

Section 5: Our Culture and Community

Public Safety, Culture and Community, and Public Facilities and Services



Public Safety: Strategy

Protecting public safety falls under the four phases of emergency management – Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation. Preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, training, and organizing activities to prepare for an emergency incident or natural hazard event. Response is action taken by first responders (fire, police, and emergency medical services) during an incident to save life and property. Recovery is what happens after a disaster strikes to resume basic operations and functions. Mitigation is action taken to reduce the loss of life and property from natural and/or human-caused disasters by avoiding or lessening the impact of a disaster. While the Response phase is a function of local responders, it takes regional collaboration to ensure communities are prepared for emergencies. Similarly, recovery often requires the generosity and assistance of neighboring communities. The LCPC is active in all four phases.

The ability to provide adequate public safety services is a concern among municipalities throughout the region. Many of these services are provided by volunteers. Public safety is a local concern but regional cooperation among public safety service providers is critical. One example is a mutual aid system. However, in order to keep up with increased demands, volatile weather patterns, and requirements from the state and federal governments, emergency response providers, municipalities, and regional entities must work together in emergency planning and preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

Preparedness

Perhaps the most important part of ensuring public safety is preparedness. This is the act of planning for emergency incidents. LCPC is most active in preparedness activities at a local and regional level.

Preparedness activities include emergency operations planning, assisting communities with flood hazard regulations, mapping critical facilities and E-911 structures, and coordinating regional emergency response committees and activities.

Response

Emergency response is primarily a function of local government and local emergency responders. Given the capacity of local response organizations throughout Lamoille County, regional collaboration and mutual aid are critical to

respond to large-scale events. The LCPC works with local responders and municipalities to identify response capabilities and conduct trainings and exercises at a regional level. (see Table 5-1)

Recovery

LCPC acts as a liaison between federal, state, regional, and local partners to coordinate recovery activities after a disaster occurs.

Mitigation

Mitigation is any sustained action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property. Lamoille County municipalities have adopted single-jurisdiction *All-Hazards Mitigation Plans* where each Town has its own hazard mitigation plan. These hazard mitigation plans recognize hazards and their associated risks while prioritizing mitigation actions, projects, and programs.

The hazards most impacting Lamoille County are flood/flash flood, hazardous materials spills, winter storms, and shortages (power, food, water, fuel).

Table 5-1. Emergency response organizations in Lamoille County

Town	Fire	Police	Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
Belvidere	Johnson Fire Dept.	VT State Police	Northern Emergency Medical Service (NEMS)
Cambridge	Cambridge Fire Dept.	VT State Police	Cambridge Rescue
Eden	North Hyde Park / Eden Fire Dept.	VT State Police	NEMS Eden Fast Squad (no longer active)
Elmore	Elmore Fire Dept.	VT State Police	Elmore Fast Squad
Hyde Park	Hyde Park Fire Dept. North Hyde Park / Eden Fire Dept.	Lamoille County Sheriff	NEMS Hyde Park Fast Squad
Johnson	Johnson Fire Dept.	Lamoille County Sheriff	NEMS
Morristown	Morristown Fire Dept.	Morristown Police	Morristown EMS
Stowe	Stowe Fire Dept.	Stowe Police	Stowe EMS
Waterville	Johnson Fire Dept.	VT State Police	NEMS
Wolcott	Wolcott Fire Dept.	Lamoille County Sheriff	Hardwick Rescue

POLICIES AND ACTION ITEMS

Policy: *Reduce the loss of life and damage to property from all hazards.*

Action Items

- Continue to map critical facilities and vulnerable populations for use in local and regional emergency planning.
- Assist municipalities in adopting and updating all-hazard mitigation plans, emergency operations plans, flood hazard regulations, and other planning documents to strengthen emergency preparedness and community resiliency.
- Assist emergency responders with securing funding for preparedness equipment, such as advanced warning systems, USGS Stream Gages, and EOC (Emergency Operations Centers) equipment.
- Upgrades to local and regional public safety facilities and equipment are supported and encouraged.
- LCPC supports new residential and commercial developments that include development standards that incorporate disaster resistant designs, such as appropriate emergency response vehicle access, drainage systems, siting, proximity to existing water resources, firefighting infrastructure, and flood proofing measures.
- Critical local and regional emergency and governmental facilities should be built and located to be disaster resistant and able to continue to function during disasters.
- Work cooperatively with Emergency Management Directors and the Local Emergency Planning Committee to improve emergency planning.

Policy: *Ensure an efficient, coordinated regional response network exists during emergencies.*

Action Items

- Assist LCPC staff, emergency responders, and municipal officials with proper training and equipment to respond to anticipated disasters.
- Provide support for Citizen Corps Programs that bring emergency responders and volunteers together.

