



2025 Montana Geohazards Workshop Kalispell – May 8-9, 2025

Workshop Day 1 (May 8) Presentations



Seismic Hazards in Montana

Mike Stickney Earthquake Studies Office Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology



Kalispell Geohazards Workshop May 8, 2025

Global seismicity

90% occurs on plate boundaries 80% occurs on the Pacific Ring of Fire



GLOBAL SEISMIC HAZARD MAP

Produced by the Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Program (GSHAP), a demonstration project of the UNInternational Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction, conducted by the International Lithosphere Program.

Global map assembled by D. Glardini, G. Grünthal, K. Shedlock, and P. Zhang



Hazard map from the 2023 50-state update of the National Seismic Hazard Model Project





Earthquakes magnitude 2.5 and larger since 2000



Potentially Active Faults



Montana Seismic Hazard







The high school at Three Forks, Montana, with brick walls in lime mortar was badly damaged and the walls bulged on all sides. Photo Credit: U.S. Geological Survey (J.T. Pardee).



B. DAMAGED JAIL AT WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONT.

Note shearing of brick veneer from back wall



4. ROCK SLIDE NEAR DEER PARK, MONT. Temporary track in left foreground



B. LAKE AT TUNNEL NO. 8, NEAR DEER PARK, MONT.
No rock falls occurred within the tannel. Photograph by H. P. Allen.



A. BROKEN BAILBOAD TRACK NEAR LOMBARD, MONT. Note rebound of the broken rail. Photograph by J. P. Swarts



B. ROCKS ON RAILROAD TRACK NEAR LOMBARD, MONT. Photograph by J. P. Swarta

Pardee, 1926

1935 Helena Earthquake



M 6.3 Oct. 18, 1935 Damage

M 6.0 Oct. 31, 1935 Damage







































Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service









Photo courtesy of MT Historical Society










Paso Robles clock tower after the Dec. 22, 2003 quake





Citadel and mud city of Bam



ISNA/PHOTO:MEHDI GHASEMI

Change in County Population 1960-2020



Montana Earthquakes $M \ge 5$



Civilization exists by geological consent, subject to change without notice. -Will Durant

MT Geohazards Workshop 2025

OOO Earthquake Effects and Hazards

Robb Eric S. Moss, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE

Prof. of Geotechnical, Earthquake, and Risk Engineering







The purpose of this presentation:

- Demonstrate earthquake effects the hazards they pose to the built environment using prior earthquakes around the world.
- Highlight: site effects, soil failure, surface fault rupture, and the related structural/infrastructure damage.









Topographic Effects

Basin and Basin Edge Effects



amplitude

duration

frequency content

Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Site Effects - 1999 Mexico





Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Basin Effects – 2015 Nepal



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Liquefaction





Dry Loose Sand



after Shaking





after Shaking

Saturated Loose Sand

Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Liquefaction – 2001 Bhuj India



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Liquefaction – 2003 San Simeon





(Oceano)

Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Liquefaction – 2010 Maule Chile





Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Liquefaction – 2011 Tohoku Japan



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Liquefaction – 2023 Turkiye

South East Elevation © 317°NW (T) ● 37.78834, 37.649135 ±2 m ▲ 881 m



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Seismic Induced Landslides

Primary Variables:

a) Period of slide massb) Period of earthquakec) Earthquake Duration

esonance

Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Seismic Induced Landslides – 2002 Alaska



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Seismic Induced Landslides - 2003 San Simeon

(Paso Robles)





Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Seismic Induced Landslides – 2010 Maule Chile



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Seismic Induced Landslides – 2011 Tohoku Japan



Soil Failure

- Fault Rupture
- Structure and Infrastructure

Seismic Induced Landslides – 2015 Nepal







Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Seismic Induced Landslides – 2023 Turkiye



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

2001 Bhuj India



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Delta_CFF for Planes=N40W,90; Rake=180; Fric=0.40 Depth=10km

2004 Parkfield CA



50 km



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

06.02.2023 13:24, Mw=7.6



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Structural Failure– 2001 Bhuj India





Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Structural Failure – 2003 San Simeon


Soil Failure

Structure and Infrastructure

Structural Failure – 2010 Chile



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Photo Christian Ledezma

Infrastructure – 2010 Chile

Photo Christian Ledezma



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Infrastructure – 2010 Chile





Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Infrastructure – 2010 Chile



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Structural Failure – 2015 Nepal



Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Structural Failure - 2023 Turkiye

North West Elevation

© 144°SE (T) ● 37.787683, 37.642532 ±2 m ▲ 893 m



Elbistan (R. Moss)

Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structure and Infrastructure

Infrastructure - 2023 Turkiye

Elevation





Soil Failure

Fault Rupture

Structural Response & Infrastructure

Summary -Earthquakes Effects and Hazards

+hazards:

ground shaking, soil failure, fault rupture, structural failure...

