

Sedgwick County

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN ELEMENT DRAFT: JULY 6, 2020

2020

NORTHEAST COLORADO REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Section One – Introduction

Overview

The purpose of the ***Sedgwick County Plan Element*** is to provide Sedgwick County and political subdivisions within the county with a comprehensive hazard mitigation strategy for reducing long-term risks to people, property and natural resources. It is the intent of this plan to help ensure that Sedgwick County remains a safe place to live and work and to provide a framework for addressing potential future hazards through hazard mitigation planning.

Hazard mitigation is defined by FEMA as “any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from a hazard event.” Mitigation creates safer communities by reducing loss of life, risk of injury, property damage, and damage to the environment.

The ***Sedgwick County Plan Element*** is an annex of the ***Northeast Colorado Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan***. This Plan Element (“Plan”) is organized into the following sections:

1. ***Introduction – Overview and Community Profile***
2. ***Risk Assessment***
3. ***Capability Assessment***
4. ***Vulnerability Assessment***
5. ***Mitigation Strategy***
6. ***Maintaining and Updating the County Plan Element.***

Participating Jurisdictions

The jurisdictions and organizations that participated in the 2020 plan update process are identified in Table 1.1 below. ***Participating Jurisdictions*** that adopt the updated plan are eligible to receive federal hazard mitigation grant funds directly from FEMA. In addition to participating in the planning process and formally adopting the updated plan, Participating Jurisdictions must also identify specific mitigation actions for reducing risks from local hazards. ***Stakeholders*** are jurisdictions or organizations that participate in and have an interest in the planning process, but are not required to formally adopt the updated plan or identify mitigation actions. Stakeholders that identify specific mitigation actions may be the recipient of federal hazard mitigation grant funds, but are required to work through a Participating Jurisdiction that agrees to sponsor the project application.

Table 1.1 Participating Jurisdictions and Stakeholders

Participating Jurisdictions	Stakeholders	
Sedgwick County	Revere School District RE-1	Julesburg Volunteer Fire Department
Town of Julesburg	Julesburg School District RE-1	Sedgwick County Ambulance
Town of Ovid	Julesburg Irrigation District	Northeast Colorado RETAC
Town of Sedgwick	Sedgwick County Health Center	Northeast Colorado Health Department
	Centennial Mental Health Center	CO Division of Fire Prevention & Control
	Sedgwick Volunteer Fire Department	CO Division of Homeland Security &
	Ovid Volunteer Fire Department	Emergency Management

Planning Process and Public Involvement


A planning workshop was conducted on March 5, 2020, 6:00-8:00 PM, in Julesburg to gather and evaluate information to include in the 2020 updates to the Sedgwick County Hazard Mitigation Plan Element. The workshop was attended by representatives of Sedgwick County and its local partners. The workshop was facilitated by the contractor hired to coordinate the project. Prior to the workshop, a survey of Participating Jurisdictions and Stakeholders was conducted to collect initial information for updates to the Plan, including hazard events and mitigation efforts from the previous five years.

The survey and workshop provided two opportunities to (1) review and update the Risk Assessment and assess the vulnerability of community assets to local hazards, (2) review local mitigation capabilities and update the Capability Assessment, and (3) determine the status of 2015 Mitigation Actions and identify new opportunities and projects to include in the updated plan. The workshop was open to the public and citizens and volunteers were also provided an opportunity to review and comment on draft updates prior to final review by the Sedgwick County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team.

Table 1.2 Sedgwick County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Name	Position	Organization
Kody Blochowicz	Fire Chief	Ovid Fire Department
Bridget Britton	Director	Sedgwick County Communications Center
Cameron Britton	Town Manager	Town of Julesburg
Carlton Britton	Sheriff	Sedgwick County
Mike Contreras	Citizen	Sedgwick County
Eva Contreras	Assessor	Sedgwick County
Gillis Cook	Citizen	Sedgwick County
Rob Crowder	Emergency Manager	Sedgwick County
Lawrence Frame	Director	Julesburg Irrigation District
Sharon Greenman	HR Director	Centennial Mental Health Center
Tasha Harris	Director	Sedgwick County Ambulance
Machelle Newth	CO-DON	Sedgwick County Health Center
Sandra Rahe	Principal	Revere School
Jeff Schanhals	Regional Coordinator	Northeast Colorado RETAC
Joseph Sittner	Assistant Fire Chief	Ovid Fire Department
Michael Smith	Retired Director	USDA Farm Service Agency
Mark Thompson	Mitigation Planning Specialist	Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Jason Toyne	Fire Chief	Sedgwick Fire Department
Tyler Triolo	Battalion Chief	Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Mark Turner	Commissioner	Sedgwick County
Bob Wold	Consultant	Robert Wold Emergency Management Planning Services

Community Profile

			
Established	1889	Assessed Value (2017)	\$61,289,810
Land Area (Square Miles)	549	Top Industry	Agriculture
Elevation Range	3,219'-4,120'	Population (2010)	2,379
County Seat	Julesburg	Population (2017)	2,357

History

Sedgwick County was once inhabited by different groups of Plains Indians, including the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Sioux and Pawnee. Present-day Sedgwick County was part of the Colorado Territory (1861-1876) and later a part of Logan County before Sedgwick and Phillips Counties were partitioned from eastern Logan County in 1889. Sedgwick County was named for Fort Sedgwick, which was named for General John Sedgwick. Fort Sedgwick was established as Camp Rankin in 1864 and the soldiers stationed there were charged with protecting people, mail and supplies moving along the major routes that passed through Sedgwick County, including the Overland, Bozeman, Mormon and Oregon Trails. In 1860, Sedgwick County was the site of the only Pony Express station in Colorado.



The Pony Express Trail Memorial in Julesburg (left), and Dinky the Great Western Sugar Co. locomotive in Ovid Town Park (right).

The Town of Julesburg, the county seat, was established by Jules Beni on the south side of the South Platte River between the present towns of Ovid and Julesburg in the 1850s. With an infamous wild west reputation of saloons and casinos, the town relocated three times and was incorporated in 1886. Sedgwick is a small agricultural community that was first surveyed in 1887, six years after the United Pacific Railroad established its cross-country route. The town was incorporated in the early 1900s and in 1906 Jumbo (Julesburg) Reservoir was built 11 miles from Sedgwick and became an important water source for local agriculture. The Town of Ovid was incorporated in 1925 and experienced a boom when the Great Western Sugar Company

built a large sugar beet processing plant. The factory has been abandoned, but the small steam-powered locomotive (“Dinky”) used to pull railroad cars of beets up to the factory was salvaged and placed in Ovid’s Town Park.