- Continue to provide support and assistance to local and regional emergency response organizations, committees, and individuals for trainings, coordination, drills, and exercises.
- Demand for service continues to increase as town populations increase, LCPC supports efforts by municipalities to provide emergency response services for all residents.
- Communities are encouraged to develop emergency response plans and provide education to households about emergency preparedness activities. Response plans should be shared with LCPC and with the State's Emergency Management Department.
- LCPC staff are an integral part of the Incident Command Team at the State Emergency Operations Center. To this end, LCPC supports continuing efforts for staff to provide regional and statewide response capability.

Policy: *Dry hydrants have proven effective in firefighting in rural communities. To this end, LCPC supports installation and continued maintenance of dry hydrants.*

Action Items

- Increase the total number of dry hydrants available in rural areas of the county.
- Assist communities in developing rural water supply plans.
- Assist communities with efforts to access, repair, and upgrade dry hydrants through grant funding and capital planning.
- Continue to assist municipalities in updating mapping of dry and wet hydrants.

Policy: *LCPC will provide staffing and assistance to municipalities, emergency responders, regional partners, and state agencies to assist with recovery efforts in the wake of regional or statewide emergencies.*

Action Items

- Encourage inter-agency communication between affected property owners, the State of Vermont, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency after a disaster.
- Assist property owners and municipalities with damage assessments and documentation in the event of a disaster.
- Encourage communities to develop documentation systems for recording damage to infrastructure and property for full realization of federal benefits resulting from a disaster.

Policy: *Lessen financial losses and property damage incurred by municipalities, businesses, and private citizens due to disasters.*

Policy: *Public safety services in Lamoille County should have the capacity to address the types and magnitudes of the region's predictable hazards as defined in municipal All-Hazard Mitigation Plans.*

Action Items

- Upon request, assist municipalities in revising bylaws to require a dry hydrant or fire pond at any new development more than one mile from the nearest rural water source.
- Assist municipalities with increasing the amount of fire suppression capabilities rated for the ISO, Insurance Services Office.
- Upon request, assist municipalities in revising bylaws so that new developments meet emergency response codes, including but not limited to, road upgrades, cul-de-sacs, dead-ends, and long, narrow driveways.
- Support the implementation of local and regional mitigation activities, projects, and programs that reduce impact to life and property.
- Support regional and local coordination to identify natural and human-made hazards and risks and develop mitigation actions to address these hazards.
- Work with interested applicants to apply for funding for mitigation activities.
- Municipalities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program are encouraged to strengthen flood hazard regulations above NFIP minimum standards.

Public Safety: Background and Inventory

Preparedness

Emergency preparedness is a broad category of emergency management. Preparedness includes emergency personnel acquiring suitable equipment and conducting training and exercises. Preparedness covers those actions that individuals, businesses, and communities take in order to prepare themselves for the effects of a disaster before it happens. The more prepared we all are at all levels, the less loss of life and damage to property will be when a disaster occurs. Preparedness is also a responsibility of residents, businesses, and government. Simple preparedness measures, like having disaster supplies on hand, installing smoke detectors, and knowing basic first aid will all help to lessen the impact of a disaster. Preparing for social adversities may also be considered a preparedness measure. Substance use prevention, treatment and recovery, and mental health support could help communities prepare for or avoid stressors on local communities, particularly youth. Preparing emergency plans is also a

preparedness activity.

Preparedness can also avoid personal financial disasters that would have rippled throughout the community. Citizens Assistance Registry for Emergencies (CARE) is an opt-in E911 program created to support individuals who wish to have Emergency Services contact them proactively during disasters. Fire Safe 802 is another program created to build on statewide fire prevention efforts and prevent fires in high-risk single-family homes. Fire Safe 802 empowers local fire departments to conduct home safety surveys and provide resources such as free smoke detectors in residential properties. For more information on the CARE E911 program or Fire Safe 802, visit www.e911.vermont.gov/care or www.firesafety.vermont.gov/pubed/fire-safe-802-program.

Not only can a disaster affect individual residences but can also ruin business and commercial operations. While businesses can do their part to support their communities and employees in their own preparedness efforts, businesses can and should take proactive actions that will help them weather the strain of a disaster.

Governmental agencies and other quasi-public organizations that perform important governmental functions must also take care of themselves during an emergency, as well as perform their functions of assisting their constituents. This includes the standard emergency response agencies such as police, fire, and medical services, but it also includes sewer and water, health inspectors, and elected officials. LCPC assists communities in developing and updating localized emergency operations plans to be used in advance of and during a disaster as well as coordinating and facilitating trainings and exercises. Training and exercising are vital to ensure emergency response is organized, coordinated, and efficient during an emergency. The adage “if you don’t use it, you lose it” is most true in emergency response, so continual trainings in new equipment, exercising your emergency operations plan, and operating a functioning Emergency Operations Center is crucial. Other preparedness activities include education and outreach related to fire prevention, promoting the National Flood Insurance Program, updating flood hazard regulations, and supporting regional organizations such as the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Emergency Management Directors

The role of the Local Emergency Management Director is of vital importance to the community. The Local Emergency Management Director is responsible to ensure that the community:

- Knows its vulnerabilities, hazards, and threats;
- Plans for any emergencies;
- Responds timely and effectively in any emergency; and
- Conducts recovery operations.