+implemented seismic design codes proven to work well

+infrastructure issues remain: highways, power, water, telecom

+hazard mitigation and emergency response critical





2025 Montana Geohazards Workshop Kalispell – May 7-8, 2025



Past Montana Geohazards Workshops



April 28, 2022 Montana Tech – Butte

April 26-28, 2023 Fort Harrison – Helena

May 1-2, 2024 Univ. of Montana – Missoula

MBMG, DES, FEMA, EERI, UM, MDT, MSL, DNRC, DEQ, Missoula County, Lewis and Clark County, Beaverhead County, NOAA, National Security Emergency Preparedness, Rocky Mountain Lab, Bitterroot Irrigation District, Missoula Public Schools, Helena Public Schools, CalPoly, EarthScope, Cascade Region Earthquake Working Group, Resilience Action Partners, Representatives from Tester, Zinke, and Daines offices.

- Present updates from the MBMG Geohazards Program, various state agencies, and research programs.
- Information sessions on regional/local seismic hazards and risks.
- Earthquake Working Group and Seismic Safety Commission
- Synergies for collaborative projects and funding opportunities
- Earthquake tabletop exercises, training courses, and field trips.

Montana Earthquake Working Group (MEWG)

Mission Statement

The MEWG is a non-regulatory partnership of state and federal government agencies, universities, private-sector partners, and the people of Montana. Together, the MEWG will become Montana's go-to source of information for anyone concerned with earthquake safety in our state.

The group will research, advocate for, and promote mitigation actions to help reduce risk from earthquakes. It will offer information that people living in Montana can freely access and understand to help make sure everyone in Montana knows how to help save lives, protect property, and reduce the social and economic disruption caused by earthquakes and cascading natural hazards, such as landslides.

Interest GroupsHazards Research • Mitigation Strategies • Outreach



Montana Earthquake Working Group (MEWG)



School inventory for seismic retrofit





Bitterroot Mtns

Public Information session on Bitterroot fault and earthquake hazards in the **Bitterroot Valley.** Virtual Reality Video



County-wide earthquake preparedness campaign, support MEWG and annual Montana **Geohazards Workshops**





MBMG Geohazards Program

Yann Gavillot Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology

2025 Montana Geohazards Workshop: Kalispell May 8-9, 2025



MBMG Geohazards Program

Geohazards

The MBMG Geohazards Program has a mission to catalog, assess, and monitor geologic hazards across the state of Montana. The Geohazards Program strives to provide information on active faults, earthquakes, and landslides and makes these data available to scientific community, policy makers and the public.





Earthquake Studies Program

Earthquakes: The Earthquake Studies Office monitors, analyses, and report on Montana earthquakes to and makes these data available to the scientific community and the public.



Landslides Hazards Program

Landslides: The Landslide Hazards Program aims to identify, map, and categorize landslide areas across the state of Montana.

Program information: Yann Gavillot, Mike Stickney

Geohazards Support Team: Colleen Elliott, Mandy Willingham, Ray Salazar, John Sanford, Henry Stahl, Yiwen Li, Trish Ekberg

Geological Hazards studies in Montana

(FEMA-NEHRP, MTDES, USGS-NEHRP, USGS-STATEMAP)















Geological Hazards studies in Montana

(FEMA-NEHRP, MTDES, USGS-NEHRP, USGS-STATEMAP)





Lidar 2025 update



Montana State Library (USGS 3DEP, various partners)



Quaternary Fault and Landslide Hazard Maps – Jefferson County





Quaternary Fault and Landslide Hazard Maps – Deer Lodge County





Quaternary Fault and Landslide Hazard Maps Ravalli and Powell Counties





Quaternary Fault and Landslide Hazard Maps – Park County





Quaternary Fault Mapping



Quaternary Fault Mapping





Landslide Mapping



GIS Hub Site - Geohazards Portal



Relative Landslide Age

dormant mature dormant old

STATEMAP - Virginia City Landslide Mapping







STATEMAP - Geological Mapping of the Mission fault





STATEMAP FY25

Gardiner project

- 24k scale mapping
- Geohazards (mass wasting)
- Volcano-sedimentary stratigraphy
- Geochronology and geochemistry







MBMG-WSGS Collaboration in North Yellowstone NP (USGS NEHRP)

East Gallatin-Reese Creek fault system project



1B

Earthquake Hazards of the Bitterroot Valley (NEHRP, BoR, USGS)







February 2023

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 142

QUATERNARY SLIP RATES AND MOST RECENT SURFACE RUPTURE OF THE BITTERROOT FAULT, WESTERN MONTANA 500 Meter Yann Gavillot,1 Jeffrey Lonn,1 Michael Stickney,1 and Alan Hidy2 Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology ¹Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory MBMG



Bitterroot Fault Slip Rate – New updates



Table 2. Vertical separation and fault slip rates for the Bitterroot fault.

