risk due to delayed response time. Partners involved in completing these projects are identified in parentheses following the description.

Table 9: Mitigation Actions 2022-2027

Mitigation Actions	Responsible Party	Estimated Timeline	Possible Funding	Cost*
Move EOC to the Town Office Building – to do so the building will need structural reinforcement to accommodate a ventilation system, add a generator	Town Administrator (Select Board)	2-5 years	Federal ARPA funds	High
Jersey Heights Subdivision project is needed to retrofit the stormwater filtration site to come into compliance and improve the level of stormwater treatment	Town Administrator (DEC/ANR)	2022-2026	ARPA	High

"3 acre properties" under DEC Stormwater Rule				
Upgrade the road segments that are in the Sterling Valley Region of Morristown that currently "do not meet" and are considered Very High Priority Segments according to the MRGP standards	Town Administrator (Highway Department)	2021-2022/2036	Grants-in-Aid Funding/ Municipal Grants	High
Flood Insurance Expansion to include the 5 residences that currently do not carry insurance	Planning Director (Town Administrator)	2020-2030	Town resident funded	Low
Community Preparedness Education Ensure all structures have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors ICS Training	Fire Department (Red Cross)	2022-2027	Grant money	Low
Slope and culvert rehabilitation at MM 0.33 on VT RTE 15 after damaged due to storm event ER VT20-1	VTrans (Town Administrator)	2022-2024	VTrans/FHWA	High

*Cost scale:"Low" (Less than $50,000), "Medium" ($50,000-$100,000), "High" (More than $100,000)

Not all the highest ranked hazards have activities directly associated with them. The Town Plan already has goals and policies that support fluvial erosion of rivers and waterways. Snow, ice, cold, and wind hazards, the Town and Village already have accomplished many goals. For example, generators are installed in critical facilities or have make ready adaptors. The Highway Department has the equipment necessary to maintain roads during weather events. The Town felt it was necessary to focus on activities that best align with the State's current stormwater and transportation infrastructure initiatives.

Ultimately, hazard mitigation priorities are determined by Morristown's ability to finance and implement these activities within the town's existing tax base. When weighing investments in hazard mitigation, Morristown will prioritize projects that generate the highest cost-benefit ratio for the greatest number of residents. The hazard mitigation priorities will be prioritized to address the greatest and most realistic hazards that will impact the community. Future plan iterations will aim to address other priorities to mitigate potential, yet unlikely, hazards.

The costs of each mitigation action will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as the town has the political will to implement the action. The extent of the action is determined in part by the cost of implementation. For example, a thorough overhaul of the flood hazard regulations can range in the area of $20,000. Minor revisions to regulatory documents can be a few thousand dollars (staff time, public notices, public hearings, adoption). However, revisions to regulations are usually undertaken as needed, as staff time allows, and when the overall community benefit outweighs the cost.

7. PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCESS

7.1 Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

The Morristown LHMP will be evaluated and updated regularly by the Morristown Planning Council. Any significant disaster event will prompt a review of this plan between members of the Planning Council. At the very minimum, the plan will be amended as required within five years from the date of FEMA approval.

7.2 Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms

During the update and re-adoption processes for the Town Plan, bylaws, and/or regulations, the Town and LCPC will provide guidance and recommendations to the respective Town Boards for the incorporation and integration of state, regional and local hazard mitigation goals and strategies into the specific programs and practices described in these other planning mechanisms. Throughout the plan update process, the local mitigation priorities identified within this LHMP will continue to be considered, alongside the long-term economic, environmental, and public safety benefits to the community.

In order to effectively incorporate mitigation strategies into these existing planning mechanisms, it is important to demonstrate how these approaches maximize benefit to the entire community. This can be achieved through the utilization of a cost-benefit analysis, which quantifies the benefits of mitigation against anticipated losses. Such an analysis is an integral part of prioritizing potential mitigation strategies and actions, and is also a requirement for submitting future FEMA mitigation grant applications.