According to Vermont State Statute, if a Local Emergency Management Director is not appointed by the Selectboard or governing body of a community, the responsibility defaults to the Selectboard Chair or the Town Manager.

The Local Emergency Management Director is responsible for coordinating the various components of the emergency management system including fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, public works, volunteer groups, and State resources. By incorporating the four phases of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery) into municipal functions, the Local Emergency Management Director can effectively respond to all situations that might occur. There are several core functions a Local Emergency Management Director must perform, including updating the local emergency operations plan. LCPC works closely with Emergency Management Directors in many areas of preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

Additionally, the Emergency Management Directors are the core membership of the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Regional Emergency Management Committee

In July 2021, regional Local Emergency Planning Committees were replaced with one statewide Local Emergency Planning Committee. As noted in statute (Sec. 12. 20 V.S.A. § 6) the Emergency Management Division will establish Regional Emergency Management Committees which “*shall coordinate emergency planning and preparedness activities to improve their regions’ ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all disasters.*” *The Division of Emergency Management is charged with establishing “geographic boundaries and guidance documents for regional emergency planning committees in coordination with regional planning commissions and mutual aid associations.”*

Lamoille County’s REMC consists of representatives from businesses, local government, emergency responders, and citizen groups located in the County. Its mission is to provide emergency preparation, response and mitigation resources, and guidance to communities through education, coordination, and assistance. Members take an active role in all-hazard mitigation review, plan maintenance,

preparedness, response and recovery planning, trainings, and exercises to assure public health and safety for Lamoille County residents. LCPC provides staff support for the Lamoille REMC.

The REMC is also the coordinating group for various federal Citizen Corps Programs, including the Community Emergency Response Team (also known as CERT) and the Medical Reserve Corps. CERT is a volunteer organization that brings together first responders, firefighters, law enforcement, EMS, emergency managers, and the volunteer community to involve all citizens in emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, crime prevention, and emergency medical training. CERT members are trained and are activated to assist with fires, vehicle accidents, severe storms, floods, and traffic control. Lamoille County's CERT is currently re-establishing its core membership and mission. The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps is to engage volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response, and community resiliency. The Medical Reserve Corps is a newer program and falls under the reach of the Vermont Department of Health. The Medical Reserve Corps primarily utilizes trained health professionals. Other Citizen Corps Programs either active or being organized in Lamoille County include a Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES), FireCorps, Volunteers in Police Service (ViPS), and Neighborhood Watch.

Emergency Planning

As part of regional emergency planning efforts, the LCPC assists municipalities with planning for various hazards and coordinates with regional partners on emergency planning efforts. This means LCPC provides information to communities, such as E-911 structures mapping, or assists communities in identifying vulnerable populations, such as critical facilities mapping. Other times, LCPC provides technical assistance on localized emergency planning efforts. In 2021, LCPC worked with Elmore, Johnson, Belvidere, and Stowe to update their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. These plans outline the natural hazards that each town experiences. They provide detailed explanations of each hazard as well as strategies the town can implement to mitigate their impacts to town infrastructure and residents. These plans open the opportunity for state and federal funding when a disaster is declared by the Governor or the President. The LCPC assists with the updates of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plans when requested by a town, assisting with data collection, mapping changes, and public process.

LCPC also works with communities to develop and modify flood hazard

regulations. Flood resiliency is, indeed, a major factor for all of Lamoille County. For more information on flooding, fluvial erosion, riverine management, and flood resiliency protective measures, please see the Flood Resilience section.

Finally, emergency planning involves a multi-disciplinary approach. Emergencies and weather hazards affect every aspect of life from the individual home to the road network to the ability of a municipality to provide services to residents. LCPC's emergency planning program intersects with other planning areas such as transportation, natural resources, Geographic Information Services (GIS), municipal planning, regional planning, and energy. Two specific planning activities are detailed below.

Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning

The Statewide LEPC conducts Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning to strengthen preparedness for hazardous materials spills and releases. Hazardous materials have the ability to impact anyone, anywhere there is a road, pipeline, or fixed facility storing hazardous materials. Most accidents are small spills and leaks, but some result in injuries, property damage, environmental contamination, and other consequences. These materials can be poisonous, corrosive, flammable, and/or radioactive, or pose other hazards. A petroleum spill is the most likely potential hazardous materials incident to affect Lamoille County. Preparedness is key to containing the consequences of a spill or release. Large volumes of hazardous materials are transported to and through the county daily. For this reason, LCPC assists with projects such as: Commodity Flow Studies, Extremely Hazardous Substances site visits, Green River Reservoir Dam breach exercises, and other studies, workshops, and exercises to prepare emergency responders and community officials for expedient response. The LCPC last assisted the REMC in updating a Commodity Flow Study in 2020.