	Vertical separation (m)	Surface age (ka)	Fault dip (degrees)	Vert. separation	Fault slip rate (mm/yr)
Lake Como	• • • • •				
MC2 - Pinedale moraine	3.5 ± 0.1	17.2 ± 0.2	62.5 ± 7.5	0.20-0.21	0.21-0.26
MC5 - Bull Lake moraine	68 ± 2	142.8 ± 5.0	$62.5\ \pm7.5$	0.45-0.51	0.48-0.62
Rock Creek*					
Glacial Lake Missoula shorelines	4.6 ± 1.5	16.4 ± 0.2	75 ± 5	0.18-0.38	0.19-0.40
Ward Creek Fan*					
S1 - Pinedale debris fan	2.4 ± 0.2	16.8 ± 0.7	52.5 ± 7.5	0.13-0.16	0.15-0.23
82 - Medium-aged debris fan	4.5 ± 0.1	66.6 ± 5.5	$52.5\ \pm7.5$	0.06 - 0.08	0.07-0.11



Forecast Fault Displacement Hazards Mapping along the Bitterroot fault



USGS NEHRP Final Technical Report – Moss and Gavillot, 2024

Prehistoric Earthquakes of the Bitterroot fault: Upcoming Publications



EQ1?: 1,500-11,000 years

EQ2: ~11,000 years ago EQ3: ~

EQ3: ~16,000 years ago

Application of Seismic Data - Active faults




Deer Lodge Basin: Seismic, N-S line





Deer Lodge Basin: Seismic, W-E Line



Seismic data owned or controlled by Seismic Exchange, Inc.



Montana Earthquake Working Group (MEWG)



Hazards Research

The main goal is to identify and characterize earthquake hazards, including potential cascading geological hazards in Montana, by prioritizing research using hazards mapping, seismic/geodetic monitoring, geophysical data, slip-rate, and earthquake forecasting.

> Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology CalPoly University of Montana Montana Department of Transportation



Montana Priority Regions – Earthquake Hazards Research



- Mission-Swan-South Fork Flathead faults.
- **Bitterroot Valley and Missoula area faults** (Bitterroot, Ninemile, Jocko)
- Helena Valley and Canyon Ferry faults.
- Greater Yellowstone and Centennial Tectonic Belt regions (Madison, Bridger, Gallatin Range, Emigrant, East Gallatin-Reese Creek faults, Centennial, Red Rock, Hebgen-Red Canyon).
- Butte and Deer Lodge Valley faults (Continental-Klepper-Elk Park, Deer Lodge Valley, Racetrack)



Intermountain West Priority Faults : Basin and Range Province Earthquake Working Group (BRPEWG)



USGS

ScienceBase-Catalog

Priority Faults for Improving Seismic Hazard Models in the Intermountain West Region

Dates

Release Date : 2025 Publication Date : 2025-03-12

Citation

DuRoss, C.B., 2025, Priority faults for improving seismic hazard models in the Intermountain West region: U.S. Geological Survey data release, https://doi.org/10.5066/P13XVWR7.

Summary

Abstract

This data release includes a list of high-priority hazardous halls and associated spatial data (regional polygons and buffered fault traces) for the information with Viry region of the United States. These are the top for beaus or regions of concern per IMW state, based on the 2025 (vension 1.0) meeting of the Basin and Range Province. Eartinguake Working Group. In general, the Isi includes important, undestidued faults where additional research would high to improve regional eartinguate inplute forecasis and hazard modelling, reduce eartinguake rink, and expand our knowledge of eartinguake processes in the IMV region. This information will be used to guide IMV-specific priorities for research nucled in the USCS Earthquike Hazars Program external research proteites.

Disclaimer. This database has been approved for release by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Although this database has been subjected to ingorous review and is substantially complete, the USGS reserves the right to revise the data pursuant to further analysis and review. Purthermore, the database is released on condition that tenther the USGS nor the U.S. Government shall be held liable for any damages resulting from its authorized or unauthorized use Any use of trade, firm, or product names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Introduction

In February 2023, the Basin and Range Province Earthquake Working Group (IRRPE/WC, Utan Geological Survey, 2023a) net in Saat Lake City, Utan to dicuss priority fails and topics in the Intermountain West (IMW) region. BRPEWG members and state representatives joined the meeting from Attorna, Colorado, Mano, Montania, New Mexico, Nevada, Cregon, Utah, and Wyoming, Discussions followed previous meetings on fault and topical priorities convened by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (Crone and others, 2000, Brugs and Hammond, 2011; Koeliter and Anderson, 2019, Brogs and Gold, 2015). The overall goal was to present and rank the top five faults or regions of concern in each MW state and update the priority fault is in cluded in titegas and Gold (2015). This information will be used to guide IMV-specific priorities for research included in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Earthquake Hazards Program external research priorities.

