

## **IV. Goals, Objectives and Mitigation Strategies**

Goals, objectives and mitigation strategies in this section were selected and prioritized based on the most likely occurrences of possible hazards in Benton County and those of most concern to the participants in the Hazard Mitigation process as discussed in Sections II, III and V.

This data relied heavily on historical precedent and citizen input from both the public and businesses.

Various strategies are based on what is most likely to assist in the protection of citizens within Benton County as well as mitigation of damages to infrastructure in the County due to these potential hazards.

Prior to the implementation of the strategies listed in the Plan, the County has utilized a cost-benefit analysis in the ranking and selection of projects to insure the projects with the greatest impacts are chosen.

### **❖ Mitigation Method Selection Process**

The mitigation method process went through a number of steps before developing Section IV Goals, Objective and Mitigation Strategies.

#### **➤ Review**

The original mitigation plan submitted in 2005 was reviewed to see if any of the mitigation methods listed were still active or viable. Other supporting documents such as comprehensive plans and ordinances were also review to note any changes since the first plan was drafted.

#### **➤ Solicitation**

During the meetings with CI/KR representatives and within our various survey methods used, mitigation methods were sought from the participants. Each different infrastructure type had varying ideas about methods that pertained to their businesses.

#### **Discussion**

Once the numbers of methods were assembled, they were reviewed as to appropriateness. Discussions were held during the Mitigation Planning Team Sessions and in meetings with the various City Emergency Managers.

#### **➤ Selection**

Selection was based on the ability to implement, funding availability and cost-benefit of the selected methods. Those that required little effort or funding were put at the top of the list for immediate implementation, while those methods that required a great deal of effort and money were put at the bottom of the list. Because of the reduction of staff and budgets during the past several years and also for the next decade it appears that only mitigation efforts that are funded by outside sources will be able to be instituted.

## ➤ **Prioritization**

Prioritization is based upon three criteria; what can be done as soon as possible, with the least expense and has the best cost-benefit to the jurisdictions. .

**NOTE:** In the following listing of hazards, any new goal or strategy is underlined; if it is not underlined then it is from the 2005 Mitigation Plan and remains a viable mitigation effort. No goals or strategies were deleted unless mentioned in the "Current State of Action" section at the end of each goal.

### **Hazard: Summer Storms** (Includes thunderstorms, lightning, hail, wind and tornados)

#### **Goal 1 – Violent Storms:** *Decrease the negative impact of storms*

##### **Objectives:**

- Increase notification capabilities and options
- Educate the public on the hazards of such things as lightning, straight line winds, tornadoes, hail and how they can reduce or prevent death, injuries and property damage.

##### **Strategies:**

- Attempt to insure the presence of weather radios in all public buildings where large events are held.
- Provide staffed communications trailer during large events.
- Brochures, public meetings, press releases, make information available in other languages when possible.
- Increase the use of Echo (A Minnesota Multiple languages video source that focuses on emergency issues) to spread the word about preparedness to non-English speaking peoples.

**Responsible Parties:** County, City and Township government specifically emergency management. Benton County Emergency Management maintains a mobile communications trailer and Command trailer that are available to jurisdictions within Benton County.

**Time Frame:** Ongoing

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time, which will have to be based on approved budget constraints.

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio. Education can be accomplished through Public Service Announcements, setting up displays at local fairs and organizational meetings. The message can be spread among many people for basically staff time.

**Current State of Action:** All of the above strategies have been implemented and continue to be used.

## **Goal 2 – Violent Storms: *Safe and accessible shelter from violent storms***

### **Objectives:**

- Check into further need for storm shelters and tornado drill plans

### **Strategies:**

- Try to ensure that businesses in county have tornado drill plans in place
- Conduct a survey of businesses within Benton County as to storm shelters and tornado drill plans.
- Try to ensure that places such as mobile home parks and public parks have some sort of storm shelters where possible
- See if zoning ordinances can call for placement of storm shelters
- Apply for NOAA/NWS grants for outdoor warning sirens.

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County Emergency Management and participating local jurisdiction emergency managers.

**Time Frame:** Ongoing for education, zoning ordinances unknown

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time.

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a high cost and high benefit ratio. Portions of this method can be accomplished for no monetary investment. A survey can be conducted online for no cost.

**Current State of Action:** NOAA/NWS grants for outdoor warning sirens have been applied for along with grant applications from other Federal sources. An online survey is being developed to collect information on storm shelters and tornado drill plans.