Commodity Points of Distribution

In the event of a major catastrophe, a Commodity Point of Distribution (CPOD) may need to be activated. A CPOD is an established point where the general public will obtain life sustaining emergency relief supplies, such as water and food, until such time as power is restored and traditional facilities, such as retail establishments, re-open. The Health Department works closely with community partners, government agencies, health care sectors, and first responders to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, emergencies that threaten the health and safety of Vermonters. The Morrisville Local Health Office (Copley Service Area) works closely with local partners in these situations. For more information, please visit www.healthvermont.gov/local/morrisville/emergency-preparedness

or www.healthvermont.gov/emergency/prepare/preparedness-communities.

At a CPOD location, relief commodities are offloaded and distributed to victims of the disaster. The locations need to be large, open, and allow for a continuous flow of traffic. Three locations have been identified in Lamoille County: the Waterville Elementary School, People's Academy in Morrisville, and the Elmore State Park in Elmore. Plans need to be updated annually and submitted to the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. It is often the work of the Regional Emergency Management Committee to organize these locations and ensure proper communication is received when mobilizing and demobilizing a CPOD. As Lamoille County's population continues to grow, more CPOD locations may need to be designated.

Response

Response operations are greatly enhanced by proper preparedness. Most emergencies of any scale will require towns to work together, and often to work with state or federal agencies. In addition to governmental bodies, local organizations such as Capstone Community Action and Lamoille Health Collaborative Partners can help stand up an emergency operations center on an as-needed basis. These groups are equipped to assist in the coordination and implementation of local efforts during large-scale emergencies. Emergency Management Directors should be informed of this collaborative work during large-scale, long-term emergencies. Practicing with all these partners before an actual emergency is critical to smooth emergency operations. Response is the immediate effort by emergency response agencies and the general public during and after a disaster to save lives and property. Proper equipment, training, and coordination among responder agencies, and a well-educated and resilient general public, will make response activities more effective when needed. Response is inherently a local issue but regional, state, and federal resources are available upon request if needed.

Law Enforcement

There are four types of entities that provide police coverage in the region: local constables, municipal police departments, the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department, and the Vermont State Police. In addition to regular police coverage, municipalities can contract with a local police department to provide security services during special events.

Local constables are elected in the municipality in which they serve. Constables in this region do not have any dedicated facilities or vehicles provided for their

use. Only Eden has a constable. Constables are limited in their police powers according to 24 VSA §1936a, such as assisting health officers, or removing disorderly people from town meeting.

There are municipal police departments in Stowe and Morrystown that provide law enforcement within the local jurisdiction. These services are funded by the municipality through appropriations from local tax revenues and are staffed by professionally trained law enforcement personnel. In addition to typical duties officers are trained for, the Morrystown Police Department recently assumed responsibility of transporting severely intoxicated individuals to safe locations, as far as St. Johnsbury Correctional Facility. This activity was once covered by an emergency intoxication service through Lamoille County Mental Health Services, often helping individuals experiencing homelessness or referred from Copley Hospital. The program was discontinued after a lack of available funding to maintain the service. This new role has put a strain on officers who now respond to these situations, and funding needed for officers to transport individuals to distant locations. There is an opportunity to collaborate with regional health partners and explore opportunities to fill the gap in funding for this valuable service.

The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department is located in Hyde Park and its services are available to all towns in Lamoille County. In addition, the Sheriff's Department provides more extensive coverage in the towns of Hyde Park, Johnson, and Wolcott with traffic enforcement in Elmore, based on individual contracts for police service. The Sheriff's Department provides back-up, as requested, to all public safety requests in the county. The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department (LCSD) also provides emergency dispatch service for the county (911 calls) and to some towns in Caledonia County.

The LCSD is located in facilities originally constructed in 1911-12. In 1989 and 1996, LCSD identified an existing need to expand their facilities, however, they did not have any specific plans for expansion or relocation.

The actual service area and the types of services covered by LCSD vary by town:

- For matters involving the civil process, LCSD serves the entire county.
- For the equivalent of full-time municipal police coverage, LCSD has contracts with Johnson, Hyde Park, and Wolcott.
- For transport of municipally arrested prisoners, LCSD covers its contract towns as well as Morrystown and Stowe (State Police provide their own transport).

- For emergency dispatch service (911 calls) they cover the entire county.
- For fire dispatch service, they cover Cambridge, Stowe, Morristown, Elmore, Johnson, Wolcott, and Hyde Park Fire Departments.
- For rescue dispatch, they directly dispatch the Stowe and Morristown squads and the Eden and Cambridge Volunteer first response.

