

Orford Hazard Mitigation Meeting 10/16/03

Present:

Laura Verry, Resident
Herbert Verry, Resident
Paul Dalton, Chair, Planning Board
Tim Hebb, Orford Highway and Assist. Fire Chief
Bill, McKee, Orford Village Water District
Kellen Haak, Orford Historical Society
Bruce Schwaegler,
Guy Hebb, Planning Board
Arthur Dennis, Orford Fire
Mark Simmons, Emergency Management Director
Vicky Boundy, UVLSRPC

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8 p.m. Mark Simmons welcomed everyone and there was a round of introductions. Vicky reviewed the purpose and process of this project. The group reviewed the State of NH Hazard Mitigation Goals and adopted them.

The next item on the agenda was to review the “New Hampshire Natural Hazards Vulnerability Overview by County” from the State of New Hampshire Hazard Mitigation Plan. We then did a hazard inventory and risk assessment on natural and manmade hazards. We rated the likelihood of each hazard occurring as “Unlikely,” “Possible,” “Likely” and “Highly Likely.” We then rated the impact of each hazard as “Negligible,” “Limited,” “Critical” or “Catastrophic.” From these two categories categorized overall vulnerability as “Low,” “Moderate” or “High.” Finally, we listed the populations, facilities and infrastructure most vulnerable to each hazard (see page 2).

We then marked up the GIS base map with hazard areas and critical facilities.

Past Hazard Events:

- Flood Areas: (4 areas denoted on GIS map)
- 1998 Ice Storm Areas: Sunday Mountain, Mt. Cube, Eastman Ledges; Indian Pond Mt.
- HazMat Activity: Junction of US Route 10 and NH Rt. 25; Rt. 25
- Wildfire: 1996, east of Indian Pond Rd. About 3 acres burned as a result of lightning strike

Hazard Analysis

Hazard	Likelihood	Impact	Vulnerability	Most Vulnerable
Flood	Possible	Limited	Low	Roads, culverts, bridges, water system (serving 31 people), bank erosion
Tornado	Unlikely	Limited	Low	Village center
Flash Flood	Possible	Limited	Low	Same as floods
Haz. Materials	Likely	Limited	Moderate	Road access, transportation, people, groundwater
Wildfire	Possible	Critical	Moderate	Remote houses, forest
Winter Storm	Highly Likely	Limited	Moderate	Roads, commuters, power
Ice Storm	Likely	Limited - Cat.	Low	Higher elevations; power
Hurricane	Possible	Limited - Cat.	Low	Trees, flooding, houses, power, roads/bridges
Earthquake	Possible	Limited	Moderate	Masonry buildings, school
Drought	Likely	Limited	Moderate	Wells
Highway/Road accidents	Highly Likely	Limited	Moderate	2 main roads, power lines
Dam Breach	Unlikely	Limited - Crit.	Low	
School Safety (earthquake, terrorism, etc.)	Possible	Limited - Crit.	Moderate	Rivendell School (regional school, ~350 students)

Critical Facilities and Areas of Concern in Orford:

Facility Name	Addresses	Facility Type	Stories	Generator Yes (#)	100 year Yes (%)	500 year Yes (%)	Size of Building	Type of Hazard Impact
Orfordville Congregational Church		Emergency Shelter						
Rivendell School		Emergency Shelter						HazMat
Congregational Church		Possible Shelter						
Orford-Fairlee Bridge		Bridge/evacuation route						HazMat or Flooding
Lower Baker Pond Bridge		Bridge						Flooding
Town Hall								
Town Garage								
Town Rd. Shed								
Water District								
Fire House								
Historic Area								
Rt. 10 Campground (name?)								
Jacob's Brook Campground								
Upper Baker Pond: two summer camps								
Indian Pond Dam								
Ridge Professional Park								

The Committee then began brainstorming existing hazard mitigation measures/programs in place in the Town of Orford.

Existing Programs/Policies That Help Mitigate Hazards:

Existing Protection Program	Description	Area of Town Covered	Enforcement Dept.	Effectiveness	Improvements or Changes Needed
Orford Master Plan	Revised August 2001	Town-wide	Planning Board		
Orford Emergency Plan	Disaster Preparation and Emergency Response. Updated in 2002	Town-wide	Emergency Manager		
Subdivision Regulations	Established standards for new roads		Planning Board	No zoning regulations, except for floodplain and telecommunications	
Routine culvert maintenance	Culverts are maintained as needed		Town Highway	no formal program	
Capital Improvement Plan	For services requiring capital items	1989 Town-wide	Planning Board		Needs updating
Radio communications				Poor reception	
Fire Department	10 on-call firefighters	Town-wide	Fire Chief	Difficulty recruiting	
Police - currently no police officer					
Orford Parks and Playground Committee	Oversees management and maintenance of recreation areas/parks				
Conservation Commission					
Mutual Aid	NH/VT - 33 towns				
National Flood Insurance Program				Doesn't protect floodplains	Revise ordinance (recommendation in Master Plan)

Orford Village District Water Plan	Dated 4/3/03				
Emergency Management Director				No Emergency Operations	Needs EOC.