## **Hazard: Fire**

### **Goal 1 – Fire Risks Reduced: *Increase awareness of wildfire risks thus reducing wildfire risks.***

### **Objectives:**

- Educate the public on the dangers of fire, risks to homes and property in more risky areas
- Minimize wildfire risks within Benton County

### **Strategies:**

- Have information available on county website concerning wildfire dangers
- Write articles for newspapers
- Distribute remaining Fire Wise brochures at public events.
- Update 911 addressing and GPS of at risk residences and businesses.
- Provide local fire departments with access to mass notification system based upon

- the jurisdiction of the county that they have contracted.
- Provide aerial views of at risk homes from the County's Pictometry imaging.
- Seek funds to remove storm-damaged timbers from land in order to reduce the wildfire fuel supply.

**Responsible Parties:** Coordination through Benton County Emergency management, volunteers from City fire departments, Benton County Information Services, office staff, other volunteer organizations, Central Minnesota Mutual Aid and Benton County GIS.

**Time Frame:** By end of 2012 ongoing for education

**Estimated Cost:** Emergency notification system and aerial photography costs approximately \$30,000 for one year.

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a high cost and high benefit ratio. Benton County is currently in a two-year contract with Global Connect to provide emergency notification County Wide. Benton County also has current Aerial photography from 2009.

**Current State of Action:** Information continues to be handed out at public functions, information is available on wildfires on the county website, rural fire numbers continue to be updated.

## **Hazard: Flood**

**Goal 1 – Flood:** *Reduce Benton County's vulnerability to flood*

### **Objectives:**

- Reduce the number of properties vulnerable to flooding

### **Strategies:**

- Buy out existing homes that are in the floodplain and have occupants relocate

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County Department of Development, FEMA

**Time Frame:** Indefinite, depends on available funding

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time and based on budgets and grants, costs to buy out properties surrounding Little Rock Lake is estimated at \$7.3 million dollars.

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a high cost and medium benefit ratio. Land acquisition is extremely costly even with only a 25% match it is still out of reach. It also would only benefit a small area of the county. This mitigation method remains a possibility, however it is very slight.

**Current State of Action:** Due to extremely tight budgets, reduction in government staff, poor revenues and the requirement for a 25% match this mitigation effort is not feasible for the County.

**Goal 2 – Flood:** *Reduce the level of flooding*

**Objectives:**

- Ensure proper water drainage

**Strategies:**

- Encourage and ensure that culverts and drainage ditches in the county are clear and unobstructed so that maximum flood water dispersal is possible
- Investigate the feasibility of a gate system to prevent backflow from the Mississippi to flood Little Rock Lake

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County Public Works Department, Foley Public Works and Sauk Rapids Public Works.

**Time Frame:** Ongoing as budgets allow **Estimated**

**Cost:** Based on budgets and grants

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a medium cost and medium benefit ratio. Much of the culvert and grading work can be done on an ongoing basis as part of the County and Cities maintenance upkeep plan.

**Current State of Action:** Culverts and drainage systems are continually checked during periods of potential flooding.

**Goal 3 – Flood:** *Reduce safety hazards during times of flooding*

**Objectives:**

- Make sure county, cities, and townships have enough flags and barricades to be able to mark flooded roads
- Develop emergency warning system to warn and instruct at risk persons as to the existence of a specific threat and what to do. (Covered under Goal 1 – Hazmat.)

**Strategies:**

- Take survey of county/city/townships to find out if they have adequate numbers.

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County Emergency Management, Benton County Highway Department, Foley Emergency Management, Foley Public Works, Sauk Rapids Emergency Management, Sauk Rapids Public Works.

**Time Frame:** 2010-2015

**Estimated Cost:** Based on budgets and grants and In-house staff time

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio. Much of the equipment is already in existence. The entire county is in a current two-year contract concerning emergency notification, at the end of this two year contract it will be necessary to seek additional funding.

**Current State of Action:** Additional barricades were purchased to help block off roads during flooding.

## **Hazard: Winter Storm/Blizzard/Ice**

### **Goal 1 – Winter Storm: *Improve Public Awareness***

#### **Objectives:**

- Educate the public on the dangers of winter storms
- Expand Winter Weather Awareness activities in conjunction with MN HSEM the public on the dangers of winter storms

#### **Strategies:**

- Use internet postings, radio and news articles on dangers of winter storms and on what to have to be prepared for weather at home, work and traveling

**Responsible Parties:** County and City Emergency Management Departments.

**Time Frame:** Annually

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time and public service donated through the media

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** All strategies continued to be used.