Other municipalities that do not have primary coverage by either their own municipal police department or by contract with the LCSD may be served by the Vermont State Police. The State Police provide routine patrol coverage in the towns of Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Elmore, and Waterville. They are also the primary responders to citizen complaints as requested by each town's constable and as requested by the Stowe and Morristown Police Departments. In Lamoille County, the Vermont State Police is part of Troop A, based out of the Williston Barracks. Troop A is home to the Vermont State Police Traffic Safety Unit, the Vermont State Police/Marine Snowmobile Enforcement Unit and the "A" Troop Communications Center. Many of the State Police Special Team's vehicles are located at the Williston Barracks.

In 2007, the Vermont State Legislature created the Lamoille County Special Investigations Unit (LCSIU) as a multi-disciplinary task force to conduct criminal investigations and provide victim services in response to reports of child sexual abuse, sexual offenses, domestic assault, serious child physical abuse, as well as abuse of vulnerable adults and the elderly. The LCSIU consists of two full-time detectives (one assigned to LCSD and one assigned to VSP), a prosecutor with the Lamoille County State's Attorney's Office, a victim advocate, and administrative staff. LCSIU headquarters are co-located with the State's Attorney's Office in Hyde Park Village. LCSIU is funded in part through annual municipal appropriations.

Rescue

There are five rescue organizations providing emergency medical services in the region. Morristown EMS, a volunteer organization with five full-time staff and five part-time staff, and eight volunteer members. Morristown EMS provides service to Morristown and Elmore. Morristown EMS offers paramedic level care as well as specific trainings in other response and education areas, such as suicide prevention. Stowe Rescue, staffed by full and part-time employees, also provides paramedic level care as well as advanced care programs such as Advanced Life Support, airway management, medication administration, and defibrillation. Last year Morristown EMS responded to 940 9-1-1 calls, making 645 patient transports. Of those 940 calls, 151 were mutual requests or paramedic intercepts

from other Lamoille County Towns. Morristown is designated as a "Heart Safe" community by the Vermont Department of Health, and additionally their service is a Pediatric Safe EMS agency approved by the Vermont Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program. Funding is taxpayer provided at approximately \$800,000 a year, which is offset with approximately \$300,000 in insurance reimbursement revenue to the town's general fund.

EMS District Four covers all of Lamoille County, and smaller areas of Orleans and Caledonia County, and its board is comprised of members of each service in the District. EMS Districts derive their authority from the State of Vermont EMS Rules which are part of Title 18, Chapter 17 of the Vermont State Statutes. There are 13 EMS Districts in Vermont. The District Board assists in providing medical control oversight to EMS agencies, coordinating both initial and continuing education programs within the District, and in our District, providing mutual aid agreements and a coordinated EMS Mutual Aid Dispatch Matrix to Lamoille County Sheriff's Dispatch Center. The Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad provides service to Wolcott.

Northern Emergency Medical Services (NEMS), a division of Newport Ambulance Services, is a mutual aid organization providing service to Belvidere, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, and Waterville and is centrally located in Johnson. NEMS includes both paid staff and volunteers. NEMS offers a transfer service to Copley Hospital.

Cambridge Rescue, located in Jeffersonville, has transformed from a "First Response Squad" to a full transport service ambulance squad, operating at the advanced life support level. Their response area includes the entire Town of Cambridge and one-third of the Town of Fletcher. They also assist with mutual aid in surrounding areas upon request. Cambridge Rescue has the capability of transporting sick and injured patients from the Town of Cambridge to one of the local hospitals. They also provide advanced care including intravenous therapy and semi-automatic defibrillation. Cambridge Rescue has discussed the possibility of a Community Paramedic Program (CPP). CPP is a voluntary program that expands the role of Emergency Medical Services professionals in underserved populations by allowing EMS workers to provide health services where access to physicians, clinics, and/or hospitals is difficult. CPP partners with primary care physicians to oversee the program. For older adults, CPP offers an alternative, affordable means of providing reliable home care based in the community.

Most rescue squads operate as a volunteer service and are funded through annual town tax support or fundraising. A nominal fee is often charged for transport services.

First Response Squads are supported with heavy rescue equipment by the Hyde Park, Stowe, Morristown, and Cambridge Fire Departments. Additionally, Stowe's Hazardous Terrain Team has evolved into Stowe Mountain Rescue, a branch of the Rescue Squad. Stowe Mountain Rescue has led the state in back-country rescue operations.

The LCSD has a state-of-the art Communications Center and receives 911 calls in Lamoille County. LCSD also dispatches and provides 911 service for Hardwick, Greensboro, and Barre.

