

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2014

The State of Idaho's Bureau of Homeland Security Broadband Network

In 2005, the idea of connecting all counties and tribes of the State of Idaho to the State Emergency Operations Center at Boise through the existing microwave network was conceived. The objective of this plan was to give the counties a way to contact the State Emergency Operations Center in the event of a major disaster. Phone lines including fiber optics can be cut, either by a natural disaster or by manmade error (backhoe).

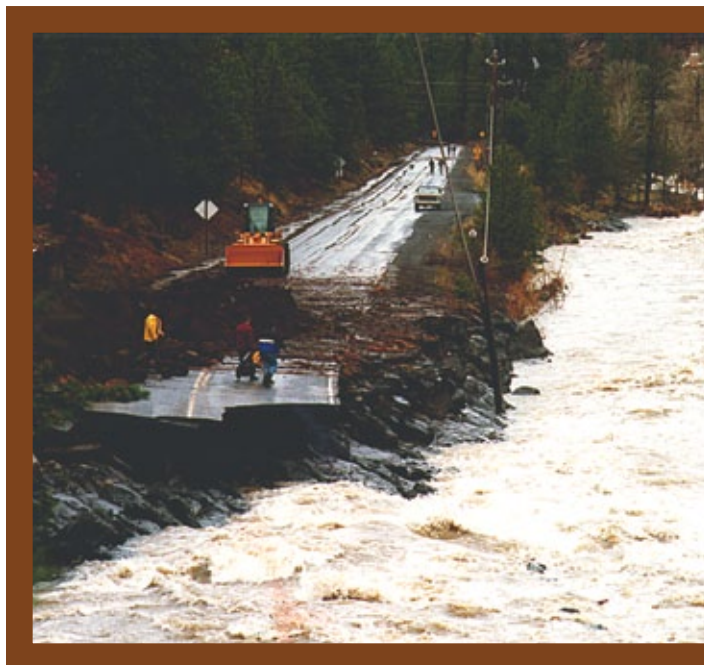
Wireless "microwave" links can suffer from similar problems too, but it was considered that since Idaho is susceptible to earthquakes this would be a reliable alternative. When an earthquake occurs, a valley floor or mountain top may shift higher or lower a few feet. However, this shift is generally not enough to cause the microwave dishes to go out of alignment enough for the system to be affected. The signal level of the microwave may degrade, but it will still be operational.

Initially the project's scope of work was for each county to have 10MB of bandwidth, and two voice over internet protocol (VoIP) phones. Additionally, plans were made for adding video teleconferencing (VTC) and recently thin client devices have

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Mountain top location at Mt. Harrison, near Burley, Idaho, link to Minidoka and Cassia Counties.



Idaho Flood Awareness Week

March 17 – 21 will be Idaho Flood Awareness Week. During this time several organizations will be conducting outreach to encourage individuals and organizations to be prepared for potential flooding conditions. Idaho's history demonstrates that flooding occurs on a semi-regular basis, and that it can have disastrous consequences. We also know, however, that being informed and taking steps to be prepared can significantly reduce the impact when flooding occurs.

Recent events in Colorado have highlighted the impact of severe weather and flooding on a community. Colorado was impacted by record rainfall over a short period of time resulting in, flash-flooding; debris flows off recently fire damaged areas, and widespread flooding from creeks/streams and rivers throughout a 4,500 square mile area. The impacts of this severe weather event were: blocked and heavily damaged transportation infrastructure (roads/bridges/tunnels); damaged water treatment systems; damaged and destroyed residences; power outages; multiple hazardous material incidents; damaged schools and other public buildings.

Threats to public safety are not unique to a rainfall event. Floods, avalanches or landslides can and will occur in any severe weather

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Greetings,

In our online, mobile society, we rely on our computers and devices for so many aspects of our lives that there needs to be a proactive and vigilant process to protect against cyber threats. A persistent and sometimes unidentifiable threat is consistently looking to exploit our weaknesses, gain access to our data, with the common goal to compromise our information. We will not be able to prevent all incursions however there are controls and procedures that can assist in mitigating the most prevalent vulnerabilities. I also believe we can apply emergency management principles to these vulnerabilities of intrusions and incidents to increase our collective resiliency and response.