### **Goal 2 – Winter Storm: *Increase personal preparedness with advanced notice***

#### **Objectives:**

- Better alert/notification systems

#### **Strategies:**

- Provide weather radios to all schools, day cares, hospitals, nursing homes, large

- private and public buildings (businesses)
- Develop emergency warning system to warn and instruct at risk persons as to the existence of a specific threat and what to do. (Covered under Goal 1 – Hazmat.)

**Responsible Parties:** County and City Emergency Management Departments.

**Time Frame:** Within the next 3-5 years

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time and based on budgets and grants

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a high cost and high benefit ratio. All schools and nursing homes in Benton County (Foley, Sartell, and Sauk Rapids) have weather radios. It is unknown as to the number of day cares that have weather radios. A mass notification system currently exists with the County and Cities

**Current State of Action:** A new mass notification system has been instituted

**Goal 3 – Winter Storm:** *Prepare for continued operation without power*

**Objectives:**

- Increase number of facilities with backup power generators

**Strategies:**

- Educate businesses and facilities as to the wisdom of having backup power generators to ensure continued operation.
- Seek grants for the purchase of backup generators.
- Identify additional places that could be used for heated shelters during a prolonged outage.

**Responsible Parties:** County and City Emergency Management and local governments.

**Time Frame:** Within the next 5 years

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time and based on budgets and grants

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio. The education and seeking of grants along with the identification of heated shelters has a low cost to the County and Cities. The cost of generators however is a high cost to the facility adding one. Small propane/natural gas fired generators can range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 on average depending upon the size needed.

**Current State of Action:** A survey of additional facilities with backup power is being conducted. Several churches have been approached concerning investing in generators.

## **Goal 4 – Winter Storm: Protect existing power conduits**

### **Objectives:**

- Encourage communications and power utilities to bury their lines.

### **Strategies:**

- Speak to communications and power utilities as to the need to bury communication and power lines to ensure continued operation during ice storms and other severe weather.
- Seek grants for the burying of communications and power lines.

**Responsible Parties:** County and City Emergency Management and communications and power utility companies.

**Time Frame:** Within the next 5 years

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time and based on budgets and grants

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a high cost and high benefit ratio. The cost of talking to the affected industries and the seeking of grants is limited to staff time however the actual cost of burying the lines is quite expensive. The benefits to be derived from buried lines is great depending upon the size of the resulting ice storm and weather.

**Current State of Action:** Several power cooperatives are now starting to bury their lines along with local communications cooperatives.

## **Hazard: Drought**

### **Goal 1 – Drought: *Reduction of financial losses due to drought***

**Objectives:** Encourage the purchase of crop insurance to protect from economic loss due to drought.

### **Strategies:**

- Encourage farmers to purchase crop insurance through newspaper articles and education through the local University of Minnesota Extension Agent.
- Add information to county website

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County Emergency Management in cooperation with local media outlets, U of M - Benton County Extension Office.

**Time Frame:** Ongoing

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Working with local extension agent to promote the purchase of crop insurance.

**Goal 2 – Drought:** *Reduction of unnecessary water usage during drought*

**Objectives:**

- Reduce water usage during droughts to ensure necessary amounts are available

**Strategies:**

- Watering bans when needed
- Enforcement of watering bans when called for

**Responsible Parties:** City governments

**Time Frame:** When needed

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time for enforcement by city water departments / Law enforcement / Public works departments.

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Watering bans are in effect in local jurisdictions.

**Goal 3 - Drought:** *Reduce wildfire risk during periods of drought*

**Objectives:**

- Educate people on the additional dangers of wild fires during times of drought

**Strategies:**

- Local media outlets

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County Emergency Management and local participating jurisdiction emergency managers and all Fire Departments within Benton County.

**Time Frame:** At time of drought

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Education continues through county web site and local meetings.

## **Hazard: Extreme Temperatures**

### **Goal 1 – Extreme Temperatures: *Identify susceptible population***

#### **Objectives:**

- Identify those who might be most susceptible to weather extremes, such as those in financial need and the elderly

#### **Strategies:**

- This can be done by way of questionnaires sent out through property tax notices and through news articles

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County Emergency Management with assistance from Auditor / Treasurer's Office, Public Health and Human Services Department.