Geography

Sedgwick County covers 549 square miles in the northeastern corner of Colorado. The county straddles the South Platte River and is bordered by Nebraska’s Deuel and Perkins Counties to the north and east, and by Colorado’s Phillips and Logan Counties to the south and west. The South Platte River flows west to east across the county with prairie grasses in open country and cottonwoods and riparian growth along the river and its tributaries. Pasture ground is tall grass, short grass and sage. Crops include wheat, corn, beans, sunflowers and other grain crops. There are three State Wildlife Areas on the river managed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (Tamarac SWA, Ovid SWA and Pony Express SWA).

Climate

According to the Colorado Climate Center, the climate of Sedgwick County is characterized by low relative humidity, frequent sunshine, infrequent moisture, moderate to high winds, and temperature extremes that range from zero to -15°F in winter months to daily maximum temperatures of 95°F or above during the summer. Between 2015 and 2019, the average high temperature was 65°F and the average low temperature was 37°F. The average annual precipitation for Sedgwick County for the same period ranged from 14.77 inches (2016) to 25.08 inches (2018) and the average annual snowfall ranged from 10.0 inches (2015 and 2017) to 33.0 inches (2018). Precipitation is seasonal, with most of the annual total (70-80%) falling during the growing season from April through September.

Large thunderstorms are common in the spring and summer months and capable of producing small- to medium-size tornadoes, crop-damaging hail, and heavy rainfall that can result in localized flood events. Although winter weather is generally dry, severe winter weather events are fairly common, including blizzards and wind-blown snow that results in closed highways and isolated communities and rural residents. Fall is the most stable time of year for weather conditions, with much cooler temperatures and very low humidity levels for most of the season. Multi-year drought is common to the area, such as the intense widespread drought of the early 2000s.

Population

Sedgwick County has experienced a slight decrease in population since 2010, from 2,379 in 2010 to a total population in 2017 of 2,357 (0.92% decrease). The population of Julesburg grew during the period from 1,225 in 2010 to 1,299 in 2017 (6.04%), population fell in Ovid from 318 to 235 (26.10% decrease), and the Town of Sedgwick population grew from 146 to 170 (16.44%). Other population characteristics for Sedgwick County from the 2017 U.S. Census are shown in the following table.

Table 1.3 Population Characteristics

Population Characteristics	Sedgwick County	Julesburg	Ovid	Sedgwick
Population (2017)	2,357	1,299	235	170
Median Age	48.4	45.8	51.9	51.8

Population 65 Years and Over	589	339	57	38
Female Population	1,181	681	111	59
Male Population	1,176	618	124	111
Average Household Size	2.32	2.27	2.18	2.07
Average Family Size	3.02	2.99	3.14	2.78
Percent of Total Population with Disabilities	15.9	16.9	25.5	18.2
Residents with Disabilities less than 18 Years Old (%)	3.1	3.8	7.7	0.0
Residents with Disabilities 18-64 Years Old (%)	13.6	12.4	17.3	18.2
Residents with Disabilities over 65 Years Old (%)	32.7	39	57.9	28.9
Residents with Health Insurance Coverage (%)	90.5	91.9	76.6	90.0
Residents with High School Degree (%)	90.8	92.3	85.3	87.7
Residents with Bachelor's Degree (%)	20.8	19.7	8.7	13.8

U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Select economic and housing statistics for Sedgwick County for 2017 are provided in Table 1.4 below.

Table 1.4 Economic and Housing Characteristics

Economic and Housing Characteristics	Sedgwick County	Julesburg	Ovid	Sedgwick
Median Household Income	\$49,583	\$52,500	\$23,864	\$30,000
Percent of Total Population that is Unemployed	6.8	7.7	14.3	2.9
Percent of Families Living Below Poverty Level	10.3	8.3	26.3	14.6
Percent of Individuals Living Below Poverty Level	17.0	14.1	33.6	27.2
Total Housing Units	1,297	702	147	126
Vacant Housing Units	299	148	39	44
Homeowner Vacancy Rate (%)	2.4	2.8	4.3	1.5
Rental Vacancy Rate (%)	14.2	18.3	0.0	0.0
Number of Businesses/Companies*	161	N/A	N/A	N/A

U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

* 2012 Survey of Business Owners

Section Two – Risk Assessment

Risk is the potential for damage, loss, or other impacts created by the interaction of natural or other types of hazards with community assets. The purpose of the **risk assessment** is to provide a better understanding of local risks and establish a framework for developing and prioritizing mitigation actions to reduce risk from future natural hazard events.

Local Natural Hazards

The risk assessment matrix below reflects the results of the rating-ranking exercise conducted during updates to the plan in 2014 and 2020. **Probability** is defined by FEMA as the likelihood of the hazard occurring in the future, based on historical frequencies or statistical probability models. **Magnitude** refers to the scale or severity of a hazard event in terms of the impacts to public safety, critical infrastructure, private property, economic activity, natural resources and other community assets. **Significance** is a measure of the need for planning and

mitigation action, based on the geographic extent, probability and magnitude of potential impacts.

In light of the growing incidence of severe hail events in the years 2014-2019, the Magnitude rating for the **Hailstorm** hazard was increased from *Limited* to **Critical** and the Significance rating was increased from *Medium* to **High**, meaning the hazard has the potential to cause serious injury and major damage and should be a high priority in planning and mitigation efforts. Likewise, due to the growing number of grassfires in the last five years, the Magnitude rating for the **Wildland/Grassland Fire** hazard was increased from *Limited* to **Critical**.

Due to the spread of the invasive weed *common mullein*, the Magnitude rating for **Noxious Weeds/Tumbleweeds** was increased from *Negligible* to **Limited** and the Significance rating was increased from *Low* to **High**. The Probability and Magnitude ratings for all other hazards in the table below were validated and no further changes were made.