One method to be prepared for cyber issues is to become informed of the risks, and to know where to turn for resources. The Idaho Department

of Administration has created a webpage dedicated to cyber security. The page, <http://cybersecurity.idaho.gov/>, contains news alerts and information directed to specific audiences such as state agencies, businesses, educators and parents. I'd recommend visiting the page to learn more about what can be done to increase our cyber security awareness.

Another aspect is having a system for responding to incidents when they do happen. In emergency management we are very familiar with the planning process, where we identify roles and responsibilities, provide training and exercise opportunities, and validate our systems. I have directed my staff to develop an incident annex to our emergency operations plan so that we have a resource to turn to if we are faced with a cyber-incursion. We are currently working with our state agency partners in identifying capabilities that can be employed in responding to and recovering from this type of threat.

No matter the hazard, our level of preparedness remains dependent upon our ability to anticipate the things that may happen, and take the steps and form the relationships that will ensure our ability to manage incidents before, during and after they happen. Before adopting any of the myriad new technologies that are rapidly being deployed, it's important to understand the implications and risks. While interconnectivity can yield many benefits, the risk could outweigh the benefit if our devices, systems and technologies are not properly secured.

Respectfully,
Brad

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This newsletter is the official newsletter of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. This quarterly publication is intended for the use of the State of Idaho's emergency management community, legislators, government officials and others who are interested in learning about Idaho's emergency management techniques and procedures.

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Don Taylor is the BHS Employee of the Quarter

Mr. Don Taylor has been selected as the Employee of the Quarter for his exemplary service to BHS and the citizens of Idaho. Don has consistently performed in a superior manner during this past quarter which is no surprise as he consistently carries out his duties as Recovery Program Manager exceptionally well on a daily basis.

Mr. Taylor's rigorous attention to detail and professional grasp of the complexities associated with both the Federal and State Recovery processes have resulted in favorable interpretations of regulatory processes and significant cost savings to the citizens of Idaho.

Following are the highlights from Don Taylor's last quarter exploits on behalf of BHS and the Citizens of Idaho:

1. Engaged FEMA X regarding Direct Administrative Costs resulting in acceptance of the BHS policy and a savings of approximately \$250,000 in State Emergency Account funds.
2. Working with multiple FEMA X directorates, received approval of FMAG extensions for all Idaho FMAG authorizations in '12 and '13.

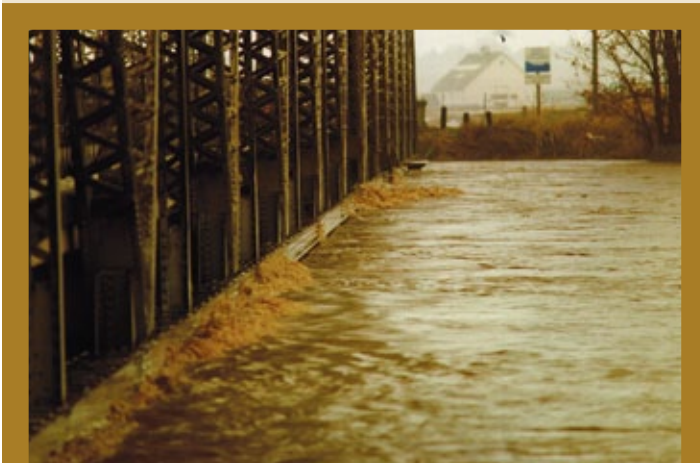


3. After considerable effort, received Biological Assessment from FEMA X necessary for final project completion and closeout of DR-1927.
4. Developed a mobile application available on cell phones and iPads for damage assessment compatible with all FEMA requirements, set up field testing of this app with customers, anticipates general roll-out by February 2014.

5. Received FEMA X approval of the 2014 annual State of Idaho Administrative Plan for recovery operations.
6. Received FEMA X approval of the BHS Individual Assistance (IA) Option choice.
7. Provided FEMA with recommendations to the Fire Management Assistance Grant State Agreement template resulting in changes to the National Template for this Grant.
8. Reviewed BHS stored documentation from State Archives resulting in the elimination of 80 boxes at an annual cost savings of \$300.
9. Began work on a disaster funding database which will enable greater accountability of State Emergency Funds.