7.3 Continued Public Involvement

Principal avenues for broad public comment include:

- Community involvement through the local and regional planning process relating to updating existing planning mechanisms
- Conducting a citizen survey to gauge public interest in and support for hazard mitigation project priorities.
- Utilize existing social media (such as: Front Porch Forum, Facebook, and the town's website and Wi-Fi landing page) to inform the community and solicit feedback on hazard mitigation goals, strategies, priorities, and preparedness efforts.
- Participation at the regular REMC meetings [REMC meetings are typically attended by a variety of parties: first responders, municipal officials, non-profit health care agencies, the Red Cross), communications industry officials and Tier II HAZMAT operators]

- Posting of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on the Town's webpage for public comment

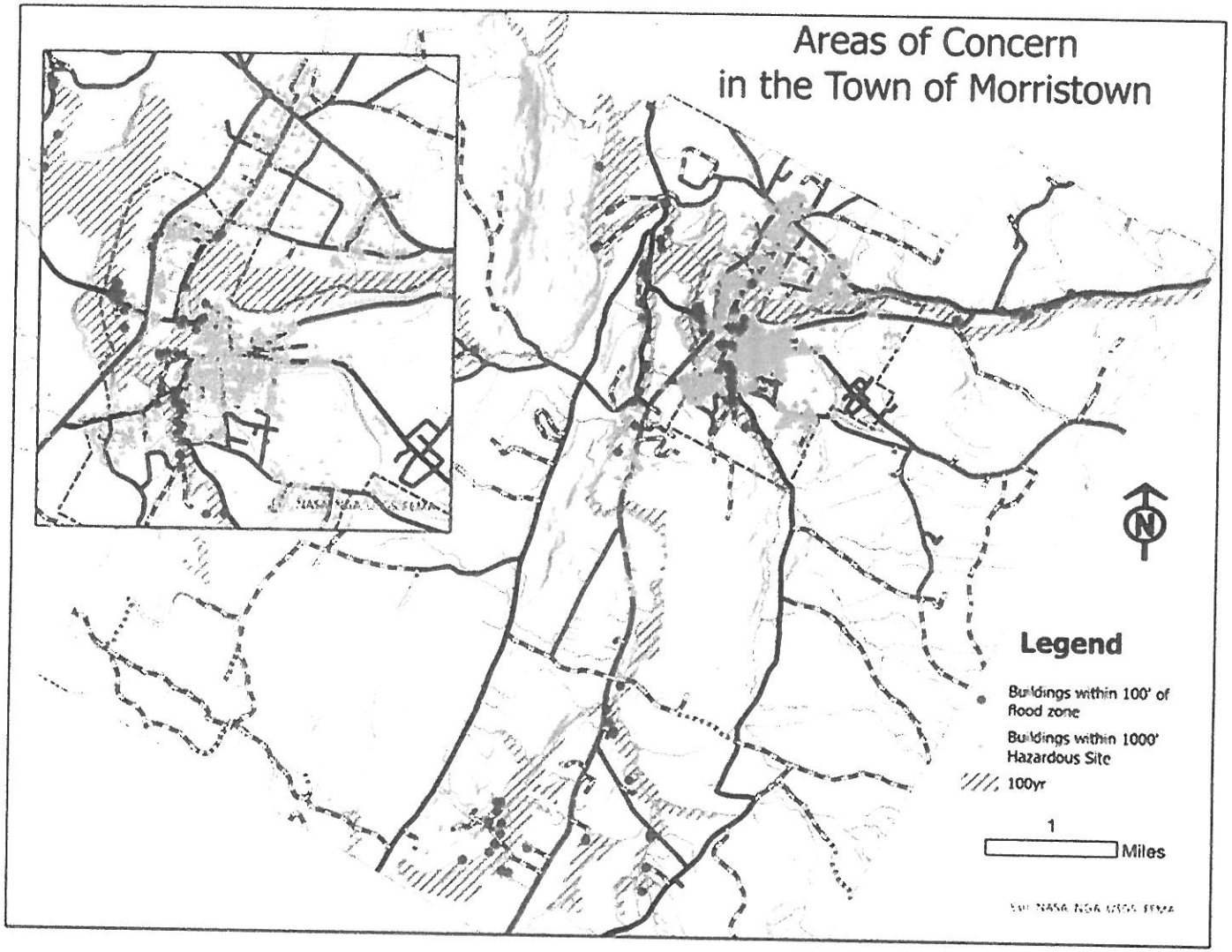
The general public will be notified of review and update efforts over the next five years through press releases to local newspapers, announcements by local radio stations, announcements posted on Front Porch Forum (an online message board with town wide participation), social media, and public meetings.