Table 2.1 Sedgwick County Risk Assessment

SEDGWICK COUNTY HAZARDS	Geographic Extent	Probability	Magnitude	Significance
Biological Hazards: Pandemic	Extensive	Occasional	Critical	High
Biological Hazards: Pestilence	Extensive	Occasional	Limited	Medium
Biological Hazards: Zoonotic Diseases	Limited	Likely	Limited	Medium
Blizzards and Severe Winter Storms	Extensive	Likely	Critical	High
Dam Failures/Levee Failures	Limited	Likely	Limited	Medium
Drought	Extensive	Likely	Critical	High
Earthquake	Limited	Occasional	Limited	Low
Flooding	Significant	Likely	Critical	High
Fog	Significant	Likely	Negligible	Low
Hailstorms	Extensive	Highly Likely	Critical	High
Landslides	Limited	Occasional	Negligible	Low
Lightning	Extensive	Highly Likely	Limited	Medium
Noxious Weeds/Tumbleweeds	Extensive	Highly Likely	Limited	High
Straight-Line Winds	Extensive	Highly Likely	Limited	High
Temperature Extremes	Extensive	Highly Likely	Limited	Low
Tornadoes	Extensive	Likely	Critical	High
Wildland and Grassland Fires	Extensive	Highly Likely	Critical	High

Legend		
Geographic Extent	Extensive	50-100% of planning area.
	Significant	10-50% of planning area.
	Limited	Less than 10% of planning area.
Probability	Highly Likely	Near 100% chance of occurrence each year.
	Likely	10-100% chance of occurrence each year (recurrence interval: 10 yrs. or less).
	Occasional	1-10% chance of occurrence each year (recurrence interval: 11-100 yrs.)
	Unlikely	Less than 1% chance of occurrence each year (recurrence interval: >100 yrs.)
Magnitude	Catastrophic	Mass casualties and/or illnesses; extraordinary levels of destruction and service interruptions; sustained impacts to infrastructure, government functions and the economy; local and state resources overwhelmed (>50% of property severely damaged).
	Critical	Isolated deaths; multiple injuries and/or illnesses; major property damage; impacts to critical infrastructure; and/or disruption of essential services (25-50% of property severely damaged).
	Limited	Minor injuries, manageable number of illnesses; minor property damage; and/or interruption of essential services for less than 24 hrs. (10-25% of property severely damaged).

	Negligible	No injuries or illnesses; little or no property damage; brief disruptions of essential services (<10% of property severely damaged).
Significance	High	Widespread potential impacts (planning and mitigation priority: high).
	Medium	Moderate potential impacts (planning and mitigation priority: medium).
	Low	Minimal potential impacts (planning and mitigation priority: low).

Significant Hazard Events in Sedgwick County in the Last Five Years

As the updates to this plan were being completed, the **2020 COVID-19 Pandemic** spread across the globe, United States and Colorado. COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus that was unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China in December 2019. The illness rapidly spread to other continents and on March 5, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. Soon thereafter, most areas in eastern and northeastern Colorado reported cases of the virus. Locations where groups of people congregate in confined spaces – nursing homes/assisted-care facilities, manufacturing plants, correctional facilities – were prime locations for rapid disease transmission. The crisis resulted in statewide “stay at home” and “safer at home” orders as well as orders closing certain businesses (e.g., restaurants, bars, gyms and non-essential retail stores) and prohibiting gatherings of 10 or more people in a confined space. Many local governments and health departments also instituted requirements relative to safe-distancing, wearing face masks and other protective measures.

The other hazard events that occurred in Sedgwick County between 2015-2019 were reviewed at the workshop and through the survey process and the most significant events during the period are summarized in the table below, with additional data from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) Storm Events Database.

Table 2.2 Significant Hazard Events in Sedgwick County, 2015-2019

Hazard Event	Date(s)	Impacts
Blizzard	March 23, 2016	Heavy snowfall closed area roads; sustained winds of 35-40 mph with gusts over 60 mph and moderate to heavy snowfall (5-plus inches of snowfall)
Blizzard	April 13, 2018	Blowing/drifted snow; zero visibilities; road closures including I-76/stranded motorists; widespread power outages; strong winds (50-60 mph); heavy snowfall, including 9” five miles south of Sedgwick and 6-8” near Julesburg
Blizzard	March 13, 2019	Bomb Cyclone* caused severe straight-line winds, blowing/drifted snow, zero visibilities, power outages, and closure of area roads
Hailstorms	2015-2019	Hail at least 2.5” or greater recorded on June 27, 2016 at Marks Butte, July 28, 2018 in the Town of Julesburg, and May 17, 2019 in the Town of Sedgwick
Hailstorms	2015-2019	15 days with severe hail (hailstones measuring 1” in diameter or greater)
Tornado	April 23, 2015	EF1 tornado near Marks Butte in SW Sedgwick County destroyed a grain bin and power poles (\$25,000 damage)

Tornadoes	2016-2018	Multiple weak EF0 tornadoes reported over open country with no damages, including June 27, 2016 and June 17, 2018
Tornado	May 27, 2019	Tornado near Marks Butte caused minor damage to 20,000-bushel capacity grain bins, with 10 of 12 damaged, some by downed pipes that fell on them (\$250,000 damage)

Source: National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) Storm Events Database

* According to the National Weather Service, a “bomb cyclone” is a storm with rapidly plummeting atmospheric pressure, usually when a cold air mass collides with a warm air mass.

History of Natural Hazard Events in Sedgwick County

Extreme weather events in Sedgwick County occasionally result in major damage to homes, businesses, utilities, agricultural operations and crops. In June 1960, two tornado events one week apart resulted in damaged buildings, cars, trees and crops between Ovid and Julesburg (June 22, 1960) and two fatalities when two people were thrown from their car by a tornado northwest of Sedgwick on June 29, 1960. Crop damage is the most common impact from severe weather in Sedgwick County, such as on August 24, 2002 when hail decimated beet, bean and soybean crops south of Julesburg and damaged 20 structures and 40 vehicles in the area.

When the response capacity of an affected jurisdiction is exhausted by a natural disaster, a **state disaster declaration** may be issued, allowing for the provision of state assistance, usually for the purpose of covering the costs of state assets committed to response operations. Sedgwick County has been designated as a state-declared disaster area 18 times since 1980, including eight statewide declarations and five regional declarations.