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Flood Awareness continued from pg. 1 »



event such as a rapid snow melt. Now is the time to review your jurisdictional and personal emergency operation plans to ensure that they are current and comprehensive.

Individual preparedness includes the ability to self-sustain for a minimum of 72 hours. This self-sufficiency is the cornerstone

of community preparedness. Keeping warm, staying hydrated, providing for sanitation, basic first aid and nutrition for the entire family (including pets) takes a considerable load off of the first responder community. Information on how to prepare for flooding is available on the BHS website, or at www.floodsafety.noaa.gov. Your local emergency manager is also a good resource who will have information specific to your area.

Purchasing of flood insurance is also a good idea if you live in an area prone to flooding. Information on the National Flood Insurance Program is available at <http://www.floodsmart.gov/>.

At the Jurisdictional level, a review of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to ensure that public notification/warning; evacuation; sheltering; the disaster declaration process; jurisdictional emergency rules and regulations; the damage assessment process; and emergency operations center processes and procedures are current and functional is the responsible thing to do before we get any further into the severe weather season.

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been added for the counties to access WebEOC on this network. As plans were made, funds were allocated and the project started. The plan included installing routers at key locations across



Gooding County Broadband Connection. Gooding, Idaho

the state corresponding with the state microwave path. These sites included Doe Point (Bogus Basin ski resort), Snowbank Mtn (Cascade, ID), Culdesac (Culdesac, ID), Moscow West Twin Mtn (Moscow, ID), Mica Peak (Post Falls, ID), Flattop Butte (Jerome, ID), Howard Mtn (Pocatello, ID), Blackfoot ITD shed (Blackfoot, ID) and Rigby ITD shed (Rigby, ID).

Public Safety Communications (PSC) was assigned the task of installing the routers at these mountain top locations and connecting them together. PSC was also given the task of installing any needed "last mile equipment." Last mile equipment refers to equipment needed to make a connection to the core or main part of the network. Once those were in place, other equipment was purchased to enable connections to each county. A number of additional small Ethernet microwave systems were purchased and installed to reach areas not close to the existing microwave backbone. Some of these locations include Freeze Out Hill by Emmett, ID, Clay Peak by Payette, ID, and Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Motorola PTP 400 Wireless Ethernet Bridge Radio was selected as the equipment to reach

the last mile from the main microwave backbone.

For microwave radio communications to be effective, each link requires a line of site (LOS) for the microwave signal to make a connection to the county. Many days were spent going to each county to determine what mountain top site could be used to make these connections. Additionally many hours were spent installing the last mile equipment and router/switch combs in each county. As of January 1st, 39 counties and all the tribes are connected to the system with some coming online as recently as 2013.

For Idaho's entire splendor, a couple counties have facilities locations that have



Valley County hop site Davis Point. Cascade, ID

been difficult at best to make connection to. This difficulty results from either terrain, or lack of resources. Valley County was able to acquire funding to build a new building for their EOC in Cascade; the original location prior to this was in Donnelly. PSC was able, with the help of the local undersheriff John Coombs, to finally get a path into Cascade for this connection. For Valley County, Cascade was in the shadow of Collier Peak which blocks a LOS to Snowbank Mountain where the main microwave backbone is located. John was able to make arrangements with a local land owner to use some of his property for a "hop site." A hop site means that we have to hop to this site before getting to the actual

location we are aiming for. This hop site at Cascade, now named Davis Point, made it possible to link Valley County onto the system.

In some instances other methods of connection were viable. Ada and Canyon Counties connected by using existing fiber between PSC/BHS, their respective facilities. A couple of the tribes have been connected by utilizing part of their existing infrastructure, namely Nez Perce Tribe and Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Another county, Bonner County is providing a temporary connection on their existing microwave path since PSC/BHS does not have the equipment needed. This county is blocked from Schweitzer Mtn by Sandpoint Baldy. PSC is pairing with another state agency to share a new microwave path to this location.