Criteria Used to Select Faults of Concern

State representatives each presented a list of the top five faults or regions of concern in their states. Criteria for inclusion varied by state but mostly followed three themes. (1) righ-risk faults, such as those crossing or proximal to urbanized regions or critical facilities. (2) Faults or regions lacking adequate characterization for sessing or displacement hazard analyses (for example, 30 fault geometry, paleoearthquake history, or slip rate). (3) Faults that can facilitate regional or topical earthquake research, such as characterizing faults in an unstudied region or advancing our understanding of earthquake rupture behavior.

Faults of Concern in the IMW Region

The following list of high-priority hazardous faults and regions was presented at the 2025 BRPEWG meeting. These are the follow flux faults or regions of concern considered most important to understanding earthquake hazards and reducing earthquake risk in each IMW state. Notably, this is a subjective and incomplete list, additional faults in the IMW may meet the criteria include above but not be listed below. Spatial data associated with this list include outfiered

Map »



Spatial Services

ScienceBase WMS : https://www.sciencebase.gov/catal

Communities

USGS Data Release Products

Tags

Categories: Data Harvest set: USGS Science Data Catalog (SDC) USGS Scientific Topic Keyword: Geography, Geomorphology, Geophysics, Land Like Change, Remote Sensing, Sedimentology, Selsimology, Sinalgraphy, Smutural Geology Types: Map Service, OGC WFS Layer, DIGC WMS Layer, OGC WMS Service

Provenance



Montana Regional Seismic Network Update

Mike Stickney Earthquake Studies Office Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology

> Kalispell Geohazards Workshop May 8, 2025





















Ovando seismic station recordings of a M 3.7 earthquake on Sept, 1, 2024 centered 20 miles NE of Seeley Lake



221 stations



51 Raspberry Shake seismograph stations







Raspberry Shake seismograph operating in the basement of a Butte residence.



Seismogram showing the P- and S-wave arrivals recorded on Raspberry Shake station R714F, located 2.2 miles southwest of the epicenter.

1,925 Earthquakes Oct 15, 2024 – Apr 15, 2025



1,925 Earthquakes Oct 15, 2024 – Apr 15, 2025



Understanding and Mitigating Risk through Hazard Mitigation Planning

ANDREW LONG AND ANNA LANG

Quiz time!

What's the biggest disaster threat to the U.S.?







Estimated Annualized Losses by Hazard (USD Billion)



Annualized Earthquake Loss



Recent USGS/FEMA study estimates that earthquakes cost the nation **\$14.7 billion** annually in building damage and associated losses.

- These are long-term estimates
- A single large event can make up the difference
- 65% of the loss in CA
- 78% in Western states









Estimated Annualized Earthquake Losses across Montana Counties

Hazards Location Extent/Magnitude Impact Previous Events Future Probability

RISK

Community Assets People Structures Systems Valued Activities Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources Hazards, Assets, and Risk



Challenges

- 1. Existing vulnerable buildings: Adopting the latest building codes does not apply retroactively to existing buildings.
- 2. Capacity: While Montana has adopted the latest building code, code enforcement is locally governed and inconsistent. Builders lack capacity and proper oversight.
- 3. "Built to code" ≠ "Built to last": Modern building codes provide minimum safety requirements for new buildings, i.e., "life-safety." Current codes and standards do not prevent damage, explicitly protect against economic losses, or ensure the return of function for most buildings.



Existing Vulnerable Buildings



Unreinforced Masonry Buildings





Residential Vulnerabilities



Living space over a Garage






The Relean Independent Helena Is Almost Deserted After Series of Quakes Rock the City

Damage Is Widespread in City But Far Less on Slopes on West Side

THE WEATHER



http://www.helenahistory.org/helena high school 2.htm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1936

COSTLY FEDERAL AID. technical men who are competent to point out the faults and the weaknesses.

Writing in "Building Standards," a technical magazine for December, R. M. Beanfield of Los Angeles, a structural engineer of standing on the Pacific coast, has this to say about the failure of the Helena High School to stand the earthquake strain, after he had made a personal investigation and spent much time going over

"Materials failed, not because of their inheritant weakness, but by reason of their unintelligent use and combination, improper designs, together with poor workmanship and construction."