Federal disaster declarations are granted when the magnitude and severity of impacts caused by an event surpass the ability of state and affected local governments to respond and recover. Most disaster assistance programs are supplemental and require a local cost-sharing match. Sedgwick County has received a major federal disaster declaration on six (6) occasions:

1. June 19, 1965 for tornadoes, severe storms and flooding (DR-200) that occurred on May 23-24, 1965 (Individual Assistance/Public Assistance);
2. May 19, 1969 (DR-261) for severe storms and flooding (Individual Assistance/Public Assistance);
3. May 23, 1973 (DR-385) following heavy rains and snowmelt flooding (Individual Assistance/Public Assistance);
4. May 17, 2001 following ice storms in April that caused extensive damage to REA-owned power lines and poles in Sedgwick County (Public Assistance only) and other Eastern Colorado counties (DR-1374);
5. September 14, 2013 following severe storms and flooding for Public Assistance and Individual Assistance (DR-4145); and
6. July 16, 2015 (DR-4229) following severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred in early May 2015 causing damage to roads and public facilities (Public Assistance only).

A **USDA disaster declaration** is the most common type of federal disaster assistance and is limited to low-interest loans to farmers and ranchers to help compensate for losses due to natural hazards, including drought, freezing, hail, and insect infestations. Sedgwick County received 10 USDA disaster declarations between 2003-2019 for drought and other hazards.

Section Three – Capability Assessment

Mitigation capabilities refer to the programs and policies currently in place to reduce hazard impacts, principally through the identification and implementation of cost-effective hazard mitigation measures. Capabilities can take the form of regulatory requirements (e.g., building codes or hazard-specific zoning ordinances), plans (e.g., hazard mitigation plans or stormwater master plans), certification programs (e.g., *Firewise* or *StormReady*), personnel (e.g., floodplain administrators and community planners), insurance (e.g., National Flood Insurance Program), and structural projects that protect critical facilities and other property. Hazard awareness and public education programs are also proven measures for preparing citizens to cope with hazard events that cannot be avoided.

In 2017, the Town of Sedgwick adopted new floodplain management regulations to minimize public and private losses due to flooding by restricting/prohibiting flood hazard zone uses and controlling floodplain alterations such as filling, grading, dredging or construction of flood barriers.

The political jurisdictions within Sedgwick County enforce a range of other policies and regulations that support mitigation goals and principles by restricting development in areas prone to natural hazards. In most jurisdictions, the local comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance and building codes are the primary tools utilized to regulate development in hazard-prone areas. The mitigation capabilities and resources currently in place in the Participating Jurisdictions are summarized in the table below.

Table 3.1 Mitigation Capabilities

Capability	Sedgwick County	Town of Julesburg	Town of Ovid	Town of Sedgwick
Planning and Regulatory Capabilities				
Building Codes	No	No	No	Yes
Building Codes Year	N/A	N/A	N/A	
BCEGS Rating	No	No	No	No
Capital Improvements Program or Plan (CIP)	No	No	No	No
Community Rating System	No	No	No	No
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	Yes (2016)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Comprehensive, Master or General Plan	No	Yes	No	Yes
Economic Plan	No	No	No	No
Elevation Certificates	No	No	No	No
Erosion/Sediment Control Program	No	No	No	No
Floodplain Management Plan or Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Flood Insurance Study (FIS)	No	No	No	No
Growth Management Ordinance	No	No	No	No
Non-Flood Hazard-Specific Ordinance	No	No	No	No
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes	Yes		Yes
Stormwater Plan, Program or Ordinance	No	No	No	No
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Financial Capabilities				
Levy for Specific Purposes with Voter Approval				

Utilities Fees				
System Development/Impact Development Fee				
General Obligation Bonds to Incur Debt				
Special Tax Bonds to Incur Debt				
Withheld Spending in Hazard-Prone Areas				
Stormwater Service Fees	No	No	No	No
Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Funding	No	No	No	No
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds				
Administrative and Technical Capabilities				
Emergency Manager	Yes	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Land Use/Community Planner				
Planner/Engineer (Land Development)				
Planner/Engineer/Scientist (Natural Hazards)	No	No	No	No
Engineer/Professional (Construction)				
Resiliency Planner	No	No	No	No
Transportation Planner	No	No	No	No
Building Official	No	Yes	No	No
GIS Specialist and Capability	Yes	No	No	No
Grant Manager, Writer, or Specialist	No	No	No	No
Warning Systems/Services				
♦ General	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
♦ Flood	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
♦ Wildfire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
♦ Tornado Sirens	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
♦ Geologic Hazards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Education and Outreach				
Citizen Groups that Communicate Hazard Risks				
Firewise	No	No	No	No
StormReady	No	No	No	No

* Capability provided by Sedgwick County

Section Four – Vulnerability Assessment

Community Assets at Risk

This section describes the community assets at risk to natural hazards in Sedgwick County, including people and property; economic assets; critical facilities and infrastructure; and natural, cultural, and historic resources.

In 2017, the total assessed value of residential properties in Sedgwick County was \$5,591,960, an increase of 7.37% in total value from 2012. The total assessed value of agricultural properties increased from \$14,807,440 in 2012 to \$24,339,730 in 2017, a 64.38% increase. The total assessed value of commercial properties increased slightly, from \$3,642,700 in 2012 to \$4,072,130 in 2017, an 11.79% increase. Overall, the value of assessed properties in Sedgwick County increased 8.71% in the five-year period from 2012-2017.

Table 4.1 Summary of Taxable Properties in Sedgwick County, 2012-2017

Property Classification	2012 Assessed Value	2017 Assessed Value	% Change
Agricultural Properties	\$14,807,440	\$24,339,730	64.38
Commercial Properties	\$3,642,700	\$4,072,130	11.79
Industrial Properties	\$135,450	\$210,400	55.33
Natural Resources	\$104,660	\$105,610	0.91
Residential Properties	\$5,208,270	\$5,591,960	7.37
Vacant Properties	\$293,090	\$117,870	-59.79
State-Assessed Properties	\$31,827,500	\$26,663,300	-16.23
Total Taxable Property	\$56,381,480	\$61,289,810	8.71

Source: 2012 Sedgwick County Abstract of Assessment; 2017 Sedgwick County Abstract of Assessment

The total assessed values for municipalities, school districts and fire districts in Sedgwick County are shown in the table below.