**Time Frame:** Annually

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time, staff and mailings already provided for mailing out property tax notices

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a medium cost and high benefit ratio. A more extensive use of staff time would be necessary to identify those individuals not currently on any type of public assistance yet still are susceptible to this hazard. It is estimated that only 15% of those eligible have been identified.

**Current State of Action:** Surveys are being done with local Human Services to identify this population group.

### **Goal 2 – Extreme Temperatures: *Increase number of safe areas for protection***

#### **Objectives:**

- Identify areas where people could go in the event that homes are unsafe due to temperature extremes

#### **Strategies:**

- Form a plan with city governments, work with the Red Cross
- Update the plan on an annual basis

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County Emergency Management, City Emergency Management departments and the American Red Cross along with Benton County Human Services.

**Time Frame:** Ongoing

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time along with what is currently completed with Red Cross congregate care plan

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Areas are identified during periods of extreme temperature and their locations are published.

### **Goal 3 – Extreme Temperatures: *Effects reduction***

**Objectives:**

- Reduce dangerous effects of extreme temperatures

**Strategies:**

- Provide better heating devices and fans or air conditioners

**Responsible Parties:** County and City Emergency Management, Public Health, American Red Cross and local governments.

**Time Frame:** Ongoing

**Estimated Cost:** Dependent upon grants and donations

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a high cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Currently seeking funds and grants to purchase equipment for use during periods of extreme temperature.

## **Hazard: Infectious Disease / Bio-Terrorism**

### **Goal 1 – *Increase awareness of Infectious Diseases***

**Objectives:**

- Increase overall public awareness of the different diseases and probable bio-terrorism types; : SARS / Influenza Pandemic / Small Pox / Anthrax and other bio-terrorism threat/ H1N1

**Strategies:**

- Develop a public education program to help educate the public in the probable

- events, what to do if an event occurs, media coverage
- Add information to county and city websites

**Responsible Parties:** County Emergency Management and county Public Health in cooperation with the state and federal governments and the Centers for Disease Control.

**Time Frame:** Minimum of yearly, but in the event of a global outbreak education must occur as it happening somewhere else

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Working with Public Health to education the public through meetings.

**Goal 2 – Infectious Disease:** Increase health professional awareness

**Objectives:**

- Better educate health professionals

**Strategies:**

- Encourage and assist when possible the continued education and research in these fields by our health professionals

**Responsible Parties:** County Emergency Management and county Public Health

**Time Frame:** Yearly or as an event is occurring

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Working with Public Health to publize training for health professionals.

**Goal 3 – Infectious Disease:** *Increase use of first responder protection equipment*

**Objectives:**

- Protect and educate First Responders, EMD/LE

**Strategies:**

- Provide education and protective equipment such as PAPR-Breath Easy suits etc.
- **Responsible Parties:** Benton County and City governments through their emergency management and public health departments.

- **Time Frame:** Constant

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time and also dependant upon types of training given and the cost of protective equipment.

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a high cost and high benefit ratio. Protective equipment has a high cost factor, which can only be bought with grants.

**Current State of Action:** Most local first responders now have PPE purchased through grants and donations. Currently educating them on the use of PPE.

#### **Goal 4 – Infectious Disease: Educate first responders of threats**

##### **Objectives:**

- Increase the awareness of First Responders, EMD/LE concerning threats.

##### **Strategies:**

- Provide education, information and access to additional information and intelligence that is available through government sources.
- Create a web portal that provides information similar to Icefishx and HSIN.
- **Responsible Parties:** County Emergency Management, County Public Health and all local City Fire Departments.
- **Time Frame:** Constant

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time and also dependent upon types of training given.

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio. Long training sessions could drive the cost up to the medium level especially for the local city fire departments.

**Current State of Action:** Ongoing education programs through in-service training and online information.

## **Hazard: Radon Gas**

#### **Goal 1 – Radon Gas: Educate homeowners**

##### **Objectives:**

- Increase the awareness of radon gas among the public

##### **Strategies:**

- Promote a public awareness of radon gas

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County and City Emergency Management Departments.

**Time Frame:** Indefinite, depends on available funding

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time and based on budgets and grants

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Education continues through public awareness stories and online information sources.

#### **Goal 2 – Radon Gas: Identify the level of the threat**

##### **Objectives:**

- Identify the number of properties with a radon gas problem.