It seems to The Independent that in a few words Mr. Beanfield has told the whole story. The architects are to blame for improper designs; the contractor is to blame for the unintelligent use of materials; the PWA is to blame for the "poor workmanship and construction." It is gratifying to know that some one had

the courage to come right out and name the third party contributing to the faulty construction of the High School.

Capacity Challenges - Building Industry & Bldg Departments





"Built to code" ≠ "Built to last"



Life Safety Building Codes

Modern building codes provide minimum requirements for earthquake safety for new buildings:

- Maintain "life safety"
- 10% probability of collapse
- Better performance for emergency services & response



7-22

ASCE

SEI STRUCTURAL

Minimum Design Loads and

Buildings and Other Structures

Associated Criteria for

[A] 101.3 Purpose. The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements to provide a reasonable level of safety, health and general welfare through structural strength, *means of egress*, stability, sanitation, light and *ventilation*, energy conservation, and for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, *explosion* or *dangerous* conditions, and to provide a reasonable level of safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.



Montana - Estimated Annualized Disaster Losses



Kalispell, Montana

CHUCK OLSO

Mitigating Risk through Proactive Planning

What is Hazard Mitigation?

Hazard mitigation is any <u>sustained</u> action taken to reduce or eliminate <u>long-term</u> risk to people and properties from natural hazards and their effects.



Phases of Emergency Management

- Preparedness is a state of readiness to respond to a disaster, crisis or other emergency situation.
- Preparedness actions include those used to plan, organize, equip, and train. These build and sustain the capabilities you need to prevent and protect against threats.



Mitigation vs. Preparedness

	ACTIONS		OUTCOMES
PREPAREDNESS	Acquire the knowledge and resources to protect or maintain functionality <i>in anticipation of a</i> <i>disaster.</i>	HAZARD EVENT	 A better response to disaster. Knowledge of how to react. This does not typically reduce hazard impacts on structures.
MITIGATION	Affecting the built or natural environment in a way that reduces the impact of hazards to prevent disaster.		 Helps avoid disasters. Reduced hazard impacts, including life safety and recovery costs.

Examples of Mitigation vs. Preparedness



WORKING GROUP



Investing in Resilience

Mitigation is an investment to:

- Prevent injury and loss of life.
- Protect community assets (structural, historic and cultural).
- Reduce the costs of disaster response and recovery.
- Support what matters to your community.



Mitigation Saves Study

/)	National Institute of BUILDING SCIENCES Cost (\$ billion) Benefit (\$ billion)	ADOPT CODE 11:1 \$1/year \$13/year	ABOVE CODE 4:1 \$4/year \$16/year	BUILDING RETROFIT 4:1 \$520 \$2200	LIFELINE RETROFIT 4:1 \$0.6 \$2.5	FEDERAL GRANTS 6:1 \$27 \$160
1	Riverine Flood	6:1	5:1	6:1	8:1	7:1
6	Hurricane Surge	not applicable	7:1	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
ရါ	Wind	10:1	5:1	6:1	7:1	5:1
室	Earthquake	12:1	4:1	13:1	3:1	3:1
3	Wildland-Urban Interface Fire	not applicable	4:1	2:1	not applicable	3:1
	Copyright © 2019 The National Institute of Building Sciences					

What is Hazard Mitigation Planning?

A coordinated <u>process</u> used by state, local, tribal and territorial governments to identify their <u>risks</u> <u>and vulnerabilities</u> associated with natural disasters and to develop and implement <u>strategies</u> to reduce or eliminate long-term risk.



FEMA's Mitigation Planning Policies



State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide

FP 302-094-2 Released April 19, 2022, Effective April 19, 2023 OMB Collection #1660-0062





Tribal Mitigation Plan Review Guide

Released December 5, 2017

Effective December 5, 2018 FP 308-112-1 OMB Collection Number: 1660-0062





Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide

FP-206-21-0002 Effective April 11, 2025 OMB Collection #1660-0062



State and Regional Plans in Montana



Plan Development Roadmap



Planning Is the Foundation for Mitigation Investments



HMPs Are Tools to Assess Risk

- Mitigation works best when it is based on a long-term plan. The plan must be developed before a disaster.
- Mitigation planning assesses the risk and vulnerability to hazards. This identifies long-term local policies and actions that can increase resilience.



Hazards Location Extent/Magnitude Impact Previous Events Future Probability

RISK

Community Assets People Structures Systems Valued Activities Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources Hazards, Assets, and Risk



Benefits of Mitigation Planning



- Saves lives and reduces the risk from future disasters.
- Aids in making risk-informed decisions for the whole community.
- Prepares your community to adapt to a changing climate.
- Helps direct mitigation resources to where they are most needed.
- Increases the capacity to support faster disaster recovery.