Table 4.2 Summary of Taxable Properties for Municipalities, Schools and Fire Districts

2017 Assessed Values					
Municipalities		School Districts		Fire Protection Districts	
Julesburg	\$7,225,357	Julesburg RE-1	\$33,467,849	Julesburg	\$18,043,587
Ovid	\$1,301,800	Revere RE-1	\$26,808,698	Ovid	\$11,657,941
Sedgwick	\$602,773			Sedgwick	\$10,177,844

Source: 2017 Sedgwick County Abstract of Assessment

Critical Facilities

Critical facilities and infrastructure are the structures and systems that are integral to day-to-day functions and, if damaged, would have serious adverse impacts on disaster response and recovery operations. Infrastructure and facilities that are commonly considered *critical* include law enforcement facilities, fire service facilities, health care facilities, government facilities, emergency operations centers, public shelters, transportation systems, water supply facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, agricultural production facilities, electrical power systems and other utilities. In addition, critical facilities are those that house vulnerable populations, such as schools and assisted living or senior housing.

Table 4.3 Critical Facilities in Sedgwick County

Critical Facilities	Sedgwick County	Julesburg	Ovid	Sedgwick
Law Enforcement Facilities	1	0	0	0
Fire Stations	0	1	1	1
Hospitals	1	0	0	0
EMS/Ambulance Stations	1	1	0	0
Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs)	1	0	0	0
Public Safety Communications Centers	1	0	0	0
Courthouse/City Hall/Town Hall	1	1	1	1
Schools/Colleges	0	3	1	1
Assisted Living Facilities	1	1	0	0
Wastewater Treatment	0	1	1	1
Water Utilities/Treatment	0	1	1	1

Airports	0	1	0	0
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Economic Assets

In addition to the traditionally strong crop and livestock production industries in Sedgwick County, the other sectors of the local economy with the most employees are Education, Health Care and Retail Trade.

Table 4.4 Industry Distribution – Top Three Industrial Sectors by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Sector	Employees	Percent of Workforce
Sedgwick County	1. Educational Services/Health Care/Social Assistance	232	23.4
	2. Agriculture	155	15.6
	3. Retail Trade	106	10.7
Julesburg	1. Educational Services/Health Care/Social Assistance	155	29.9
	2. Public Administration	67	12.9
	3. Agriculture	63	12.1
Ovid	1. Educational Services/Health Care/Social Assistance (*Tie)	15	17.9
	1. Transportation-Warehousing/Utilities (*Tie)	15	17.9
	2. Retail Trade	13	15.5
Sedgwick	1. Transportation-Warehousing/Utilities (*Tie)	8	11.9
	1. Construction (*Tie)	8	11.9
	2. Other Services (Except Public Administration)	8	11.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2012 Survey of Business Owners

Social Vulnerability

Certain demographic and housing characteristics are important considerations when identifying and prioritizing mitigation goals and actions. *Age* can affect the ability of individuals to safely evacuate away from hazardous conditions. *Language and cultural barriers* can affect the communication of warning information and access to post-disaster information. *Low-income residents* generally have fewer resources available for mitigation, preparedness, and recovery and are more likely to live in vulnerable structures.

Table 4.5 Social Vulnerability Indicators from U.S. Census, 2013-2017

Jurisdiction	Total Population	Housing Units	% Female	% Under 18 Yrs.	% 65 and Over	% Non-English at Home	Individuals Below Poverty Level (%)
Sedgwick County	2,357	1,297	50.1	21.9	25.0	6.9	17.0
Julesburg	1,299	702	52.4	22.6	26.1	8.8	14.1
Ovid	235	147	47.2	16.6	24.0	15.2	33.6
Sedgwick	170	126	34.7	12.9	22.4	3.2	27.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Historic, Cultural and Natural Resources

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The table below lists the properties in Sedgwick County that are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Table 4.6 Historic Properties in Sedgwick County on the National Register

Property	Location	Year Listed
Sedgwick County Courthouse	315 Cedar St., Julesburg	2007
Union Pacific Railroad Julesburg Depot (Depot Museum)	201 W. 1 st St., Julesburg	2004

Source: Directory of Colorado State Register Properties

The Colorado State Register of Historic Properties is a listing of the state's significant cultural resources worthy of preservation for the future education and enjoyment of Colorado's residents and visitors. The table below lists the properties in Sedgwick County that are on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

Table 4.7 Historic Properties in Sedgwick County on the State Register

Property	Location	Year Listed
Hippodrome Theater	215 Cedar St., Julesburg	1999
Julesburg Public Library	300 Cedar St., Julesburg	2001
Ovid High School	300 Morgan St., Ovid	2000

Source: Directory of Colorado State Register Properties

Growth and Development Trends

According to the State Demography Office, the population of Sedgwick County is forecast to be 2,245 in 2020, 2,284 in 2030, 2,194 in 2040 and 2,166 in 2050. Overall, the population growth rate for Sedgwick County is expected to be flat between 2020 and 2050 with a projected growth rate of -3.52 percent.

Table 4.8 Population Growth, 2010-2017

Jurisdiction	2010 Population	2017 Population	Percent Change
Sedgwick County	2,379	2,357	-0.92
Town of Julesburg	1,225	1,299	6.04
Town of Ovid	318	235	-26.10
Town of Sedgwick	146	170	16.44

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Vulnerability to High Priority Hazards in Sedgwick County

The entire population of Sedgwick County is more or less equally vulnerable to the high priority natural hazards identified in this plan, with the exception of the flood hazard, which affects only certain flood hazard areas in communities near the S. Platte River. The vulnerability of community assets in Sedgwick County to high priority hazards is summarized in the following discussion.

Blizzards and Severe Winter Storms

Winter storms will continue to occur with high frequency throughout Sedgwick County and occasionally cause widespread impacts. The greatest risk is to the safety of the public, including travelers on the county's highways and roads and citizens with medical conditions or other special needs that may become isolated. Highway closures and power outages can present a need to open and manage public shelters and provide mass care services. Winter storms can occasionally lead to school and business closures, road closures, and extraordinary requirements to remove snow and maintain critical emergency services.

Drought

The most significant impacts from drought are related to water-intensive activities, such as agriculture (both crops and livestock), wildfire protection, municipal usage, commerce, recreation, and wildlife preservation, as well as a reduction of electric power generation and water quality deterioration. Secondary impacts of drought are wildfires, wind erosion, and soil compaction that can make an area more susceptible to flooding. Drought impacts increase with the length of a drought.