Many man hours have gone into making this project a reality and many sites have been helped in getting added by other state agencies such as the Idaho Transportation Dept. Some of the latest counties to be added to the system in 2013 include Boise County, Bear Lake County, Valley County, and Oneida County. In



Hell Hole Site east of Montpelier, ID link to Bear Lake County.

a few counties, grant funding was used to purchase several 65' towers, since none existed that would work for a good connection. Gooding County, Lewis County, and Camas County received new towers for this purpose.

IECC Annual Report

The Idaho Emergency Communications Commission (“IECC”) has worked diligently since its inception in 2004 to address the needs and improve the 9-1-1 telephone systems operated by Idaho counties and cities throughout the state. Consolidated emergency communications system centers, commonly known as dispatch centers or Public Safety Answering Points (“PSAP”), receive emergency calls from the public via 9-1-1 or a seven-digit phone number. The purpose and responsibilities of the Commission, granted by the Idaho Legislature, are centered on finding solutions to the difficulties of counties and cities to keep up with technological advances in the area of 9-1-1 and emergency communications for public safety purposes in general.

There are currently 46 PSAPs in Idaho; 40 are operated by county sheriff’s offices, five (5) by cities through their respective police departments or by contract with another city, (City of Moscow), and four counties (Twin Falls, Jerome, Lincoln and Gooding) are served by a regional PSAP known as SIRCOMM.

We understand that citizens expect the same level of service throughout the state regardless of how they are contacting area 9-1-1 centers throughout Idaho. The key to this service is known as Enhanced 9-1-1 (“E9-1-1”). E9-1-1 is the ability of a PSAP to obtain a caller’s callback number and an address when a caller dials 9-1-1. This means that the PSAP receives voice-only 9-1-1 calls and the dispatcher must obtain the type of emergency, the telephone number and the location from the caller. If the caller is unable to speak, the needed emergency response is delayed.

The Commission has set goals to ensure that all citizens in the State of Idaho are able to benefit from technology widely available. These goals are as follows:



2008 Status of Service Map

- Ensure that all PSAPs are brought to the E9-1-1 level;
- Ensure that all PSAPs are compliant with requirements to receive information from callers using a wireless or cell phone, which is known as Phase I (call back number and originating cell tower) and Phase II (Phase I plus location of caller within 125 meters of call origination); and
- Assess the feasibility of implementing Next Generation 9-1-1 (“NG9-1-1”) throughout Idaho (providing multimedia data capabilities to PSAPs, i.e. ability to receive text messages, etc.).

The Commission is pleased to report that in 2013, through the 25-cent grant fund, all of the 46 PSAPs are either E9-1-1 or are migrating to E9-1-1. In keeping with our goals and utilizing the grant fund, 45 of the 46 PSAPs are either Phase II Wireless compliant or have been given grants and are in the migration process.



2014 Status of Service Map

The main obstacle for all PSAPs is the lack of resources and funding. E9-1-1 systems are expensive and require annual maintenance agreements. With the implementation of the Enhanced Grant Fee, the Commission is pleased to announce that by the end of 2013 all PSAPs will be Phase II compliant.

The Commission completed and approved a state plan for the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1. The state plan is needed to address the strategic and operational needs of the state’s PSAPs and is a prerequisite to receive federal funds and support. This new network will serve the increasing needs of all Idaho’s PSAPs in meeting requirements of new communications technologies and ensuring that citizens are able to reach emergency services through a wider variety of mediums.

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FirstNet In Idaho

For over 75 years, the public safety community has relied on Land Mobile Radio (LMR) for dependable, two-way voice communications when responding to emergencies and performing daily tasks. In recent decades, the introduction of low and medium speed data networking has brought useful software applications to the public safety end user, including Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD), electronic mail, and labor saving capabilities like electronic citation and crash reporting systems. With the advent of affordable, high-speed data communications—the same Internet Protocol (IP) based technology that runs today’s



commercial Internet – entirely new ways of communicating are becoming a reality for first responders, integrating information in the form of words, pictures, and video into their life-changing activities.

