

Sandy City Council Executive Summary of the Salt Lake County Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan (MJHMP): 2025 Update

Salt Lake County is exposed to a wide variety of natural hazards, including earthquakes, wildfires, and severe weather events, all of which pose significant risks to life, property, and critical infrastructure.

Why Hazard Mitigation Planning?

Proactive hazard mitigation planning enables communities to identify and assess the risks associated with these hazards and implement measures to reduce their potential impacts to protect communities and build long-term resilience.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan is required under Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for local jurisdictions to be eligible for certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding. Jurisdictions must have a FEMA-approved and locally adopted plan to apply for key grant programs, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire and High-Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Rehabilitation Grant Program. It also allows Sandy City to request disaster reimbursement support from FEMA.

The 2025 Salt Lake County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) meets these federal requirements and reflects a county-wide commitment to hazard risk reduction. The MJHMP provides a blueprint for assessing vulnerability, prioritizing mitigation actions, and identifying local, state, and federal funding sources to implement those actions.

Why this is coming before the Sandy City Council:

By adopting the 2025 Salt Lake County MJHMP Volume 1 and 2025 Salt Lake County Volume 2 Sandy City Annex, the city actively recognizes the hazards in Salt Lake County and local municipalities, as well as proactively demonstrating its commitment to fulfilling the goals and objectives in the plan. Following Sandy City's adoption, the local jurisdictions have one year to adopt the plan to be included. The final step for approval from the state of Utah and FEMA, involves submitting evidence of adoption through resolution by participating jurisdictions. The 2025 MJHMP is an update using the 2019 plan as a base (adopted May 5, 2019). Plans must be updated five years from adoption.

The 2025 MJHMP serves as a strategic planning document for Salt Lake County and its 26 participating entities - including 23 cities and towns, two school districts, and Salt Lake Community College. It supports community planners, emergency managers, elected officials, and the public in making informed decisions about land-use, infrastructure, emergency preparedness, and resource allocation.

The 2025 MJHMP is organized into two volumes:

- **Volume 1** includes a comprehensive overview of the planning process, profiles of each hazard identified that can impact the county, an evaluation of mitigation strategies from the 2019 plan, and new strategies for the upcoming five-year cycle.
- **Volume 2** contains jurisdiction-specific annexes for each participant. Since each community within Salt Lake County may face different hazards or have unique vulnerabilities, these annexes detail local hazard histories and vulnerabilities, review the progress of mitigation actions identified in the 2019 plan, and outline new mitigation strategies developed during the 2025 update.

Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, Vulnerabilities and Capabilities

Following FEMA and Utah Division of Emergency Management guidelines, the SLCo EM planning team identified and assessed 19 hazards – both natural and human-caused – using historical data, risk modeling tools such as HAZUS, and local expertise to understand the potential impacts of hazards across Salt Lake County, the planning team conducted a comprehensive risk and vulnerability assessment for each hazard identified in the plan. This process included analyzing the likelihood of future hazard events, reviewing past occurrences, and evaluating the exposure and vulnerability of people, property, infrastructure, and critical services in each jurisdiction. The 2025 MJHMP documents each jurisdiction's current plans, programs, and policies that support hazard mitigation. This includes participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and alignment with General Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and other ongoing planning efforts. Jurisdictions and participating entities used this update as an opportunity to strengthen internal coordination, review past progress, and improve integration of hazard mitigation into community goals.

Hazards that have been identified and reassessed since the 2019MJHMP plan are as follows:

NATURAL HAZARDS

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Avalanche | • Flooding | • Lightning |
| • Drought | • Heavy Rain | • Wildfire |
| • Earthquake | • Radon | • Severe Winter Weather |
| • Extreme Cold | • High Wind | • Tornado |
| • Extreme Heat | • Landslide/ Slope Failure | • Public Health Epidemic-Pandemic |

MAN-MADE AND TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

- Civil Disturbance
- Dam Failure
- Hazardous Materials
- Terrorism and Cyberterrorism

Developing Mitigation Goals and Actions

The heart of the mitigation plan is the mitigation strategy, which serves as the long-term blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment. The Mitigation Strategy was evaluated from the 2019 MJHMP and updated goals and objectives were outlined for the county and its participating entities.

Mitigation Actions were developed collaboratively in coordination with local subject matter experts, county/local departments, private sector partners, and non-profit organizations, and input from workshops held in the fall of 2024.

If you have any questions or concerns about the 2025 Salt Lake County MJHMP, please feel free to reach out and I will do my best to clarify any issues.

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