##### **Strategies:**

- Online Survey

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County Emergency Management and City Emergency Management Departments.

**Time Frame:** Indefinite, depends on available funding

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time and based on budgets and grants

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Online survey being created for individual use.

#### **Hazard: Hazardous Materials**

##### **Goal 1 – Hazardous Materials: *Reduce anhydrous ammonia accidents***

##### **Objectives:**

- Attempt to reduce the number of accidental and intentional releases that occur every year

##### **Strategies:**

- Better education to the public in the handling of anhydrous ammonia in the prevention of accidental releases.
- Seek tougher laws for those caught damaging/releasing anhydrous ammonia – meth lab users
- Fencing at storage locations of all hazardous materials
- Keep map updated on locations of all hazardous materials

- Develop emergency warning system to warn and instruct at risk persons as to the existence of a specific threat and what to do.
- Make available to all local jurisdictions the E-plan Hazmat website.

**Responsible Parties:** Local government, GIS, retailers and farmers along with County and City Emergency Managers with code enforcement officers from affected jurisdictions.

**Time Frame:** Yearly - in particular prior to the spring planting season. Laws passed at the legislative session

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time for educational portion, Dependant on manufacturers' finances regarding fencing issues, Cost of warning system dependant on type of system sought and cost of such systems and finances available from grant funds for such purposes.

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a higher cost and lower benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Mapping, warning systems and education are all being used to help prevent accidents. All local jurisdictions now have access to the E-plan Hazmat website.

## **Goal 2 – Hazardous Materials: *Reduce liquid petroleum (LP) accidents***

### **Objectives:**

- Reduce the improper handling of LP tanks or other filling devices related to LP tanks and the equipment that uses LP (outdoor grills, automobiles, furnaces, etc.)

### **Strategies:**

- Educate the public through media coverage on these issues
- Keep map updated on locations of all hazardous materials
- Develop emergency warning system to warn and instruct at risk persons as to the existence of a specific threat and what to do. (Covered under Goal 1)

**Responsible Parties:** Benton Emergency Management in cooperation with local government, manufacturers, retailers / suppliers, Pipeline Association for Awareness and County GIS Specialist.

**Time Frame:** Ongoing

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time; generally no additional cost when it is a public service issue through the media (paper, radio, TV)

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Using same methods as for goal 1.

### **Goal 3 – Hazardous Materials: *Reduce natural gas accidents***

#### **Objectives:**

- Educate the general public and private sector in the handling of natural gas, including the digging near natural gas pipelines

#### **Strategies:**

- Assist the natural gas industry in distributing pipeline safety information to the public.
- Keep map updated on locations of all hazardous materials
- Develop emergency warning system to warn and instruct at risk persons as to the existence of a specific threat and what to do. (Covered under Goal 1)

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County Emergency Management and City Emergency Management in cooperation with the natural gas industry (pipeline safety group).

**Time Frame:** Yearly

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time and dependant on the natural gas industry continuing the training and reeducation, as they do for first responders.

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio. The Minnesota Pipeline Association for Awareness provides mass mailings to those citizens living in proximity to any type of pipeline.

**Current State of Action:** Using same methods as for goal 1

### **Goal 4 – Hazardous Materials: General education concerning miscellaneous chemicals used in businesses and homes**

#### **Objectives:**

- Educate the private sector in the handling of the hazardous materials that they use within their business operation.
- Ensure the private sector follows the proper storage and handling procedures concerning the hazardous materials in their possession.

#### **Strategies:**

- Annually review the Minnesota Tier 2 hazardous materials report.
- Annually view the Eplan web site and review current information on facilities
- Keep map updated on locations of all hazardous materials
- Check with local fire departments and hazardous materials response teams as to their level of training and cooperation with local businesses.
- Develop emergency warning system to warn and instruct at risk persons as to the existence of a specific threat and what to do. (Covered under Goal 1)

**Responsible Parties:** Benton County Emergency Management, City Emergency Managers, City Fire Departments and Fire Marshalls in cooperation with the local businesses.

**Time Frame:** Yearly

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time.

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Using same methods as for goal 1

## **Hazard: Radiological Incident**

**Goal 1 – Radiological Incident:** *Create an awareness of steps to follow in a radiological incident.*

**Objectives:**

- General education of the public concerning a radiological incident at the Monticello Nuclear Power Plant.