Fire

Fire response is a truly regional effort. There are eight fire departments (including both municipal departments and private non-profit departments) providing primary service in Lamoille County, with Johnson Fire Department covering Johnson, Belvidere, and Waterville and the North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Department serving Eden and North Hyde Park. All the departments provide first response, upon notification, to fires in their service area. Most departments provide fire prevention and education services, maintenance of equipment and structures, and member training. They also provide other emergency services such as search and rescue and help in times of flooding. The departments also provide first-response rescue service, equipment, and vehicles in support of the medical response services of the region's rescue squads. Additionally, Elmore, Johnson, and Stowe Fire Departments also have water rescue teams and equipment.

Lamoille County fire departments participate in a regional mutual aid agreement through the Lamoille County Mutual Aid Association. The member departments can be called upon to render help to, or may request help from, the other departments in the Association. Additionally, Cambridge Fire Department, through its mutual aid agreement, provides assistance to Fletcher as needed and Wolcott and Elmore share a fire response agreement. Stowe and Morristown also have a separate mutual aid agreements for emergency response and Stowe and Waterbury also have a mutual aid agreement. Wolcott is a member of the Capital Mutual Aid association to the east.

Calls in Lamoille County are serviced by the 911 Communications Center at the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department. Enhanced 911 with locatable addressing is available for all commercial and residential properties.

Towns with municipal water systems are able to operate pressurized fire hydrants. In areas without pressurized hydrants, firefighters rely on tanker engines or "dry hydrants" located throughout towns. A dry hydrant is essentially a 4.5 to 6 inch diameter threaded pipe capable of drawing water from a nearby pond or stream using a pumper engine. The installation of these hydrants improves overall fire safety and provides an added benefit to property owners in the form of lower home insurance premiums. Dry hydrants are important in areas where access to a stable water source is limited.

Recovery

Recovery is the more long-term process of putting life back to normal, and includes many state and federal agencies, especially the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in large disasters. As events like Hurricane Katrina and Tropical Storm Irene showed, recovery can take a long time and is hindered if a disaster is severe or widespread. Recovery also involves much less state and federal assistance than is commonly thought, so the best strategy is to avoid disaster-prone behavior in the first place.

There are a wide variety of programs and organizations to help people, businesses, and governments recover from disasters. It is important to understand that none of these programs is intended to return everything to its pre-disaster state, but they can help the public and private sectors to not be overwhelmed by the effects of a disaster. Recovery will be least painful where mitigation and preparedness steps have already reduced the extent of damage and fast response has limited the toll on lives and property. Recovery efforts will be helped by having well-practiced regional coordination in place prior to the disaster so that towns can help each other and so that the local/state/federal administrative issues are handled smoothly. Thorough and prompt documentation of losses, good media outreach communicating the assistance that is available, and the interim provision of basic services will all enable communities to recover as fast and fully as possible.

LCPC works with communities after a disaster occurs to assist with the recovery phase by connecting other agencies with homeowners, business owners, and municipalities for funding assistance or basic services. LCPC also acts as a liaison between FEMA, DEMHS, and municipalities for FEMA's Public Assistance and

Individual Assistance programs. During the recovery phase, which can span months or years, there are opportunities to implement mitigation activities, projects, and programs.

Mitigation

Hazard mitigation means any sustained action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural or human-caused hazards and their effects. Mitigation planning begins with an assessment of likely hazards, and then targets activities to reduce the effects of these hazards. Given that the largest threat in Vermont is flood related, good mitigation measures include proper road and drainage construction, as well as limiting development in flood prone areas.

Local Hazard Mitigation Planning

The impact of expected yet unpredictable natural and human caused events can be reduced through community mitigation planning. Hazard mitigation is any sustained action that permanently reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards and their effects. Based on the results of previous FEMA efforts in the early 2000s, FEMA and Vermont agencies have come to recognize that it is less expensive to prevent disasters than to repeatedly repair damage after a disaster has struck. Floods, winter storms, high winds, severe storms, and hazardous material spills are some of the hazards experienced by Vermont and communities of Lamoille County. Hazard mitigation planning identifies specific hazards that are common to a jurisdiction and establishes a framework for the reduction of risks associated with those hazards.

A local hazard mitigation plan conducts a hazard identification and risk assessment, provides an overview of the jurisdiction, reviews recent disaster history, and identifies mitigation strategies, projects, and programs. Hazard mitigation strategies and measures **avoid** the hazard by stopping or limiting new exposures in known hazard areas, **alter** the hazard by eliminating or reducing the frequency of occurrence, **avert** the hazard by redirecting the impact by means of a structure or land treatment, and **adapt** to the hazard by modifying structures or standards.

Currently, each town in Lamoille County has an up-to-date and adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan is used to assist local governments and the LCPC in identifying hazards facing the county and individual communities. It also identifies and outlines strategies to begin reducing risks from those

identified hazards. The LCPC works with each town to update their plans every 5 years. Each *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for Lamoille County* can be found on LCPC's website, www.lcpcvt.org.