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) has been established and tasked by Congress to create a high-speed wireless, broadband data network dedicated to public safety. The FirstNet Nationwide Network (FNN) will be a single, nationwide network that facilitates communication for public safety users during emergencies and on the job every day. In the Using this network, future public safety communications users may:

- Send video feeds from monitoring cameras inside a school to police vehicles on their way to a school emergency.
- Be alerted immediately to a downed firefighter transmitting real-time video back to the operations center via a helmet camera, and the dangerous surroundings via clothing mounted heat and biometric sensors.
- Have dispatch send high-definition video, photos, and maps to responders, rather than just an address.
- Transmit high volume, real-time patient information such as streaming video and vital health stats to emergency rooms and trauma centers while the ambulance is en route.

Unlike commercial wireless networks, FirstNet will allow for priority access among public safety users. Users will get fast access to information they need to meet their mission.

FirstNet must create a network design for each state, and wants to work with potential users and stakeholders in each state on this design. Congress created the State and Local Implementation Grant program (SLIGP) to fund state, local and tribal participation in the FirstNet work. Idaho received about \$1.5 million in SLIGP grant funding. There are two phases. The first phase, starting now, is an outreach and education effort to find all potential stakeholders – users and agencies – who may use the network, to identify their needs (coverage, applications) and to involve them in the work. The second phase is a data collection effort, to identify numbers of users, using agencies and potential assets – radio towers, fiber networks, buildings and more – which can be used to build the network.

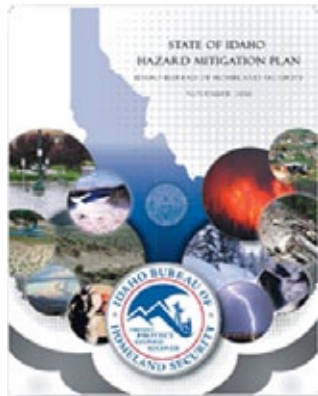
In the near future the DHS Office of Emergency Communication will come to Idaho to conduct a planning workshop that will provide an overview of FirstNet, discuss coverage issues and identify potential users of the network. BHS will be seeking the input of all stakeholders in this effort, to make sure this program is implemented in a way that makes the most sense for our state. If you would like more information on this program, please contact Robert Feeley.

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Mitigation Section UPDATE

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security's Mitigation Section is creating a hazard mitigation projects library which will be used to identify and develop potential hazard mitigation projects. The database created will include a compilation of currently identified mitigation actions in county All-Hazard Mitigation Plans as well as previously submitted hazard mitigation projects which were either unfunded or needed revisions. BHS Mitigation section has initiated work on the project library and anticipates its full implementation by summer 2014.



The library is intended to collect, review and pre-qualify all-hazard mitigation projects based on the merits of the project and its adherence to county and state mitigation strategies, goals and objectives as well as its cost effectiveness and feasibility. Sources of applications will come from Local All-Hazard Mitigation Plans, previously submitted but unfunded sub-applications in FEMA's eGrants system, letters of intent solicited during Presidentially-declared disasters and long-term recovery projects also identified during county- and state-declared disasters. Once entered into the library database, the projects will be reviewed regularly and, when a grant opportunity presents itself, will be searched for appropriate and well-qualified applications. In addition, there will be considerable collaboration with the RiskMAP program and its ability to analyze hazards and interpolate potential project needs.

The Hazard Mitigation program has been seeing several successful projects completed. These projects are good models from which potential projects can be modeled:

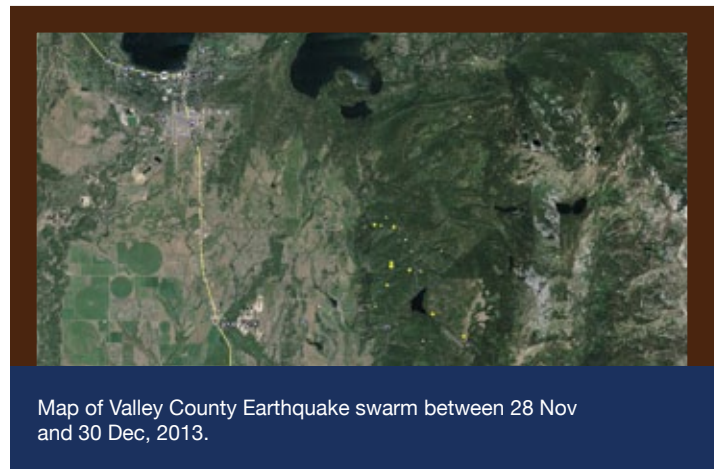
- Teton County Badger Creek Bridge
- Valley County Dead Horse Creek Bridge
- Boise Warm Springs Water District Emergency Power-Source Transfer Switch
- Harriman State Park wildfire mitigation
- Idaho Dept. of Corrections wildfire mitigation

