

Eugene/Springfield Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Progress Report: Focus on Flood

Adoption of updated Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

After extensive updates, the Eugene/Springfield Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan was adopted by Eugene City Council on February 9, 2015 and adopted by FEMA on February 27, 2015

Regional vulnerability assessment and its implications:

During the development of the NHMP staff conducted a community wide climate and hazards vulnerability assessment. The assessment included interviews with experts in the following sectors: Electricity, drinking water, stormwater, wastewater, public safety, communications, food, housing, health care and public health, transportation, and fossil fuels. One of the findings from that assessment is that all community systems rely on electricity, transportation, and fossil fuels in order to function. Therefore enhancing those systems – rather than focusing on any one particular hazard – has become a priority.

Priority Flood Mitigation Actions:

There are several flood-only mitigation actions and several multi-hazard mitigation actions that apply to flooding. During the community-wide vulnerability assessment, several sector experts discussed the risks posed by flooding. When system experts reviewed the existing flood maps, many felt the maps did not reflect reality – particularly based on their experience during the 1996 flooding in the Eugene area. This concern is supported by the fact that the base data used for the Eugene area flood maps is extremely dated and not based on best available LIDAR technology. Based on this input, the number one priority flood mitigation action is to *actively seek FEMA updates to the Eugene/Springfield floodplain maps*

The flood specific mitigation actions identified within the NHMP are included below. In addition to the flood mitigation strategies listed below, there are a number of Multi-Hazard mitigation actions that apply to flood as well as other natural hazards. They can be found within the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan located here: <http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/view/20573>

Problem Name	Problem Statement	Mitigation Action
Flood Maps	The Eugene/Springfield metro area flood maps are based on data that is approximately 50 years old. The availability of LIDAR data and other technologies offers superior ability to project and map riverine flooding in the area. FEMA will update maps as resources allow but will prioritize communities that a) indicate an interest in updating local flood maps, and b) provide funding or other resources to support the updating of flood maps.	Actively seek FEMA updates to the Eugene/Springfield floodplain maps
Flood control levee certification and maintenance	Eugene and Springfield both operate flood control structures. Structures need Army Corps of Engineers Certification and FEMA accreditation to be incorporated into updates of floodplain maps. The regulations surrounding certification and accreditation changed in 2013.	Seek and maintain certification of levees and other flood control structures within Eugene and Springfield
Flood Insurance Study	Eugene and Springfield do not have updated digital flood maps for Amazon Creek, Cedar Creek, or the McKenzie River. FEMA is in the process of updating the Flood Insurance Study and developing digital flood maps of these waterways.	Continue to support FEMA in updating the Flood Insurance Study, in selected areas, including Amazon and Cedar Creeks and the McKenzie River. Updated digital maps can provide easy access to flood information in the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area and support a flood program that reflects the actual flood risk faced by the community.
Repetitive Loss Records	While there are no repetitive loss properties in Eugene or Springfield, that may not yet be reflected in State and Federal databases.	Ensure the accurate locations of Repetitive Loss Properties have been accurately registered with FEMA.
Explore Flood Mitigation Actions With Property Owners (upon request)	Eugene and Springfield both have neighborhoods that are in the 100-year floodplain. However, not all structures are at risk of flooding because their main finished floor is above the base flood elevation, or other flood mitigation factors have been developed for the structure. Nevertheless, some property owners that are in the floodplain may want to develop mitigation measures to reduce their flood risk. Providing appropriate mitigation options with property owners upon their request will help inform property owners on how to reduce their risk from flooding and inform the cities of Eugene and Springfield on structures that need flood mitigation.	Provide flood risk literature for outreach. Send annual mailer to residents living within the 100 year floodplain describing actions property owners can take to protect themselves from flooding.

Maintain Frequent Stormwater Flooding Location Inventory	The cities of Eugene and Springfield have each developed an inventory of locations in the Eugene/Springfield Metro Area that are subject to frequent storm water flooding. In order to remain accurate and useful, the inventory should be updated regularly.	Regularly update inventory of locations in the Eugene/Springfield Metro area subject to frequent stormwater (urban, not riverine) flooding
Upgrade culverts	Repetitive flooding can cause significant damage to roads and storm water infrastructure such as culverts, and can lead to road closures and expensive repairs. In addition, erosion caused by flooding of roads can degrade water quality.	For locations that experience regular flooding and significant damages or road closures, determine and implement mitigation measures such as upsizing culverts or storm water drainage ditches
NFIP compliance	The National Flood Insurance Program provides communities with federally-backed flood insurance to homeowners, renters, and business owners, provided that communities develop and enforce adequate floodplain management ordinances. In order to retain these benefits, the City of Eugene must continue to comply with NFIP requirements.	Continue compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through enforcement of local floodplain ordinances.

Implementation and the NHMP Subcommittee

The Eugene/Springfield Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is implemented with support and guidance from a number of community institutions working together. They are a subcommittee of the Lane Preparedness Coalition, a group of citizens and entities interested in and supportive of effective emergency management. The subcommittee consists of the City of Eugene, City of Springfield, University of Oregon, Eugene Water and Electric Board, Lane Council of Governments, Rainbow Water District, PeaceHealth, McKenzie Willamette Hospital, Lane County government, and others. The NHMP Subcommittee meets at least twice each year to discuss progress, identify and clarify priorities, and educate ourselves on effective hazards mitigation. The subcommittee last met on May 11, 2015 when they reviewed the updated NHMP and developed task teams to address mitigation actions.

Since the adoption of the revised NHMP in February, 2015 there has not yet been progress on the goal to update FEMA flood maps. City of Eugene staff are working with others in the region (City of Portland and others) to develop a request to FEMA to expedite update of flood maps.