**Strategies:**

- Media coverage, education and planning meetings at the contractor level in addition to the general public

**Responsible Parties:** State and Local government along with County Emergency Management and Monticello Nuclear Power Plant.

**Time Frame:** Yearly as a general overview of “what ifs”

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time and dependant if completed as a public media service

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** During 2010 and 2011 additional information and drills have been distributed and conducted concerning a nuclear accident at the Monticello plant.

**Goal 2 – Radiological Incident:** *Improve alert capabilities*

**Objectives:**

- Educate the public in the different types of alert systems and what they mean, provide an indoor and outdoor system

**Strategies:**

- Public notices utilizing public radio, etc.
- Develop emergency warning system to warn and instruct at risk persons as to the existence of a specific threat and what to do. (covered under Goal 1 – Hazmat.)

**Responsible Parties:** State and Local government along with County Emergency Management and Monticello Nuclear Power Plant.

**Time Frame:** Material information should be ongoing; emergency warning system, 5 – 10 years

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time for educational portion and dependant on grant funding availability for warning system and costs of available systems.

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a high cost and high benefit ratio. The education part is low cost however the notification system is high cost. A nuclear incident would most likely be broadcast over the EBS whose infrastructure is already in place. Any supplemental warning systems would have a higher cost to them.

**Current State of Action:** A new emergency notification system capable of alerting all citizens through a reverse 911 system within 20 minutes has been instituted.

### **Goal 3 – Radiological Incident: Increased Training & Response Testing**

#### **Objectives:**

- Increase the training concerning a nuclear incident and test the response system to such an event.

#### **Strategies:**

- Participate in the exercises as offered by HSEM and Monticello Nuclear Plant.

**Responsible Parties: Responsible Parties:** State and Local government along with County Emergency Management and Monticello Nuclear Power Plant.

**Time Frame:** Training should be on a bi-annual basis

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Have participated in training and drills conducted by the State in cooperation with the Nuclear Regulatory Authority and the Monticello Nuclear Plant.

## **Hazard: Water Contamination**

**Goal 1 – Water Contamination:** *Reduction of threats to water systems*

**Objectives:**

- Reduce possible threats of water contamination

**Strategies:**

- Identify sources of potential contaminants

**Responsible Parties:** Local governments (city, county and township) in cooperation with Benton County Soil and Water Service District.

**Time Frame:** Ongoing

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a medium cost and high benefit ratio. Additional time is the most expensive part of this mitigation plan.

**Current State of Action:** Conducting surveys of possible contamination sources.

**Goal 2 – Water Contamination:** *Education on threats to the water systems*

**Objectives:**

- Educate the public

**Strategies:**

- Provide water quality education through news paper articles and radio spots
- Add information to the county and city websites

**Responsible Parties:** Local City governments (public health and trained water quality professionals) in cooperation with local media outlets

**Time Frame:** Annually or as new issues arise

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time; should be completed through public service communications – radio and newspapers / county website

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low cost and high benefit ratio.

**Current State of Action:** Information added to county web site

### **Goal 3 – Water Supply Continuation: Maintain the ability to supply water**

#### **Objectives:**

- Investigate alternative water supply opportunities

#### **Strategies:**

- Contact suppliers concerning water availability
- Investigate the possibility of adding wells
- Identify alternative storage mechanisms

**Responsible Parties:** Local governments and major users of water such as nursing homes and large businesses (public health and trained water quality professionals).

**Time Frame:** 2011-2015

**Estimated Cost:** In-house staff time

**Cost-benefit:** This mitigation method has a low to high cost and high benefit ratio. Certain alternative storage methods may be costly; such as bringing in additional storage capacity or even drilling a well onsite.

**Current State of Action:** Additional sources are being researched as to how to maintain an adequate water supply.

## **Miscellaneous Goals, Objectives and Mitigation Strategies**

This addition discusses miscellaneous goals, objectives and mitigation strategies for other hazards that have not been covered up to this point. Some of these fall outside the normal scope of this document. However, it was felt that this document should also address the manmade and technological hazards that have not been touched upon in the past.

It is the desire of the Mitigation Planning Team to make a truly comprehensive All-Hazards Mitigation Plan.

### **GENERAL STRATEGIES:**

- A general strategy to improve the overall quality of emergency preparedness has been implemented at the lowest form of government within the County. Each township has been requested to identify one individual within their jurisdiction that will act as the Townships Emergency Coordinator. This individual will work directly with the County Emergency Management Director in developing response plans for each Township and during emergencies.