As the State of Vermont strived to achieve a more disaster resilient state following devastation from the spring 2011 flooding and Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011, the importance of hazard mitigation planning was underscored through programs and financial incentives to encourage mitigation planning at the local level. For example, changes to the State's Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF) in 2014 provides for greater reimbursement from the State to the municipality if a municipality has a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan. LCPC works closely with municipalities to develop and update hazard mitigation plans.

Hazards

Lamoille County is vulnerable to a variety of hazards. They range from natural to technological, to civil/political disorder. The Lamoille County hazard Inventory and Risk Assessment was developed by LCPC in consultation with regional and local emergency management volunteers and professionals. All hazards that could affect Lamoille County on a county-wide basis were considered. The *All-Hazards Mitigation Plan for Lamoille County* identified the following hazards in Table 5-2. Other potential threats are not included in the analysis as they were considered to occur infrequently and/or to not be a significant enough threat to the County. The vulnerability of each community to the hazards identified throughout Lamoille County and others unique to that jurisdiction including any repetitive loss properties are identified in separate, individual community plans.

Possible Hazard	Frequency	Severity	Risk	Most vulnerable
Flood*	Frequent	Catastrophic	High	Roads, culverts, bridges, structures, public facilities
Flash Flood*	Frequent	Serious	High	Roads, structures, water source contamination, culverts, bridges, public facilities
Power Shortage Failure*	Frequent	Extensive	High	Special needs populations, critical facilities
Winter /Ice Storm*	Frequent	Extensive	High	Loss of access, loss of power, property damage
Hazardous Materials Release	Unusual	Extensive	High	Structures, environment, roads
Structure Fire	Likely	Serious	Moderate	High population centers, elderly housing, structures
Major Hailstorm	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Structures, property damage

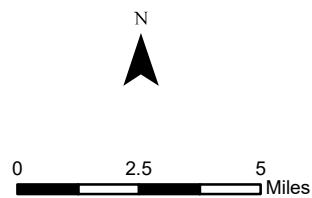
Highway Accidents	Likely	Serious	Moderate	3 major intersections identified with a history of accidents including hazardous materials
High Wind	Likely	Serious	Moderate	Trees down, loss of power, limited road access, structures
Drought	Unlikely	Serious	Moderate	Private well failures, wildfires, springs drying up
Hurricane	Unlikely	Serious	Moderate	High winds, floods, power failure
Water Supply Contamination	Unlikely	Serious	Moderate	Wellhead protection areas, structures, businesses, public facilities
Tornado	Unusual	Serious	Moderate	Structures, power lines, public facilities
Wildfire/Forest Fire	Unlikely	Extensive	Moderate	Structures, public facilities, power infrastructure
Aircrash	Unlikely	Minor	Low	
Earthquake	Unlikely	Serious	Low	See VT Geological Survey HAZUS report (9/03 Tab)
Dam Failures	Likely	Serious	Low	Roads, structures
School safety issues	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Hazmat incidents, children
Landslide/Erosion	Unusual	Minor	Low	Roads, structures
Chemical and/or Biological Incident	Unlikely	Minor	Low	General population, environment
Radiological Incident	Rare	Serious	Low	UPS trucks: largest carrier of radiological materials, general population
Terrorism	Rare	Minor	Low	General population
Infectious Disease Outbreak	Unusual	Extensive	Moderate	Severe disruption to agriculture stock, strain on healthcare system, economic disruption, disruption to municipal operations, loss of life



Table 5-2. Lamoille County Hazard Inventory and Risk Assessment

*Hazards marked with an * indicate a significant hazards in Lamoille County.






EMS and Rescue Services

Lamoille County



-  Ambulance Station
-  Rescue Service

EMS Service Areas

-  CAMBRIDGE RESCUE
-  HARDWICK RESCUE
-  MORRISTOWN AMB
-  NEMS
-  STOWE RESCUE

Data Sources:

Political Boundaries: VCGI, 1991.
 Roads: 1:5000 E-911 Road Data, 2021.
 Emergency Service Areas: E911 Data, 2022.
 Emergency Service Providers: E911 Data, 2022.

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Fire Protection Services

Lamoille County



Fired Departments

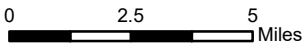
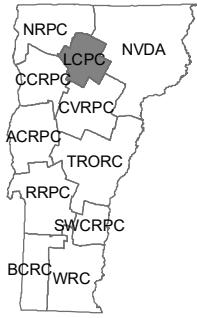
Fire Service Area

- CAMBRIDGE FD
- ELMORE FD
- HYDE PARK FD
- JOHNSON FD
- MORRISVILLE FD
- NORTH HYDE PARK/EDEN FD
- STOWE FD
- WOLCOTT FD

Data Sources:

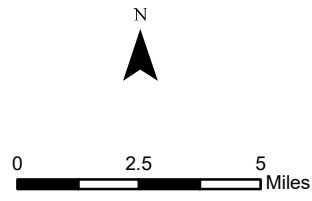
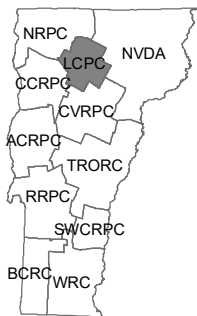
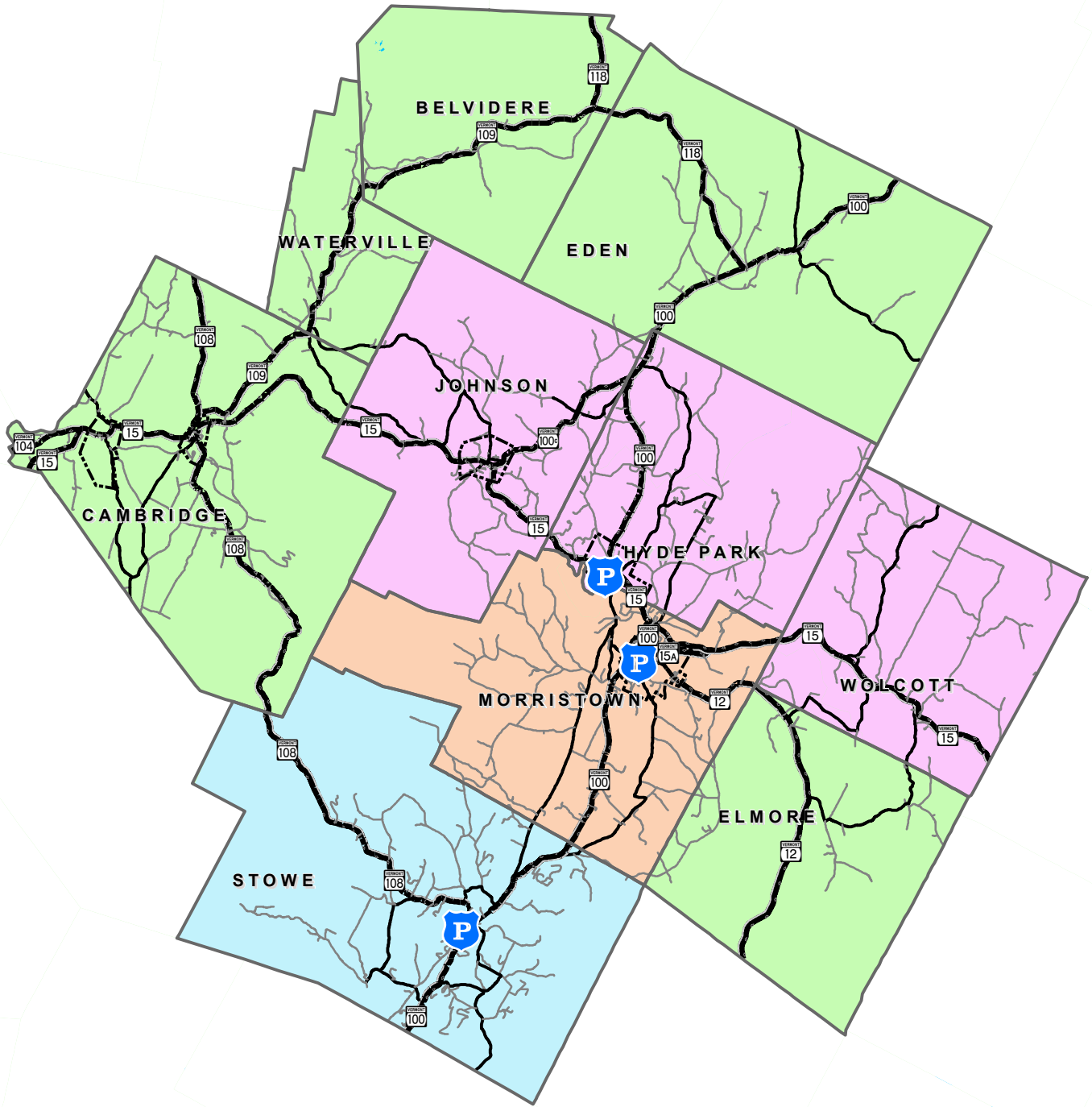
Political Boundaries: VCGI, 1991.
 Roads: 1:5000 E-911 Road Data, 2021.
 Emergency Service Areas: E911 Data, 2021.
 Emergency Service Providers: E911 Data, 2021.






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Law Enforcement Facilities

Lamoille County



-  Police Station
- Police Service Area**
-  LAMOILLE COUNTY SHERIFF
-  MORRISTOWN PD
-  STOWE PD
-  VERMONT STATE POLICE

Data Sources:

Political Boundaries: VCGI, 1991.
 Roads: 1:5000 E-911 Road Data, 2021.
 Emergency Service Areas: E911 Data, 2023.
 Emergency Service Providers: E911 Data, 2023.

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