Plan Updates to Advance Mitigation

- HMPs are required to be updated every 5 years.
- Each plan update is a chance for continuous improvement.





Resources Affected if an HMP Expires

Assistance/Funding Description	Not Impacted	Impacted
Ability to receive an Emergency Declaration or Major Disaster Declaration.	Х	
Ability to receive FMAG assistance.		X
IA: Existing declarations	Х	
IA: Future declarations	Х	
PA Categories A-B: Existing declarations	Х	
PA Categories A-B: Future declarations*	Х	
PA Categories C-G: Existing declarations, projects that are obligated.	Х	
PA Categories C-G: Existing declarations, unobligated projects.		X
PA Categories C-G: Future declarations		X
HMGP 15% set-aside after a declaration.*		X
HMGP: Existing funds that are obligated.	Х	
HMGP: Existing funds that are pending award.		X

Making Mitigation Plans Actionable



Types of Hazard Mitigation

Local Plans and Regulations (LPR)

Government authorities, policies, or codes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and maintained

Structure and Infrastructure Projects (SIP)

Modifying existing infrastructure to remove it from a hazard area or construction of new structures to reduce impacts of hazards



Natural Systems Protection (NSP)

Actions that minimize damage and losses and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems



Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)

Sustained programs to educate the public and decision makers about hazard risks and community mitigation programs

Local Plans and Regulations

- Hazard Mitigation Plans
 Climate Adaptation Plans
- Building Codes
- Activities such as:
 - Plan Integration





Structure and Infrastructure Projects

- Structurally retrofit buildings
- Brace/Anchor critical utilities
- Acquire/elevate homes
- Improve stormwater drainage capacity
- Elevating critical utilities
- Harden infrastructure





Natural Systems Protection

Watershed or landscape-scale practices

 Conserve land; greenways; create greenways, walking trails and parks; restore and protect wetlands.

Neighborhood or site-scale practices

 Add permeable pavement, tree trenches, green roofs, rain gardens, and/or tree canopies.

Coastal practices

 Protect and restore sand dunes; build living shorelines; restore coral reefs; protect and restore coastal wetlands; build waterfront parks and trails.



Education and Awareness Programs

- Mitigation-focused outreach programs.
 - Educating homeowners and local
 businesses on mitigation techniques they
 can use.
- Train users on permitting and enforcement.
- Offer outreach and education on insurance.





Plan Implementation

Implementation is a critical part of the plan lifecycle. It brings your plan to life by carrying out the actions in its mitigation strategy, to reduce risk in your community. This step is critical to:

- Protect members of your community.
- Prevent damage to assets.
- Reduce the costs of disaster response and recovery.
- Develop more safely and sustainably.







Grant Funding – Many federal, state, local, or private grants are available to support various mitigation actions



Other Funding – Your community may consider unique ways to fund mitigation, such as Capital Improvement Funds, taxes, or fees.



Plan Integration – Integration means to include data and strategies from your mitigation plan into other existing community plans. by doing so you can leverage activities that have co-benefits, increase buy-in for mitigation, and reduce potential for development that conflicts with the principals of the mitigation plan.

How to Implement your Plan

What Mitigation Planning means for YOU

- Mitigation planning is the foundation for reducing risk in Montana and how each of you understands risk.
- Your data and research can inform future mitigation planning.
- You can use the mitigation plan to advocate for mitigation action in your community.
- You can be involved in future mitigation planning updates.
- Learn from your neighbors and build a network to advance mitigation.
- DES is here to help ask us questions!





Our communities across Montana are changing. Mitigation planning can inform how those changes are managed. It is a blueprint and foundation to reduce future risk.

Our remaining sessions will help you understand how to connect your individual work to mitigation.



THE JUXTAPOSITION OF ENERGY AND GEO-HAZARDS IN MONTANA

MONTANA ENERGY OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

JEFF BLEND, MAY 8, 2025
PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- ESF-12 coordinates the state's efforts in the restoration and protection of Montana's critical electricity, natural gas, and liquid fuels infrastructure
- Statutory authority: Title 90, Chapter 4, Part 3, MCA (Energy Supply Emergency Powers) and ARM Chapter 14.8.xx (Energy Shortages)
- Energy Emergency is a shortage or price of energy that will result in "curtailment of essential services or production of essential goods or the disruption of significant sectors of the economy," (90-4-302(4), MCA).

