

BLAINE COUNTY MHMP UPDATE
PUBLIC MEETING NOTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017
12 noon – 2 pm

ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Jesse Turner | BLM |
| Scott Meneely | BLM |
| Dolores Pluage | Blaine Co. Commissioner |
| John Skoyn | Rancher/Past Pipeline Operator |
| Haley Velk | Blaine Co. DES |
| Robert Smith | Chinook City Council/NorthWestern Energy |
| Dale Cornell | City of Harlem |
| Shannon Bonney | BLM |
| Mike Solheim | BLM |
| Kim Hansen | Harlem Mayor |
| Frank DePriest | Blaine Co. Commissioner |
| Deb Anderson | Blaine Co. Health Dept. |
| Valerie White | Blaine Co. Superintendent of Schools |
| Glenn Huestis | Blaine Co. Sheriff |
| Mitch Haider | City of Chinook |
| Mark Weber | Blaine Co. Health Dept. |
| John Blankenship | Chinook Water Plant |
| Lori Henry | Sweet Medical Center |
| Susan Schinele | Sweet Medical Center |
| David Jones | Turner VFD |
| Hilary Handy | Harlem Schools |
| Dave Boisvert | Blaine County |
| Laurie Huestis | Blaine County DES/EMS |
| Loretta DeLora | FBIC Planning Dept. |
| Ken Lewis | FBIC Housing Dept. |
| Donny Brockie | FBIC Housing Dept. |
| Daphne Digrindakis | Tetra Tech |

PRESENTATION & HANDOUTS:

- Calculated Priority Risk Index & 2012 Scores
- Critical Facilities - 2012
- 2012 Mitigation Strategy

NOTES:

Plans and Studies Since 2012

- Blaine County Growth Policy, 2017
- Chinook Growth Policy, 2017/2018
- Blaine County Subdivision Regulation, 2017
- Blaine County Flood Ordinance, 2017

Wildfire

- East Fork Fire (2017) – No structures lost in Blaine County. 3 farms and 6 cabins saved.

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- Three fires in Turner area at the same time as East Fork. 5 buildings lost in fire 10 miles north of Turner.
- Foust fire caused by wind. Blew off electrical box.
- Anderson fire (2017) two miles south of Harlem
- Fort Belknap fire (December 2016)
- Fire May/June 2017 burned storage structures and vehicles

Hazardous Material Incidents

- More agricultural chemicals, fuels, and oil on trains through the area than in 2012.
- 2016 Harlem water plant had a chlorine leak.
- One railroad crossing in Harlem. Sometimes trains block access.
- 100 car trains are common. Also block crossing on north side of Chinook.

Flooding

- 2011 and 2013 flood disasters. 2013 flood caused widespread road damage. Some of the same areas were flooded. Not as many homes affected.
- Areas repaired in 2011 were damaged again in 2013.
- Less damage in Turner and Hogeland in 2013 than in 2011.
- Harlem prepared a PDMC grant to relocate several homes north of town; however, the project didn't score high enough on the benefit-cost-analysis to receive funding.
- Culverts replaced on highway in 2015/2016.
- Irrigation ditches on Lincoln Road on south side of Harlem and in town dug out; willows and trash removed.
- 2011 Paradise Valley irrigation dam caused flooding.
- 2013 low water crossing was put in on Birdtail Road.
- 2011 Clear Creek washed out.
- 2013 Fort Belknap dam caused flooding due to debris/log jams.
- 2017 grain bins washed into river at Tangen Holly bridge
- Hays bridge out from canyon flooding in 2011 and 2013.
- Two bridges lost on Highway 66.

Severe Winter Weather Storm October 2, 2017

- 12-18 inches of snow in Chinook. Three feet of snow in south part of county. 8 inches in Harlem.
- Havre and FBIC received disaster declaration.
- Approximately 400 poles and cross arms down on NWE (not counting Rural Electric Coops). Widespread power outage, no gasoline, many people without heat. Some without power from 3-14 days.
- Power is fed from both the east and west and there's a switching station in Chinook.
- New furnaces don't work with some generators because they require a cleaner electrical signal and a ground.
- People used propane cook stoves in side homes and created dangerous conditions.
- Back feeding from generators can cause problems.
- Wells were down. Fire dept. couldn't open their garage doors.

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- Landlines didn't work after battery backup went down. Many elderly residents didn't have cell phones and were without communication.
- Need community shelter to keep people warm.
- Nursing home has generator.
- Need awareness on which buildings have generators and can shelter residents.
- Section 8 housing not required to have emergency plans.
- No generators at schools.
- Existing generators in community need to be regularly tested.
- Natural gas fueled generators are tested regularly.
- New community hall at Fort Belknap wasn't large enough. Had gas generator but not enough fuel.
- Red Cross volunteers not available to assist because were at hurricane disasters in Texas and Florida.
- March 2012 was also severe winter storm.

Drought/Severe Summer Weather

- 2017 – fields lost when 40 mph sustained winds blew soil away, sandblasted plants.
- Foust fire caused by wind that blew off electrical box.
- Hail and wind damage past few years.
- 2016 south of town barn destroyed due to microburst winds.
- 7/4/17 – hail/wind event.
- Fall 2016 – wind and rail event caused damages.

Structure Fire

- Zurich school burned in 1989.
- Harlem school burned in 1987.
- Fatality in Harlem in 2016 due to structure fire that burned two homes.
- Most fires occur in older buildings that have wiring that don't meet code.
- Turner barn fire in 2014.
- Volunteer Fire Dept. need volunteers and training. Employers aren't as accommodating letting people off work to train.
- All fire departments are set up pretty well but can always use new equipment.

Planning Team

- Haley Velk, Blaine County DES
- Laurie Huestis, Blaine County DES/EMS
- David Jones, Turner VFD
- Mitch Haider, City of Chinook
- Someone from Blaine County Public Health
- Kim Hansen, City of Halem, Mayor Elect
- John Blankenship, City of Chinook
- Dave Boisvert, Blaine County
- Glenn Huestis, Blaine County Sheriff