

Critical Facilities Definition

Chelan County Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan

The CFHMP will describe and summarize the exposure and vulnerability of critical facilities within the planning area to flood hazards. This will enable the County to target vulnerable critical facilities for mitigation.

The **CRS** defines a *critical facility* as follows:

A structure or other improvement that, because of its function, size, service area, or uniqueness, has the potential to cause serious bodily harm, extensive property damage, or disruption of vital socioeconomic activities if it is destroyed or damaged or if its functionality is impaired. Critical facilities include health and safety facilities, utilities, government facilities, and hazardous materials facilities.

FEMA generally defines a *critical facility* as follows:

Facilities and infrastructure that are critical to the health and welfare of the population and that are especially important following hazard events. Critical facilities include, but are not limited to: shelters, police and fire stations, and hospitals.

In order to perform the critical facilities analysis for this plan, we will need to confirm a critical facilities definition specific to the Los Angeles County planning area. The planning team will inventory the facilities that meet this definition and input them into our HAZUS model, which will produce vulnerability estimates based on a series of attributes of each facility, the location of the facility and the type of flood hazard (e.g. 500 year flood).

The Steering Committee will need to define Critical Facilities for the CFHMP. To aid this definition process, the planning team has identified some examples from other similar planning efforts.

Example Critical Facility Definitions

Chelan County Hazard Mitigation Plan

An important aspect of natural hazard mitigation planning is identifying facilities or system components in the community whose presence or operation are “critical” or “vital” to the safety and welfare of the community.

King County Flood Control District

Critical facility is a facility necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare including, but not limited to, a facility defined under the occupancy categories of “essential facilities,” “hazardous facilities” and “special occupancy structures” in the structural forces chapter or succeeding chapter in K.C.C. Title 16. Critical facilities also include nursing and personal care facilities, schools, senior citizen assisted housing, public roadway bridges and sites that produce, use or store hazardous

substances or hazardous waste, not including the temporary storage of consumer products containing hazardous substances or hazardous waste intended for household use or for retail sale on the site.

Thurston County Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan

A critical facility is one that is deemed vital to the Thurston County planning area's ability to provide essential services while protecting life and property. A critical facility may be a system or an asset, either physical or virtual, the loss of which would have a profound impact across the planning area on security, the economy, public health or safety, the environment, or any combination thereof. The following types of systems and assets are defined as critical facilities:

- Police stations, fire stations, paramedic stations, emergency vehicle and equipment storage facilities, and emergency operations and communications centers needed for disaster response before, during and after hazard events.
- Public and private utilities and infrastructure vital to maintaining or restoring normal services to areas damaged by hazard events. These include water (potable, wastewater, stormwater, drainage and irrigation), utilities (transmission and distribution facilities for natural gas, power and geothermal) and communications (land-based telephone, cell phone, the internet, emergency broadcast facilities and emergency radios).
- Public gathering places that could be used as evacuation centers during large-scale disasters.
- Hospitals, extended care facilities, urgent care facilities and housing that may contain occupants not sufficiently mobile to avoid death or injury during a hazard event
- Transportation systems that convey vital supplies and services to, through and throughout the community. These include roads, bridges, railways, airports and pipelines
- Government and educational facilities central to governance and quality of life, along with response and recovery actions during and after a hazard event.
- Structures or facilities that produce, use, or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic, or water-reactive materials.
- Infrastructure designed to help safely convey high water events from the event source to the perimeter of the planning area including but not limited to dams, revetments and stormwater drainage facilities.
- Debris management and solid waste facilities.

Kittitas Hazard Mitigation Plan

A critical facility is defined as a local (non-State or Federal) facility or infrastructure in either the public or private sector that provides essential products and services to the general public, such as preserving the quality of life in Kittitas County and fulfilling important public safety, emergency response, and disaster recovery functions. Loss of a critical facility would result in a severe economic or catastrophic impact

and would affect the County's ability to provide those essential services that protect life and property. The critical facilities profiled in this plan include the following:

- Government facilities, such as departments, agencies, and administrative offices
- Emergency response facilities, including police, fire, and Emergency Operations Centers
- Educational facilities, including K-12
- Medical and Care facilities, such as hospitals, nursing homes, continuing care retirement facilities and housing likely to contain occupants who may not be sufficiently mobile to avoid death or injury during a hazard event
- Community gathering places, such as parks, museums, libraries, and senior centers
- Public and private utilities and infrastructure vital to maintaining or restoring normal services to areas damaged by hazard events
- Structures or facilities that produce, use, or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic, and/or water-reactive materials

Los Angeles County Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan

Facilities critical to government response activities (i.e., life safety and property and environmental protection) may include local government 911 dispatch centers, local government emergency operations centers, local police and fire stations, local public works facilities, local communications centers, schools (shelters), and hospitals. Facilities that, if damaged, could cause serious secondary impacts are also considered "critical". A hazardous materials facility is one example of this type of critical facility.

Essential facilities are those facilities that are vital to the continued delivery of key county services, or that may significantly affect the county's ability to recover from the disaster. These facilities include schools (hosting shelters), and buildings such as jails, law enforcement centers, public services buildings, community corrections centers, courthouses, juvenile services buildings, and other public facilities.