APPENDIX A - REVIEW OF THE 2014 ANNEX MITIGATION ACTIONS

MITIGATION ACTION	WHO (LEADERSHIP)	WHEN (TIME FRAME)	HOW (FUNDING SOURCE)	HAZARD BEING MITIGATED	2022 Status
Update Morristown's culvert study to assess existing infrastructure and continue progress in system upgrades, maintenance, and implementation.	Town of Morristown	1 -2 years (2014)	Town of Morristown LCPC and the Vermont Agency of Transportation– Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) and Grant-In-Aid funding	Winter, spring, summer Flood and Winter Storm	Completed But remains an ongoing priority for the MRGRP program
Review and update local regulations, particularly flood hazard regulations but limited to flooding, to provide actions that can reduce the risk of infrastructure damage due to high winds, fluvial erosion during flood and flash flood events as funding permits.	Town of Morristown, LCPC, Agency of Natural Resources	2 years (2015)	Town of Morristown, State MPG program	Flood, Winter Storm, Windstorm	Completed
Require that all Major Subdivisions be equipped with a fire pond and a dry hydrant that is acceptable to the Fire Chief.	Town of Morristown Fire Chief, Planning Director	2 – 5 years	Town of Morristown, LCPC EMPG, Vermont Municipal Grant	Fire	Completed Added to the by-laws Other subdivisions have water sources identified
Create a plan for the flood hazard area to address recreational opportunities, purchase properties or	Town of Morristown Planning Director	2 – 5 years	Town of Morristown, State MPG program	Winter, spring, summer flood	Completed but remains an ongoing priority As to regulations for flood hazards being reviewed

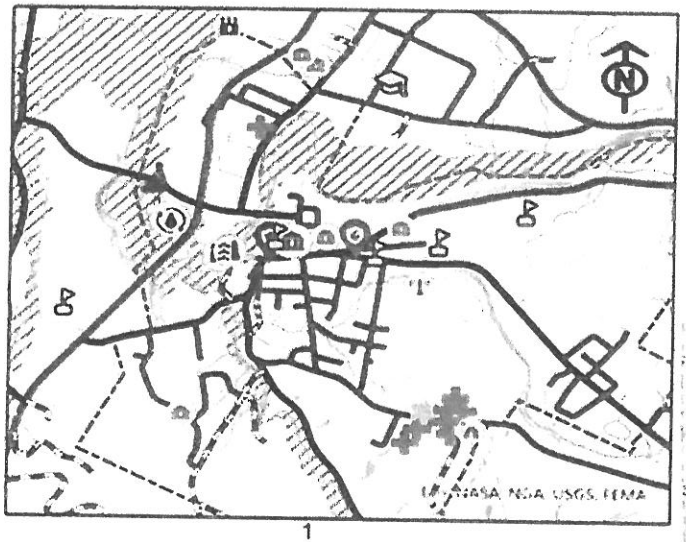
development rights, flood hazard protection, and the possibility for implementing water quality measures					and updated; That is done annually through the on-going review of the zoning by-laws.

Appendix B – Areas of Concern Map



Appendix C: Critical Infrastructure Map

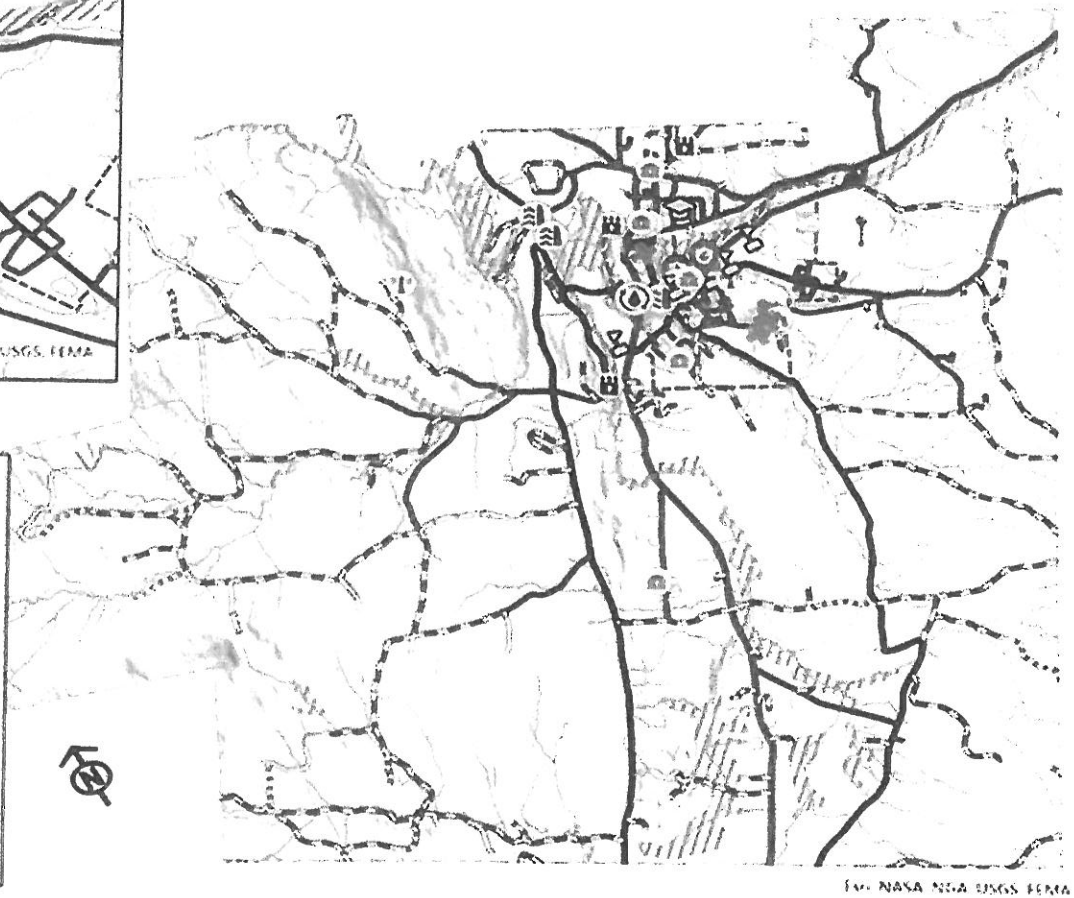
TOWN OF MORRISTOWN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE



