

**Public Survey Comments**

**Polk County, Multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Please comment on any other issues that the Polk County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee should consider in developing a strategy to reduce future losses caused by hazard events.

#	Response Text
1	Upstream land conservation practices or lack thereof, tiling practices and the rush of water from farmland, wetland mitigation and refurbishment, watershed health
2	Cowles School 6401 College Ave has no sidewalks to the evacuation location in the event of an evacuation. The official evacuation location is the Presbyterian Church at northwest corner of 63rd and University . There is also no traffic light to cross 63rd at College Ave which is a hazard for winter weather conditions.
3	Stop using the tornado sirens for high wind events. Otherwise, people ignore the sirens when it is an actual tornado warning.
4	The Storm Sewer System on E 27th St between Guthrie Ave & Easton Blvd is many decades old and needs to be replaced to be able to handle periods of heavy rain. My home has been flooded in the basement 3 times since 2003. This is ridiculous that our storm sewer systems are from the 40's and 50's given the amount of property taxes we pay. I have lived in my home for 34 years and am thinking if nothing is done to help me protect my home, I should move to the suburbs.
5	ALL schools should have tornado-safe rooms.
6	Construct a similar space in the Urbandale School District that was created at Valley High School.
7	The policy to sound the tornado sirens in non-tornadic high-wind events should be reconsidered. I believe there is a "boy-who-cried-wolf" mentality that comes into play with the frequency that the sirens are now used. I know my family and I are now less "alarmed" when the sirens sound.
8	Ways to hold businesses liable for damages caused through neglect
9	Flooding continues to be a concern due to development.
10	Public education can help considerably in reducing impacts of some events.
11	Adopt building codes that make houses and other structures more wind and earthquake resistant (many similarities). Balance flood hardening of structures in flood prone areas and restricting building in those areas. Stop building so many levees, rather, build structures to survive floods or don't build in floodplains. Adopt building codes that new construction not increase runoff flashiness and retrofit existing neighborhoods to reduce flash flooding. Though not as high profile as other hazards, I suspect extreme heat is one of the most deadly in Des Moines. We need to make sure services are provided for those at risk. A pandemic like the Spanish flu is a big unknown. I personally don't have a clue how to act in such a case. I hope somebody does. There are a couple of projects listed above that I did not understand, so couldn't determine if they are important.
12	Please understand that NOT EVERYONE has a "smart phone," or even internet access. It is important to figure out a way to notify those people, too, in the event of a hazard/disaster! Thanks! :+)
13	I would think adding a road between Merle Hay Road west across Beaver Creek to 54th Street would help if we have flooding like 1993. We really do need a third option to connect Johnston.
14	Tornado saferooms for schools should receive funding.
15	We need more windbreaks along the interstates and highways in Polk County (trees and bushes)
16	Chemical runoff / water supply safety / removal of fluoride
17	Adding a tornado safe room to existing schools and new schools for the safety of our kids.
18	Good communication with the public should be a priority.
19	Consider drinking water supply and distribution - taken for granted but with aging systems and growing populations water supply may be an issue. And that does not consider possible purposeful disruption of water supply and distribution.
20	food and water and medical supplies stockpiled and stored safely with an equitable distribution plan to use in the event of a catastrophic emergency.
21	Tornado Safe Rooms in schools, or other public areas (churches, grocery stores, gas stations?) should be high priority.
22	safe rooms in schools should be a high priority
23	periodic evaluation of Saylorville Dam integrity
24	drinking water contamination & action plan.
25	Please spend our tax dollars wisely.
26	Public tornado safety areas. Apartment buildings required to have tornado safety areas at clubhouse for instance.
27	Strategize for immediate restoration time for above catastrophic hazards events

28	Cyber Liability Breach Response Plan. Assessment of exposures.
29	Iowa is now in the tornado alley and we have had increased number of very destructive tornadoes.
30	Schools have no safe place, interiorly speaking, in Ankeny with regards to a tornado disaster. As a former school nurse, I planned locations for students to take cover in our elementary with the advice of the local fire chief. He had no sound advice other than the interior corridor with as many walls between us and the outside. The walls were not made to withstand tornadic level winds.
31	Flooding, levees, dams, etc. are a huge concern nearby, but I did not check those because my particular jurisdiction is uphill from all that.
32	Many Ankeny residents haven't lived here long enough to know that Ankeny has been hit by tornados in the past and it will happen again in the future.
33	I think we need to find a way to incentivize individual preparedness. We are fortunate to have a very resolute population in Iowa but I believe many that live in the larger cities are woefully prepared to endure long term consequences of a disabled critical infrastructure.
34	See above. Keeping our children safe from someone who poses a physical threat.
35	Developers should not be able to scrape off the topsoil and sell it and leave homeowners with clay crap underneath.
36	Tornado saferooms in (older) schools. Saferooms in Parks that frequently have large numbers of attendees (softball, baseball, soccer, etc) during storm season.
37	although unlikely, hazards such as domestic and foreign terrorism and other mass violence scenarios.
38	Need more public education.
39	Please spend this money wisely on broad factors rather than giving money to people who built in a flood zone, knew they bought in a flood zone, or are simply expecting the gov't to bail them out if there is a problem.
40	A critical Hazmat incident on I80/35 would seem to have the highest likelihood of occurring and producing significant impacts to the community. A Saylorville Dam failure would appear to be a catastrophic impact/very low probability situation.
41	More work needs to be done with child care they are not prepared.
42	Update communications--that is the first thing needed. How to communicate so people can be located and some clearing house set up for letting officials know of missing people AND for 'missing people' to contact officials as to their whereabouts.
43	It would be nice to have a tornado shelter in WDM (or more than one) so that residents that do not have basements can take shelter. A lot of residences lost basements in the flood of '93.
44	Focus on safe schools and shopping centers
45	Upgrade electrical service to the city, increasing reliability, reducing outages.
46	Any focus on soil stabilization, storm water mitigation, and dealing with heavy rains will most benefit Johnston,
47	better alert system for disasters
48	I think the national debt has the potential to do much more harm than natural disasters. I don't think the federal gov't can continue to bailout cities and counties and individuals.
49	More proactive in reducing carbon footprint so less global warming, fewer severe weather events.
50	N/A
51	Mass casualty incidents related to potential school/public venue incidents.
52	The notion of power grid vulnerability to either electronic criminal activity or solar-based phenomena is worthy of consideration. Although admittedly rare in occurrence, the impact would be catastrophic in the midst of the information age.
53	Safer facilities in schools for high winds and severe weather that guarantee the children are away from glass, display cases, etc. Many kids are placed in hallways that aren't the most secure.
54	I would like to see the plan address the vulnerability of the Des Moines water supply due to drought/climate change and cost of environmental damage/risk to drinking water supply from agricultural runoff. Mitigation through green infrastructure (wetland and floodplain restoration, tree canopy restoration, Stormwater infiltration and best management practices, etc) needs to be a priority.
55	Hazus mapping
56	A solid communication plan, including better notification/implementation of a reverse 911 plan
57	Would favor limited retrofitting of buildings to protect people from tornadoes (e.g, in schools or densely populated buildings without adequate safe capacity).
58	I would like to recommend Tornado Saferooms for our local mobile home parks. I do not live nor connected to anyone living in one of these areas. I simply believe the residents are extremely vulnerable to tornados.
59	llamas