- Every Township Hall will be evaluated as to the possibility of using it as a local EOC in the case of a localized disaster. It will be evaluated as to space, communications, facilities and accessibility.
- Every City and the County (including Townships) are in the process of identifying critical infrastructure and Key Resources within their respective jurisdictions. Upon the completion of this survey, the specific buildings that have been identified will be subject to a review according to the guideline in the current Homeland Security Comprehensive Assessment Model. This is an ongoing project, which is expected to take several years to complete.

## Mitigation Methods

It is the goal of this planning team to continue to seek out new mitigation methods as they apply to the various hazards that have been identified. The Team has also requested that the different CI/KR groups provide us with any mitigation methods that are specific to their area.

Public input is expected and welcomed.

## Mitigation Goals of each Jurisdiction

Mitigation Goal (See each goal above for individual strategies)	Benton County (Townships)	City of Foley	City of Gilman	City of Rice	City of Sauk Rapids
<b>Summer Storms</b>					
Goal 1	X				
Goal 2	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>					
Goal 1	X				
Goal 2	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 3	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 4	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Fire (Wildfire)</b>					
Goal 1	X			X	
<b>Flood</b>					
Goal 1	X				
Goal 2	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 3	X	X			X
<b>Infectious Disease</b>					
Goal 1	X				
Goal 2	X				
Goal 3	X	X		X	X
Goal 4	X	X		X	X

<b>Winter Storm</b>					
Goal 1	X				
Goal 2	X				
Goal 3	X				
Goal 4	X				
<b>Radon Gas</b>					
Goal 1	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 2	X	X		X	X
<b>Radiological Incident</b>					
Goal 1	X				
Goal 2	X				
Goal 3	X				
<b>Drought</b>					
Goal 1	X			X	
Goal 2	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 3	X				
<b>Extreme Temps</b>					
Goal 1	X	X		X	X
Goal 2	X	X		X	X
Goal 3	X				
<b>Water Contamination</b>					
Goal 1	X	X		X	X
Goal 2	X	X		X	X
Goal 3	X	X		X	X

## Priority of Mitigation Methods

Cost (Based on County Share)	\$\$\$3) = Highest Cost, over \$3,000	\$\$2) = Medium Cost, \$1,000-\$2,999	\$(1) = \$999 <
Time to Implement	<u>3</u> = Over 6 months	<u>2</u> = 1 - 6 months	<u>1</u> = 30 days or less
Staff Time Required	<u>3</u> = Extensive Oversight	<u>2</u> = Moderate Oversight	<u>1</u> = Limited involvement
Benefit (Number benefited)	<u>3</u> = Under 500	<u>2</u> = 500 to 1,000	<u>1</u> = Over 1,000

Lower numbered mitigation methods to be implemented first if fund are available.

Hazard	Goal	Cost 3,2,1	Time to Implement 3,2,1	Staff Time 3,2,1	Benefit 3, 2, 1	Score
<b>Summer Storms</b>	1	1	2	2	1	7
	2	2	3	3	1	9
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>	1	3	3	3	3	12
	2	1	2	1	1	5
	3	1	2	1	1	5
	4	1	2	2	1	6
<b>Fire</b>	1	3	3	3	2	11
<b>Flood</b>	1	3	3	3	3	12
	2	2	3	2	2	9
	3	1	1	1	2	5
<b>Infectious Disease</b>	1	1	2	2	1	6
	2	1	2	2	1	6
	3	3	2	2	2	9
	4	1	2	2	2	7
<b>Winter Storm</b>	1	1	1	1	1	4
	2	3	2	2	1	8
	3	3	2	2	2	9
	4	3	2	2	1	8
<b>Radon Gas</b>	1	1	2	2	1	6
	2	1	1	1	1	4
<b>Radiological Incident</b>	1	1	2	2	1	6
	2	3	2	2	1	8
	3	1	1	1	2	5
<b>Drought</b>	1	1	2	2	2	7
	2	1	2	2	2	7
	3	1	2	2	2	7
<b>Extreme Temperatures</b>	1	2	2	2	1	7
	2	1	2	2	1	6
	3	3	2	2	2	9
<b>Water Contamination</b>	1	2	2	2	1	7
	2	1	2	2	1	6
	3	3	3	3	1	10