Critical Infrastructure

Layer

- AMBULANCE SERVICE
- COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY
- TOWN OFFICE
- COMMUNICATION TOWER
- EDUCATIONAL
- FIRE STATION
- GOVERNMENT
- HOSPITAL/CLINIC
- HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY
- LAW ENFORCEMENT
- NATIONAL GUARD / ARMORY
- PUMP STATION
- SCHOOL K / 12
- SUBSTATION
- WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
- WATER TANK



Town of Morristown Administration Office
43 Portland Street Morrisville, VT 05661 802-888-5147 shyde@morristownvt.org

This survey is intended for Morristown/Morrisville RESIDENTS ONLY.

Have you experienced a disaster?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

If yes, which of the following disasters have you experienced? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Dam failure
- ☐ Drought
- ☐ Earthquake
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Major hail storm
- ☐ Landslides/rockslides
- ☐ Severe thunderstorm
- ☐ Winter storm
- ☐ Ice storm
- ☐ Wind storm including: tornadoes, hurricanes or tropical storm
- ☐ Wildfires or forest fire
- ☐ Major transportation incident, such as highway or air crash
- ☐ Structure fire

Which of the following list of disasters are you MOST concerned about? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Dam failure
- ☐ Drought
- ☐ Earthquake
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Major hail storm
- ☐ Landslides/rockslides
- ☐ Severe thunderstorm
- ☐ Winter storm
- ☐ Ice storm
- ☐ Wind storm, including: tornadoes, hurricanes or tropical storm
- ☐ Wildfires or forest fire
- ☐ Major transportation incident, such as highway or air crash
- ☐ Structure fire

Which of the following list of disasters are you LEAST concerned about? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Dam failure
- ☐ Drought
- ☐ Earthquake
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Major hail storm
- ☐ Landslides/rockslides
- ☐ Severe thunderstorm
- ☐ Winter storm
- ☐ Ice storm
- ☐ Wind storm, including: tornadoes, hurricanes or tropical storm
- ☐ Wildfires or forest fire
- ☐ Major transportation incident, such as highway or air crash
- ☐ Structure fire

Other disasters you are concerned about:

Do you live in a floodplain?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ I don't know

What is the most effective way for you to receive information about how to make your home and town more resilient to natural hazards? (check all that apply)

- ☐ VTalert
- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Text
- ☐ Mail
- ☐ Public meeting
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ TV
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Websites
- ☐ Social media

What actions have you taken to reduce risks for potential disasters at your residence? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Develop a family plan
- ☐ Supply kit for 3 days
- ☐ First Aid and CPR certified
- ☐ Installed smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- ☐ Installed a generator and know the utility shutoff procedure
- ☐ Purchased flood insurance
- ☐ Homeowners/Renters insurance
- ☐ Floodproofing
- ☐ Purchased fire extinguishers