INTRODUCTION TO ESF-12

- The Montana Energy Office within DEQ is the primary agency
- Energy emergencies may involve:
 - Damage to infrastructure
 - Cascading effects from regional or national events (include quickly rising prices)
- Energy includes all major sectors
 - Electricity
 - Refined fuels
 - Crude oil
 - Natural gas
- There are a number of causes of energy outages including from natural events (storms), earthquakes, sabotage, cyber hacks, and international incidents
- Energy incidents dealing with transmission infrastructure are usually more serious than those involving one particular facility or plant
 - Yellowstone pipeline disrupted is more serious than any one refinery going down

OPERATIONAL FUNCTION

- The Montana Energy Office provides direct coordination and action with all relevant state, local, federal, and private entities
- Meets the planning and situational awareness needs of the Governor, policy makers, private industry, the public and other ESF partners
- Maintains essential contacts and situational awareness of energy sector in non-emergency times

Stakeholders

- ESF12 may deal with the following Stakeholders
 - Private sector
 - Refineries
 - Generators
 - Utilities
 - Local, State and Federal Government
 - Public
 - NGOs
 - Montana Petroleum Association
 - The Montana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association (MPMCSA)
 - Montana Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan & Statewide Hazard Assessment; p. 305: Goal-- Implement flexible piping when extending water, sewer, or natural gas service on new construction in predicted seismic zones.

ESFI2 DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

- Stakeholders may ask ESF12 team for:
 - Fuel when fuel is in short supply
 - Duration of Power Outage, Natural Gas Outage
 - Status of the utility
 - Driver Hour Waivers
 - Gasoline Standards Waivers
 - Backup generators
 - Wood for heat



*Culbertson, Glendive 1 & 2, and Miles City are rated to operate with either natural gas or #2 fuel, but have been predominantly fueld by natural gas in recent years. Facility Data Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), 2020 Pipeline Data Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), 2020



*Culbertson, Glendive 1 & 2, and Miles City are rated to operate with either natural gas or #2 fuel, but have been predominantly fueld by natural gas in recent years.

Earthquake Location Data Source: Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology (MBMG), 2022

Pipeline Data Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), 2020





Pipeline Data Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), 2020



*Direction of arrow indicates directional flow of product

Earthquake Location Data Source: Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology (MBMG), 2022











EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PROCEDURE DNRC DAM SAFETY PROGRAM

Doug Brugger, PE, CFM – Water Operations Bureau Chief
Brent Zundel, PE, CFM – Dam Safety Program Manager
Sam Johnson, PE, CFM – Dam Safety Construction Engineer
Chad Hill – Dam Safety Engineer
6 Regional Engineers, Part-Time Dam Safety

NID for MT

- 3,006 Jurisdictionally Sized Dams
- 72 years Average Dam Age
- 91% High Hazard Dams with EAPs
- 10% Federally Regulated Dams
- 89% State-Regulated Dams

50% more dams than peer states! (ID, WY, UT, CO, ND, SD)



MONTANA DNRC REGIONAL ENGINEERING BOUNDARIES







Page 8: Table of Contents (Response Procedures)















MONTANA

Affected Dams Inspection Priorities

Priority 1 – All high hazard dams with PGA > 0.2g

Priority 2 – All high hazard dams with PGA > 0.1g and ≤ 0.2g

Priority 3 – All high hazard dams with PGA > 0.05g and \leq 0.1g

Priority 4 – All low and significant hazard dams with PGA > 0.2g

Priority 5 – All low and significant hazard dams with PGA > 0.1g and ≤ 0.2g

PGA Correlation

PGA Actions	Acceleration (g)	Perceived Shaking	Potential Damage
	< 0.0017	Not felt	None
No Action	0.0017 - 0.014	Weak	None
NO ACTON	0.014 - 0.039	Light	None
	0.039 - 0.050	Moderate	Very light
Immediate Owner	0.051 - 0.092	Moderate	Very light
Inspection	0.092 - 0.10	Strong	Light
Inspection by Owner's	0.11 - 0.18	Strong	Light
Engineer ASAP	0.18-0.20	Very Strong	Moderate
	0.21-0.34	Very Strong	Moderate
DNRC Immediate	0.34 - 0.65	Severe	Moderate to heavy
Inspection	0.65 - 1.24	Violent	Heavy
	> 1.24	Extreme	Very heavy



- Priority 1 No dams
- Priority 2

	A B		С	D	
1	PGA_Mean 💌	National Id 💌	Dam Name: 💌	Owner Name 💌	Lo
2	0.104	MT01222	MCKAY CREEK	PRICE TRUST	
3					

• Priority 3

	Α	В	С	D	
1	PGA_Mean 💌	National Id 💌	Dam Name: 🗾 💌	Owner Name	ľ
2	0.092	MT00017	NEVADA CREEK DAM	STATE OF MONTANA, D.N.R.C., W.R.D.	
3	0.085	MT01378	DAVIS CREEK DAM	JOSEPH EVE & MELEANIE VANKOTEN-EVE	

