

## **Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan**

### **Background and Authority:**

In response to requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), Yellowstone County, the cities of Billings and Laurel, and the Town of Broadview have developed this Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP).

DMA 2000 amends the Stafford Act and is designed to improve planning for, response to, and recovery from, disasters by requiring state and local entities to implement hazard mitigation planning and develop MHMPs.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued guidelines for development of MHMPs. The Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) supports plan development for jurisdictions in the State of Montana.

The 2019 update to the Yellowstone County MHMP has been developed pursuant to the requirements in the Interim Final Rule for hazard mitigation planning and the guidance in the State and Local Plan Interim Criteria under DMA 2000. The Plan also meets guidance developed by FEMA in March of 2013 for Local Mitigation Planning.

This Plan does not include the Crow Indian Reservation, located in the south portion of Yellowstone County, which is a sovereign nation with its own hazard mitigation plan.

### **Stakeholders from Billings:**

Stakeholders from the City of Billings included: the Mayor, City Manager, City Council members, City Attorney, City Clerk, Fire Marshall, Floodplain Administrator, and representatives from the Building Dept., Planning Dept., Water and Wastewater Dept., Police Dept., Fire Dept., Public Works Dept., Regional Haz-Mat Team, School District, 911 Call Center, and Billings-Logan International Airport. These entities participated in the MHMP update by either providing data, attending Planning Team and/or public meetings or reviewing the draft plan.

## **Scope and Plan Organization:**

The process followed to prepare the 2019 Yellowstone County MHMP update included the following:

- Review and prioritize disaster events that are most probable and destructive,
- Identify and update critical facilities,
- Identify and update areas within the community that are most vulnerable,
- Identify and update goals for reducing the effects of a disaster event,
- Identify and update projects to be implemented for each goal,
- Identify and update procedures for monitoring progress and updating the MHMP,
- Review the draft MHMP, and
- Adopt the updated MHMP.

The MHMP is organized into sections that describe the planning process (Section 2), community profile (Section 3), risk assessment (Section 4), mitigation strategies (Section 5) and plan maintenance (Section 6). Appendices containing supporting information are included at the end of the plan.

## **DES office is the DES for Billings as well as Yellowstone County:**

- 72% of growth for Yellowstone County is within Billings
- Over \$1B in protected infrastructure in Billings (just from flooding events)
- Over 75% of all critical infrastructure located within Billings
- 205 out of 304 (67%) of all identified critical facilities within the county are in Billings.
- Approximately 160,000 total population with 110,000 in Billings (69%)
  - On any given day there is between 110,000 and 200,000 people in Billings.

The mission of Yellowstone County DES is to save lives, prevent injury, and protect property and the environment by taking reasonable and affordable measures to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The Yellowstone County DES Coordinator is responsible for the planning, coordination, and implementation of all emergency management and Homeland Security related activities for the City of Billings, City of Laurel, Town of Broadview, and Yellowstone County. Other responsibilities include coordination of activities for the county's Emergency Operations Center. The EOC, when activated, is a central location where representatives of local government and

private sector agencies convene during disaster situations to make decisions, set priorities and coordinate resources for response and recovery. These efforts are designed to enhance the capacity of the local government to plan for, respond to, and mitigate the consequences of threats and disasters using an all-hazard framework.