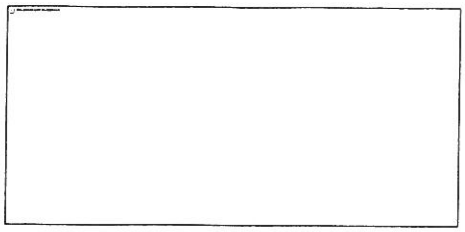
Which of the following mitigation project types do you believe local government agencies should focus on to reduce disruptions of services and to strengthen the community (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Retrofit and strengthen essential facilities such as police, fire, emergency medical services, hospitals, schools, etc.
- ☐ Replace inadequate or vulnerable bridges and causeways
- ☐ Retrofit infrastructure, such as elevating roadways and improving drainage systems
- ☐ Work on improving the damage resistance of utilities (electricity, communications, water / wastewater facilities, etc.)
- ☐ Install or improve protective structures, such as floodwalls or levees
- ☐ Buyout flood prone properties and maintain as open-space
- ☐ Strengthen codes, ordinances, and plans to require higher hazard risk management standards.
- ☐ Provide better information about hazard risk and high-hazard areas
- ☐ Inform property owners of ways they can mitigate damage to their properties
- ☐ Assist vulnerable property owners with securing funding to mitigate impacts to their property
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other _____

Please rate the following statements.

Please tell us how important the following statements are to you:

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Protecting Private Property	○	○	○
Protecting Critical Facilities	○	○	○
Preventing development in hazard areas	○	○	○
Protecting the natural environment	○	○	○
Protecting historical/ cultural landmarks	○	○	○
Promoting cooperation among public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations and businesses	○	○	○
Protecting and reducing damage to utilities	○	○	○
Strengthening emergency services (police, fire, ambulance)	○	○	○



Local Hazard Mitigation Survey for Copley Hospital

Q1. Do you think that critical and essential facilities (incl. EMS facilities, hospitals and medical centers) are disaster-resistant, or capable of withstanding a natural disaster (e.g. are properly located and constructed, and have back-up power as appropriate)? Yes, we have an on-site connected Emergency Generator with large capacity fuel tank.

Q2. Do you think that the transportation infrastructure (e.g. roads and bridges) is properly designed to withstand damage due to natural hazards? Unknown, not our area of expertise.

Q3. Do you think that utility infrastructure (specifically electricity and communications) are sufficiently disaster-resistant to support hospital functions during natural hazard events? Yes, with our own on-site Emergency Generator and we have multiple levels of communications to include HAM radio.

Q4. Do you think that local public education and awareness programs are effective at informing the public on what they should do to be prepared for and reduce their personal risk to natural disasters, so as not to increase the need for hospitals during hazard events? Unknown, although frequency of educational opportunities is encouraged.

Q5. Do you think that announcements of road closures and pending road closures are sufficiently accurate and available to support hospital functions during natural hazard events? Yes

Q6. Do you think that the public is aware of, understands, and utilizes emergency warning and notification systems and services (reverse 911, audible alerts, cell and text services)? Yes

Q7. Do you think that your hospital informs your constituents of how they can better manage their risk to natural hazards? Yes

Q8. Do you think that emergency response planning, services, and equipment are capable of managing and responding properly to natural disasters in your community? Yes

Q9. Do you think that local government understands, supports, and possesses adequate resources for natural hazard risk reduction efforts in the community? Yes

Q10. Is your agency covered by a COOP / COG plan? (Continuity of Operations / Continuity of Government plans examine an agency's ability to perform minimum essential functions during any situation. COOP activities support the continuance of agency functions, while COG activities support the continuation of government functions Yes, we have a detailed Emergency Preparedness plan which is continually updated and reviewed annually.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION
May 9th, 2022
Town of Morristown/Village of Morrisville, Vermont Select Board/Village Trustees
A resolution adopting the Morristown/Morrisville, Vermont 2022 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS, the Town/Village of Morristown/Morrisville has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of the hazards profiled in the 2022 Morristown/Morrisville, Vermont Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, which result in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Town/Village of Morristown/Morrisville has developed and received conditional approval from Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) for its 2022 Morristown/Morrisville, Vermont Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan) under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies, and Plan maintenance procedures for the Town/Village of Morristown/Morrisville; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions (projects) that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the Town/Village of Morristown/Morrisville with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the Town/Village of Morristown/Morrisville eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by Town/Village of Morristown/Morrisville Select Board/Trustees:

1. The 2022 Morristown/Morrisville, Vermont Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town/Village of Morristown/Morrisville;

2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation action plan of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;

3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution; and

4. An annual report on the process of the implementation elements of the Plan will be presented to the Selectboard by the Emergency Management Director or Coordinator.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have affixed their signature and the corporate seal of the Town of Morristown this 9th day of May, 2022.

Selectboard Chair

Selectboard Member

Trustee Chair

Trustee Member

ATTEST Town Clerk