• Priority 4

	Α	В	С	D
1	PGA_Mean 💌	National Id 💌	Dam Name: 💌	Owner Name 🗾
2	0.215	MT03683	HERRIN LAKE	STATE OF MONTANA, D.N.R.C., T.L.M.D.
3	0.205	MT01388	MANNIX	F MANNIX
4				

• Priority 5

	Α	В	С	D
1	PGA_Mean 💌	National Id 💌	Dam Name: 💌	Owner Name 💌
2	0.147	MT03684	SMITH LAKE	JAMES R HESS
3				









Technical Note 5 - Simplified Seismic Analysis Procedure for Montana Dams

> Prepared for: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Water Resources Division Water Operations Bureau Dam Safety Program

> > November 30, 2020

Prepared by:

HDR Engineering



Available at: https://dnrc.mt.gov/Wat er-Resources/Dam-Safety/Technical-Notes

Geohazards 2025





Geohazards- updates

- Have a position dedicated to geohazards and geotechnical asset management
 he is on vacation this week
- MDT is currently doing some agency reorganization will be an asset management group
- Use of New technologies LIDAR, Drones (change detection), Remote sensing, machine learning and A.I. – prediction of rockfall? Possible upcoming research project for our rockslopes
- Last couple of weeks we took ownership of a new tracked Cone Penetration Test (CPT) rig. Able to perform shear wave velocity testing with it.
- What is priority of geohazards at MDT and by current state and federal administration?

Geohazards

• We do not have dedicated funding to solely address Geohazards (funding competes with other needs)

We currently do have a large landslide project under construction on Hwy 191 (Fred Robinson Bridge/CMR area)

 This project is over \$20M in cost and is intended to mitigate a large landslide impacting the roadway (slide plane is 120 feet deep, slide is over 1000 feet long)

Ongoing projects/maintenance for other minor roadway slides, rockfall, frost heaves, etc.

Seismic Design

All New/replacement structures (bridges and retaining walls) are designed for **Seismic** conditions. National LRFD specifications are used (general procedure)– 7% exceedance in 75 yrs ~ 1,000 yr earthquake. Occasional Site-Specific analysis in high pga areas or poor soils or where they coexist (e.g. Kalispell/Flathead area)

Slopes and embankments are evaluated for seismic, but may not be formally designed to resist seismic unless deemed critical.

We will be performing liquefaction mitigation at bridge approach embankments for Sportsman's bridge on HWY 82 (bridge over Flathead river west of Bigfork).

Available funding <<< Transportation Infrastructure needs

- Geohazards are only one of many items that MDT addresses with our available funding.
- We obligate about \$450 million per year on construction projects (The funding is about 87% federal and 13% state)
 - These projects include pavement preservation projects (chip seals, mill/fill, etc.)
 - Safety projects signing, guardrail, slope flattening, signals, roundabouts
 - Bridge projects preservation or replacement
 - Rehabilitation -- more robust pavement work often with associated items such as culvert replacement, slope flattening, spot improvements, drainage, etc.
 - Reconstruction reconstruction of roadways– add capacity, correct roadway geometrics, etc.
 - Pavement is designed or 20 yr design life (we usually get longer due to preservation)
 - Bridges and other structures 75 yr design life

Current Bridge Challenge A Little History, from Then.....



- 1,200 bridges built during New Deal
- Timber bridges built quickly
- 440 still in service
- 90 years old today

.....To Now



Just over 5,000 bridges in Montana 56% on-system 44% off-system Average age On-system bridges = 50 years Off-system bridges = 45 years

Current Condition of Bridges

Age of MDT Owned Bridges 800 757 700 600 500 519 400 413 300 200 228 230 199 175 100 127 30-39 40-49 50-59 70-79 80-89 90-99 0-9 10-19 20-29 60-69 100 +Total



Average age when MDT owned bridge gets load-posted = 65 years Average age when Non-MDT owned bridge gets load-posted = 55 years

Current Condition of Bridges





Average age when MDT owned bridge gets load-posted = 65 years Average age when Non-MDT owned bridge gets load-posted = 55 years

Current Condition of Bridges



MDT's 5 Year Bridge Plan


Pavement Condition by District



Current pavement needs by system



We are constantly looking at ways to stretch the dollar further such as innovations in design, construction, materials, etc.

This is a collaborative effort with numerous stakeholders.... Suppliers, contractors, other state agencies, local and state governments, amongst others.

Jeff Jackson, P.E.

Geotechnical and Pavement Bureau Chief Montana Department of Transportation 406-444-3371 jejackson@mt.gov

mdt.mt.gov



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