

Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

The Town of High River has completed a Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) to identify and rate risks that may impact the Town, including natural, human, and technological risks. This is part of the Municipal Emergency Management Program and will help to guide the development of all emergency plans for the Town.

Purpose

The HRVA will be used to make decisions on how to address vulnerabilities, mitigate hazards, and prepare for and respond to any type of emergency.

The HRVA identified 29 potential risks for High River using the following sources:

- Historical data/records
- Subject matter expertise from responsible agencies/stakeholders
- Local knowledge
- Climate change forecasts

Each risk is ranked based on the probability of its occurring within a 10-year period and the severity of its impact. It doesn't include the assessment of risks to private property or specific facilities.

Objectives

The HRVA:

- Identifies hazards that threaten High River;
- Assesses the risk of each hazard; and
- Recommends measures that can be taken to prevent or mitigate the impact of the identified hazards.

The complete report is available on-line at:

www.HRready.ca

What's Your Role?

While the HRVA has helped the Town identify specific risks and measures that can be taken to minimize their impact on Town services, it is your responsibility to have a plan in place to keep yourself and your family safe during an emergency.

There are a few simple steps you can take to make sure you are prepared.

1. Know the Risks

The HRVA provides information on the sorts of risks to prepare for. Knowing how to respond to different emergencies can help lessen the impact to you and your family. It's important to learn what protective measures to take before, during, and after an emergency. For more resources about specific hazards, check out:

- www.HRready.ca
- www.getprepared.gc.ca
- www.ready.gov

2. Have a plan

Your family may not be together during an emergency so you need to plan ahead:

- How you will get to a safe place?
- How you will contact one another?
- How you will get back together?

Another important part of your emergency plan is to keep informed. The Town of High River uses a number of methods to provide you with emergency warnings and notifications, including:

- High River Alert
- Outdoor Warning Sirens
- Alberta Emergency Alert
- Town website and social media feeds

3. Have a Kit

Collect essential supplies to help you be safe and self-sufficient in an emergency. For a kit to be effective, it must be updated once a year to ensure batteries still work, food and medication hasn't expired, and to account for any changes in your family, etc.

For more resources about what should be in your kit, check out the Town of High River Household Emergency Guide at www.HRready.ca.

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Risk Evaluation – over a 10 year period

CONSEQUENCES	Very High		Major flooding of Highwood river			
	High	Contamination of the water system	Human epidemic/pandemic Failure of sewer system due to major flooding	Infrastructure damage and casualties from severe wind and hail (including tornado)		
	Moderate		Grass fires Extended power outage >24 hour due to major flooding Serious failure of water treatment plant	Major structural fire or explosion Hazardous material release from industrial facility Flash flooding overwhelms storm drain system Serious mechanical failure of sewage system main lift station	Vehicle hazardous material spill Threat of major flooding of Highwood River	
	Low		Helicopter crash at hospital Mass Casualty Incident on Highways 2 & 2A Extended power outage >24 hours due to heavy snowfall Secondary effects from interface fires Major sinkhole due to underlying instability Snowmelt flooding within town Civic Disturbance	Natural gas line break	Failure of communications systems	
	Very Low			Flooding due to power failure		
		Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Very High

LIKELIHOOD

	Extreme risk: immediate risk treatment required		Moderate risk: Some risk treatment required to reduce risks to lower levels
	High risk: High priority risk treatment measures required		Low risk: Additional risk treatment not likely required
	Negligible risk: Risk events do not require further consideration		