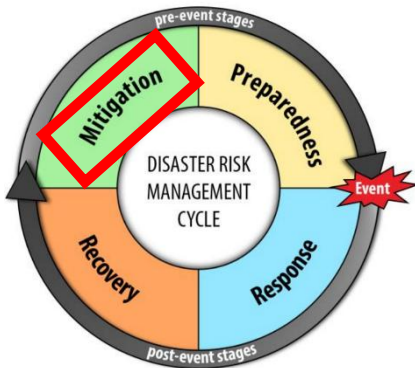


# Malheur County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update



February 2026

**Natural hazard mitigation** is any action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. Unlike preparedness which focuses on being able to respond when a disaster hits and improving immediate readiness, mitigation focuses on the long-term reduction of risk.



## Why mitigation planning?

- **To avoid disasters** by reducing or eliminating risk to people, property, and the environment.
- **To maintain eligibility** for hazard related funding.
- **To increase safety and resiliency** by integrating hazard mitigation into local government planning and operations.

**EVERY \$1** SPENT ON MITIGATION



**SAVES \$6** ON FUTURE RECOVERY



## What is the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan?

The **Malheur County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP)** identifies and examines the hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks that people and property in the county could face from natural hazards and identifies mitigation strategies and resources to minimize risk from those hazards. Natural hazards are natural events that threaten lives, property, and other assets such as flood, wildfire, and drought. This planning process is to update Malheur County's existing NHMP, which should be updated every five years.

The NHMP is intended to be a community-oriented document that also meets FEMA's policy requirements. Actions and strategies are developed with the goal of making them realistic and attainable with existing resources and capabilities.

The update process began in March 2025. A draft of the **Risk Assessment** portion of the plan is completed and can be reviewed here:

<https://dlcd.box.com/s/oewhXu6dp0wo834swths25wf5ssaevnw> Everyone who lives and works in Malheur County is encouraged to participate and provide comment (see QR code on second page). The draft of the remaining portions of the plan will be available for review later this year.



City of Vale



## Who is involved in developing this NHMP?

The Malheur County NHMP is the result of collaboration between federal, state, and local partners making up a steering committee. This NHMP is multi-jurisdictional and includes Malheur County, and the cities of Ontario, Vale, and Nyssa. Local non-profits, utilities, and state agencies have also contributed.

All residents of Malheur County are encouraged to participate and provide comment on the plan.

# Recent Natural Hazard Events

2021



- Declared drought

2022



- Declared drought

2023



- Severe storm and Jonesboro Landslide
- Severe winter storm

2024



- Durkee and Cow Valley Fires
- Severe storm with flooding, wind, landslide

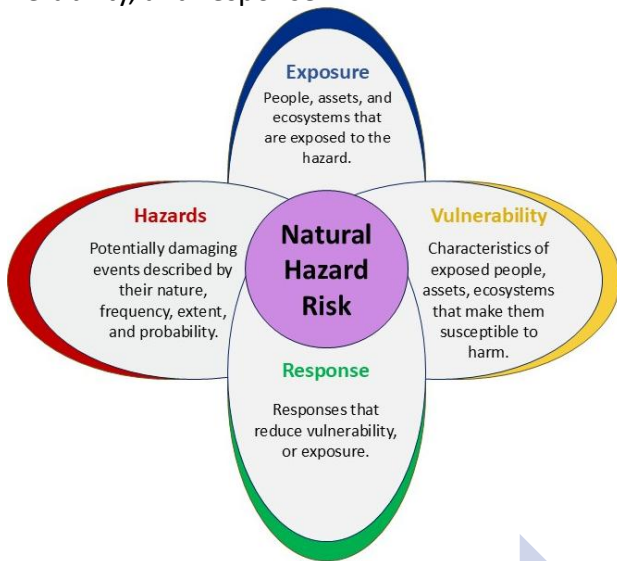
2025



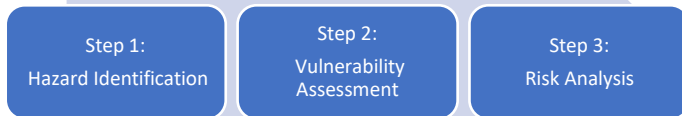
- Flooding
- Extreme heat event

## What is Risk?

Natural hazard risk is the estimated impact that a hazard would have on people, services, facilities, and structures in a community and the likelihood that a hazard event results in injury or damage. It is the overlap between hazards, exposure, vulnerability, and response.



## What is the Risk Assessment?



The Risk Assessment provides the factual foundation for mitigation actions and goals. It includes the identification of hazards, assessment of vulnerability to those hazards, and a hazard vulnerability assessment that combines the two.



Follow the QR code or link to provide comments on the draft risk assessment and share your priorities and experiences with natural hazards.

<https://bit.ly/4aFIOPB>



DLCD



## Project Contacts

Anna Murphy, DLCD Natural Hazards Planner  
(971)-493-2905 | [anna.murphy@dlcd.oregon.gov](mailto:anna.murphy@dlcd.oregon.gov)

Lt. Rich Harriman, Malheur County Emergency Manager  
(541) 473-5120 | [rharriman@malheurco.org](mailto:rharriman@malheurco.org)

## Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

The steering committee identified and assessed all hazards with the potential to affect Malheur County. The Hazard Analysis Method assigns scores to each hazard based on **history, probability, vulnerability, and maximum threat** and combines them to give an overall risk score. Risk scores allow the steering committee to assign relative ranking of hazard priorities. The table below shows the steering committee's ranking which will be used to prioritize mitigation actions.

HAZARD	RISK SCORE	RISK LEVEL
Poor Air Quality	208	High
Extreme Temperature	205	High
Severe Weather	203	High
Winter Storms	196	Medium
Droughts	191	Medium
Wildfires	190	Medium
Windstorms	180	Medium
Floods	169	Medium
Dust Storms	164	Medium
Landslides	143	Low
Earthquakes	120	Low
Dam Failure	120	Low

## Next Steps

The steering committee is in the process of updating mitigation actions from the previous plan and compiling new mitigation actions. Remaining portions of the plan are also being updated. The next steering committee meeting will be held in March.