Drought does not usually present life safety issues or directly impact critical infrastructures such as roads, bridges, utilities, communications systems, or public safety resources. However, drought presents ongoing challenges for all communities in Northeast Colorado and the Eastern Plains, requiring sustained planning and conservation efforts to ensure a reliable water supply to meet current and future needs.

Flooding

Three jurisdictions in Sedgwick County participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): Julesburg, Sedgwick and Sedgwick County. As of February 29, 2020, there are two (2) policies in force in the Town of Sedgwick for a total coverage of \$350,000. In 2019, FEMA began the process of updating flood hazard maps in Sedgwick County. The proposed flood hazard determinations will be the basis for new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) following local adoption. The new FIRMs will be used to guide local floodplain management measures and calculate flood insurance premium rates. A public comment period on the proposed flood hazard determinations ended in March 2020 with an appeal process to follow.

There are three High Hazard (Class I) dams in Sedgwick County and seven dry dams in the Sedgwick-Sand Draws Watershed that provide limited flood protection from floodwaters originating in Nebraska, where the majority of the watershed exists. The three High Hazard Dams – Julesburg #2, Julesburg #3 and Julesburg #4 (Big Jumbo) – are under storage restrictions due to Unsatisfactory inspection ratings by the State Engineer's Office/Division of Water Resources.

Dam Name	Hazard Class	Year Built	Stream	Downstream Community	Miles*
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-1	Low	1980	S. Platte River	Sedgwick	4
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-2	Low	1980	S. Platte River	Sedgwick	5
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-3	Low	1982	S. Platte River	Sedgwick	5
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-4.5	Low	1983	S. Platte River	Sedgwick	3
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-5	Low	1985	S. Platte River	Sedgwick	5
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-6	Low	1984	S. Platte River	Ovid	9

Floodwater Retention Dam SS-7	Low	1982	S. Platte River	Ovid	4
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-8	Low	1988	S. Platte River	Ovid	5
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-8.5	Low	1990	S. Platte River	Ovid	5
Julesburg #2	High	1910	Cottonwood Cr.	Dorsey	3
Julesburg #3	High	1910	Cottonwood Cr.	Dorsey	3
Julesburg #4 (Big Jumbo)	High	1910	S. Platte River	Sedgwick	7
Sand Creek	Low	1930	Sand Draw	Venango, NE	6
Stretesky	NPH		Sand Draw	Venango, NE	11

Source: Colorado Division of Water Resources

* Distance to nearest downstream community

NPH = No Public Hazard

Dam Name	EAP	Storage (Acre Feet)	Owner
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-1	NR	158	Sedgwick-Sand Draws WTSD. CONS. DIST.
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-2	NR	743	Sedgwick-Sand Draws WTSD. CONS. DIST.
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-3	NR	2,136	Sedgwick-Sand Draws WTSD. CONS. DIST.
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-4.5	NR	133	Sedgwick-Sand Draws WTSD. CONS. DIST.
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-5	NR	561	Sedgwick-Sand Draws WTSD. CONS. DIST.
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-6	NR	1,632	Sedgwick-Sand Draws WTSD. CONS. DIST.
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-7	NR	805	Sedgwick-Sand Draws WTSD. CONS. DIST.
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-8	NR	532	Sedgwick-Sand Draws WTSD. CONS. DIST.
Floodwater Retention Dam SS-8.5	NR	61	Sedgwick-Sand Draws WTSD. CONS. DIST.
Julesburg #2	2019	28,178	Julesburg Irrigation District
Julesburg #3	2019	27,919	Julesburg Irrigation District
Julesburg #4	2019	27,186	Julesburg Irrigation District
Sand Creek	NR	63	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Stretesky	NR	46	Albert Stretetsky

Source: Colorado Division of Water Resources

EAP = Emergency Action Plan

NR = Not Required

Hailstorms

Hail is primarily a risk to property and agriculture activities -- vehicles, roofs, crops and landscaping are the property most commonly damaged by hail. However, large hail can also cause death or injury to people caught outside and exposed to the elements. Although large hail events frequently result in high aggregate insured losses, property damages are generally limited, serious injuries are rare, and there is typically little or no impact to critical facilities, which are generally able to operate without disruption to services.

Noxious/Tumbleweeds

Common mullein (*Verbascum thaspos*), a List C species under the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, is an invasive weed that is becoming more prevalent in Sedgwick County. The plant is hard to control due to the large amount of seed produced and seed bank left in the soil. Common mullein has no forage value for livestock and can reduce grass and crop production. Mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical treatments can be successful if utilized together in an integrated weed management plan.

Blowing dust events are increasing in frequency in Eastern Colorado and can have wide-ranging impacts, including fatal, chain-reaction car accidents in zero-visibility conditions, serious public health problems, loss of valuable topsoil and injury to livestock. Wind-driven tumbleweeds can pile up to the roofs of houses, blocking doors and windows and causing fire hazards.

Pandemic: COVID-19 and other Novel Virus Infections

Older adults and individuals with serious chronic health conditions are most at risk for becoming very ill or dying from a serious respiratory virus like COVID-19 and other novel virus infections. In eastern and northeastern Colorado, the population skews to the older side of the state average (approximately 2-8 years older per capita, depending on the county) and residents with underlying health problems have less access to the health care services they need.

With fewer people and wide-open spaces, rural Colorado provides a natural social-distancing environment. However, rural residents still tend to congregate in common places where diseases can be passed from person-to-person, including schools, churches, grocery stores and post offices. Communities located along interstate highways may be more susceptible to exposure from the traveling public, including truck drivers from all parts of the country. Large rural employers, including packing plants, feedlots, grain elevators, and confined livestock operations as well as prisons, can also be prime locations for rapid virus transmission, as was experienced during the COVID-19 crisis at the Cargill meatpacking plant in Morgan County and the Sterling Correctional Facility in Logan County. Sadly, nursing home and assisted living facility residents have been the most vulnerable citizens to the highly contagious COVID-19 virus, due to their age, underlying health issues and congregate living setting.

Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic COVID-19 illness can still place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk. A large surge in the number of persons with serious infections can overwhelm local hospitals and clinics and compromise the ability of the health care system to deliver necessary health care to the public.¹ Most rural hospitals are not as equipped as larger hospital systems and many face significant health care workforce shortages on a normal basis, meaning patients in a pandemic may need to be transferred to larger hospitals or cared for in an unconventional, alternate setting. Other challenges to small town hospitals posed by a pandemic include limited inpatient and intensive care beds, disadvantages in competing for critical equipment and supplies, and loss of revenue from cancellation of elective procedures.

The drawn-out nature of a pandemic also places additional strain on EMS, fire and other response resources that rely heavily on volunteers, who together with their families already face greater exposure to the virus and a higher risk of infection. Every community in eastern and northeastern Colorado depends on volunteers to provide fire, EMS and ambulance services.

In addition to the loss of life and human suffering caused by COVID-19, the pandemic is expected to have an extensive negative effect on the global economy for years to come, with substantial drops in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) accompanied by extraordinary increases in unemployment in the U.S. and around the world.

COVID-19 presents a number of challenges for farmers and ranchers in Colorado, including (1) uncertain impacts on markets and farm prices, (2) supply chain shortages and slowdowns, (3)

¹ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, covid19.colorado.gov.

health impacts to the farm-ranch workforce, and (4) potential shortages of safety gear such as protective gloves and N-95 masks due to their critical need by health care workers.² If large hog-packing plants in Oklahoma, Kansas or Texas had to shut down due to the spread of a virus through their workforce, agricultural COOPs and commercial hog farms in northeastern Colorado could be affected by the supply chain disruptions that would be created. In a worst-case scenario, local hog farms would have to depopulate animals because there would be no place to ship them for processing.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends community mitigation strategies such as social distancing measures to limit spread of the virus. A community mitigation strategy is a set of actions that individuals and communities can take to help slow the spread of respiratory virus infections. Community mitigation is especially important before a vaccine or drug becomes widely available. Community mitigation aims to slow the spread of a novel influenza virus and protect health care and critical infrastructure workers through the use of nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs). NPIs are readily available actions and response measures that people can take including staying at home, covering coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing and routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

Community-level NPIs help reduce social contacts between people in schools, workplaces, and other community settings by dismissing schools temporarily, providing telework options, postponing large gatherings and issuing public health orders. A community mitigation strategy outlines recommended actions that can be taken by individuals/families at home, schools and childcare facilities, assisted living facilities, workplaces, health care facilities, and community- and faith-based organizations.³

Tornadoes and Straight-Line Winds

According to the National Storm Events Database, there have been 36 confirmed tornado events in Sedgwick County since 1950. Most of these tornadoes were small (Fo/EFo) and occurred over open country; however, F1- and F2-scale tornadoes do occur from time to time and can cause considerable damage. In June 1960, two tornado events one week apart resulted in damaged buildings, cars, trees and crops between Ovid and Julesburg (June 22, 1960) and two fatalities when two people were thrown from their car by a tornado northwest of Sedgwick on June 29, 1960.

Straight-line wind events occur more frequently than tornadoes in Sedgwick County and cause at least as much damage. It is often difficult to tell whether storm damage was a result of a tornado or severe winds. During blizzards, straight-line winds magnify the dangerous effects of cold temperatures and impede safe travel by reducing visibility. Prolonged power outages can result when power lines are brought down by a combination ice buildup on the lines and strong winds. During dry periods, high winds can contribute to rapid fire growth in open spaces and other areas where natural grasses can grow tall and ultimately cure. High winds can also damage roofs and structures and cause secondary damages as a result of flying debris.

² Colorado Farm Bureau, coloradofarmbureau.com.

³ *Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission*. March 12, 2020. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, www.cdc.gov/COVID19.

Wildland/Grassland Fires

All areas of Sedgwick County are subject to the risk of wildfire, including non-irrigated pastureland, harvested dry land crop areas (corn stalks and wheat stubble) and natural grassland areas (e.g., land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, or CRP). Wildfires in these areas are typically caused by severe weather events (lightning) and tend to spread rapidly. The greatest risk exists during severe weather season (spring/summer months), when cloud-to-ground lightning is common. Fall is also considered a high-risk time as crops have matured and are drying out in the fields and harvesting is in progress. Most controlled burns by property owners are conducted in the Spring.

According to the 2016 Sedgwick County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), the conditions that lead to extreme wildfire behavior are high winds, high temperatures, low relative humidity and dry ignitable fuels. Wind-driven fire events present serious challenges for rural fire protection districts, including (a) distance and access to many rural locations; (b) difficulty establishing buffers and zone boundaries; (c) short time available to conduct timely evacuations; and (d) potential manpower/resource limits with volunteer fire organizations.

Section Five – Mitigation Strategy

This section describes the **Mitigation Strategy** developed by Sedgwick County, based on the assessment of risks and vulnerable community assets that was updated at the planning workshop and through survey feedback and interviews with local officials. The Mitigation Strategy includes Mitigation Actions for reducing local risks and accomplishing the goals listed below.

1. Reduce loss of life, property damages, and economic impacts caused by natural hazard vents.
2. Improve county-level capabilities to reduce disaster losses.
3. Increase public awareness of potential hazard impacts.
4. Improve preparedness for future pandemic events by collaborating with government, business, education, medical and public health partners on plans that address identified lessons learned from the COVID-19 public health disaster on a local, region and state level.
5. Maintain FEMA eligibility and qualify participating communities for federal mitigation funding.

Since 2015, significant progress has been made with implementation of the Mitigation Actions recommended in the previous plan, including recognition by the National Weather Service of Sedgwick County as a **StormReady** community, upgrades to siren warning systems in Ovid and Sedgwick, and participation by the Town of Ovid in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Most of the 2015 Mitigation Actions are ongoing projects that are making progress and are worthy of retaining in the updated plan. At the planning workshop, participants reviewed the status of 2015 projects and determined which incomplete actions to retain in the updated plan. Table 5.1 below provides a report on the status of Mitigation Actions identified in the previous 2015 version of this plan.