All state, county and municipal agencies are encouraged to submit projects, both structural and non-structural and planning, to BHS, Mitigation Section at any time. After an initial review for eligibility, the project(s) will be included. Hopefully, these projects will already have been vetted by the appropriate jurisdiction and a preliminary cost-benefit analysis is included.

Federal Emergency Management Agency approved the updated State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) November 1, 2013. The update includes risk assessments of natural and additional

human-caused hazards. Hazard information from 47 Tribal and county all-hazard mitigation plans are integrated into the SHMP and is to be used as a guide for decision makers in prioritizing assistance to local entities. BHS appreciates the huge assistance from academia, federal, state, and public-private partners. The plan may be viewed at the BHS website <http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Plans/Mitigation/SHMP.aspx>.

The Executive Committee and Technical Advisory Groups have been invited to a SHMP maintenance meeting the third week in February to begin implementing the updated plan. The team will go over the assignments, timeline, and funding of action items, as well as recent hazard events. Discussion items will include the Idaho 2013 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, SHMP integration with other plans and programs, and strategic priorities



Map of Valley County Earthquake swarm between 28 Nov and 30 Dec, 2013.

In other news:

- The Idaho NORFMA Conference held in Boise, November 14 -15, was a success with over 50 flood plain managers, planners and county officials attending.
- Idaho Department of Water Resources hired its new State Floodplain Coordinator, Keri Smith-Sigman, formally a planner with Canyon County. Email: Keri.Sigman@idwr.idaho.gov
- Silver Jackets was very busy with post-wildfire coordination with federal and local agencies for the Beaver Creek, Pony and Elk fires, planning for Flood Awareness Week and planning for its 5-year anniversary. Link to USGS report for the Beaver Creek Fire: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2013/1273/>
- Idaho Geological Survey reported earthquake swarms in December in the area in and around Driggs, Idaho, with the highest reported being a 3.1 magnitude and another swarm in Valley County with the highest reported being 3.0 magnitude.

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Maintaining Local All Hazard Mitigation Plans

With reduced levels of Pre-Disaster Mitigation funding, it is prudent for counties and tribes to look at methods for keeping mitigation plans current both with and without grant awards. In following this trend, several counties have been pro-active in engaging their Local Emergency Planning Committee in plan maintenance and plan revision meetings. One important source of information is the FEMA Local Mitigation Handbook, <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31598?id=7209>, which offers suggestions and forms for regular plan maintenance. The scope of the 5-yr update process may be simplified by incorporating the maintenance results into the plans and by documenting the entire process in order to meet FEMA's plan update requirements.

Effective AHMP maintenance includes monitoring the implementation and evaluation of the plan: how, when, and by whom, which is addressed in approved All Hazard Mitigation Plans. The maintenance committee would determine if assigned agencies carried out mitigation actions and would report on progress on an established schedule. The committee would consider what changes occurred or are needed in each section of the AHMP. The BHS online-EOPT tool, <https://www.cseptemplate.com/id/default.aspx>, provides a convenient way for the team to edit sections of the plan. Worksheets 7.1 Mitigation Action Progress Report Form and 7.2 Plan Update Evaluation Worksheet, in the FEMA Local Mitigation Handbook, provide easy ways to track action items and document changes.

The county can continue public outreach by inviting input through meeting attendance, social media, or community displays. Community participation during plan updates is required. Reporting



Public outreach can consist of meetings, social media, or community displays

to public officials on plan progress may continue involvement and support, as well as integration into community plans.

Over the period of 4 to 5 years, counties who follow this process are well on their way to a successful AHMP plan revision and ultimately, a FEMA-approved plan revision.

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