Table 5.1 Status of 2015 Mitigation Actions

Sedgwick County			
#	2015 Mitigation Actions	Responsible Agency	Status

1	Encourage the Town of Ovid to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	Town of Ovid	Complete (2009)
2	Obtain <i>StormReady</i> certification from National Weather Service.	OEM	Complete (2018)
3	Improve drainage west of Julesburg by installing larger culverts beneath UP railroad tracks.	Sedgwick County Public Works	No progress/retain for 2020
4	Obtain the Emergency Action Plans for Julesburg and Sterling Reservoirs.	OEM	Complete
5	Plant future Living Snow Fences farther from farm buildings than is the current practice to reduce the fire danger.	OEM, USDA, NRCS	Ongoing/retain for 2020 (reword to reflect CSFS guidance)
6	Promote the benefits of crop insurance to the County agricultural community.	OEM, USDA, NRCS	Ongoing/retain for 2020
7	Implement an overall communications system update.	Commissioners, OEM	Ongoing/retain for 2020
8	Upgrade Siren Warning Systems for the Towns of Ovid and Sedgwick.	OEM	Complete (2014)
9	Continue to comply with the NFIP in Julesburg, Ovid and Sedgwick and promote wise use of floodplains through ordinance administration and flood insurance.	Town Floodplain Administrators	Ongoing/retain for 2020

2020-2025 Mitigation Actions

The evaluation and prioritization of proposed 2020 Mitigation Actions were based on the updated risk assessment (i.e., probability and magnitude of impacts for each hazard), significant events from the last five years, and the informed judgement of local officials who weighed the pros and cons of proposed actions based on their subject matter expertise and experience with local hazards. The STAPLEE evaluation tool was considered as an additional method for evaluating the effectiveness of each action item. STAPLEE considers social, technical, administrative, political, legal, economic, and environmental constraints and benefits of each proposed activity.

Ongoing actions from the 2015 plan and proposed new mitigation actions were rated as High or Medium priority (actions considered low priority are not included in the update of this plan). The results of this effort are summarized in the table below, including a description of each mitigation action, the action's priority, and the offices, departments or agencies responsible for implementing the action.

Table 5.2 Mitigation Actions 2020-2025

Sedgwick County			
#	Proposed Mitigation Actions	Responsible Agency	Priority
1	Improve drainage west of Julesburg by installing larger culverts beneath UP railroad tracks.	Sedgwick County Public Works	Medium
2	Utilize multiple media to deliver educational information and guidance to residents and agriculturalists regarding creating effective defensible spacing around buildings in accordance with the defensible space management zones concept endorsed by the Colorado State Forest Service	OEM, Colorado State Forest Service, USDA, NRCS	Medium

3	Promote the benefits of crop insurance to the County agricultural community.	OEM, USDA, NRCS	Medium
4	Upgrade public safety answering points (PSAPs) to digital, IP-based Next Generation 911 (NG911) technology to improve 911 system reliability and capacity for managing overload during large-scale emergencies and disasters.	Commissioners, Sedgwick County Communications Center, OEM	High
5	Continue to comply with the NFIP in Julesburg, Ovid and Sedgwick and promote wise use of floodplains through ordinance administration and flood insurance.	Town Floodplain Administrators	Medium
6	Develop a comprehensive After-Action Report that documents COVID-19 impacts and captures lessons learned related to government services, public safety, education, agriculture, health care and the economy.	OEM with EMS, Public Health and Medical Services Partners	High
7	Develop a countywide mitigation strategy that outlines recommended actions that can be taken at different stages of a pandemic by individuals/families at home, schools and childcare facilities, assisted living facilities, workplaces, health care facilities, and community- and faith-based organizations.	OEM with EMS, Public Health and Medical Services Partners	High
8	Develop a medical surge capacity plan, in cooperation with local, regional and state partners, to improve capabilities for scaling up the coordinated delivery of health interventions during a pandemic event, including vaccinations, patient transport and care, medical staffing, and critical medical and personal protective equipment.	OEM with EMS, Public Health and Medical Services Partners	High
9	Develop a plan for acquiring, maintaining and refreshing a local stockpile of vaccines, medicines (including antibiotics and antivirals), and equipment (such as masks, gowns, and ventilators) and identify reliable vendors and other external sources to supplement local stockpiles.	OEM with EMS, Public Health and Medical Services Partners	High
10	Develop public education guidelines for communicating with the public during a pandemic that ensures information is timely, accurate, coordinated, and includes provisions for addressing rumors, misinformation and public perceptions of risk.	OEM with EMS, Public Health and Medical Services Partners	High

Section Six – Maintaining and Updating the County Plan Element

Formal Plan Adoption

In accordance with protocols established by the Colorado Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (CDHSEM), the final draft of this updated plan is submitted to CDHSEM for state-level review and recommended changes prior to FEMA review. FEMA then reviews the plan and, pending any required changes, issues a notice that the plan is Approvable Pending Adoption (APA) by the governing body of each participating jurisdiction. According to CDSHEM requirements, the plan must be formally adopted by participating jurisdictions within eight months of receiving notice of FEMA APA status.

Plan Maintenance

Regular maintenance of this plan will help maintain a focus on hazards that pose the greatest risks and on the recommended measures for reducing future potential hazard losses. The Sedgwick County Emergency Manager will serve as the primary point of contact and will coordinate all local efforts to monitor, evaluate, and update this plan. Participating jurisdictions

and individual departments are responsible for implementing their specific mitigation actions and reporting on the status of these actions to the Emergency Manager.

Plan maintenance involves an ongoing effort to monitor and evaluate the implementation of identified action items in the plan, and to update the plan as progress, opportunities, obstacles, or changing circumstances are encountered. At least once a year, the Emergency Manager will convene a meeting to review new hazards data or studies, discuss new capabilities or changes in capabilities, consider any input received from the public, evaluate the effectiveness of existing mitigation actions, and modify or add mitigation actions.

Incorporation of Mitigation Strategy into Other Plans and Programs

Mitigation is most successful when it is incorporated within the day-to-day operations of land use planning, road and bridge/public works, public health and other mainstream functions of local government. Multi-objective projects that mutually benefit partners and stakeholders are usually more cost-effective and more-broadly supported. Many other local plans present opportunities to address hazard mitigation in a way that can support multiple community objectives.

Ideally, identified mitigation actions should be implemented through existing plans and policies, which already have support from the community and policy makers. The incorporation of elements of this plan into existing planning mechanisms requires coordination between the Emergency Manager and the staff of each department responsible for implementing specific mitigation actions. The Emergency Manager, with support and guidance from Participating Jurisdictions, will work with the responsible agencies to incorporate this County Plan Element into existing planning mechanisms.