

Cornwall LHMP Executive Summary 2025

The Town of Cornwall began work on updating its All-Hazards Mitigation Plan in 2024 into 2025. Town officials and citizens have conducted a hazards inventory and risk assessment matrix, identified locations where hazards are known to the community, and identified potential mitigation projects associated with the priority hazards.

The committee identified the following hazard as their **Highest Priority**, based on probability, warning time, geographic impacts, property damage, and other concerns:



- **Severe Ice Storm (Risk Score 9.00)**

- **Insect-Borne Illness (Risk Score 8.00)**



- **High Winds (7.00)**

- **Invasive Species (7.00)**

- **Flash Flood (7.00)**

- **Severe Heat (7.00)**

- **Infectious Disease-Pandemic (6.75)**

High Priority:

- **Widespread Power Failure (6.00)**

- **Wildfire (6.00)**

- **Structure Fire (6.00)**

- **Severe Cold (6.00)**



- **Hail Storm (5.25)**

- **Severe Snow Storm (5.25)**

- **Lightning Storm (4.50)**

- **Highway Accident (4.50)**

Moderate Priority:

- **Drought (4.50)**

- **Tornado (3.50)**

- **Inundation Flooding (3.00)**



For each high-vulnerability hazard type, the committee considered previous occurrences and extent, current vulnerability, and future probability. The committee set these overall mitigation goals and objectives:

Goal 1: Increase Community Awareness of Cornwall's Vulnerability to Natural Hazards

Objective: Inform and educate the community about the types of hazards the Town of Cornwall is exposed to, where they occur, how to prepare, and recommended responses

Goal 2: Reduce Vulnerability of People, Property, and the Environment to Natural Hazards

Objective: Provide mechanisms to enhance life safety

Objective: Reduce impacts to critical facilities and services

Objective: Reduce impacts to existing buildings and infrastructure to the extent possible

Objective: Reduce impacts to future development and infrastructure to the extent possible

Objective: Reduce impacts to the town's natural and historic resources

Objective: Reduce impacts to public health

Goal 3: Increase Interagency Capabilities and Coordination to Reduce the Impacts of Natural Hazards

Objective: Continue to collaborate and coordinate with other agencies on planning, projects, hazard response, and funding opportunities

The committee documented the status of mitigation activities undertaken since the previous hazard mitigation plan adoption in 2016.

The committee is in the process of developing a prioritized list of future mitigation actions and projects, with care taken to include those projects which can be considered reasonable and feasible based primarily on capacity, cost, and political feasibility. These include:

Hazard	Future Mitigation Actions
All Hazards	Conduct drills and exercises to test plans Provide educational materials to residents
Severe Ice Storm	Manage vegetation in the ROW to minimize/allow space for powerlines
Insect-Borne Illness	Provide funding for the efforts of the Lemon Fair Insect Control District.
High Winds	Remove dead and dying trees from town rights of way as part of normal maintenance
Invasive Species	Follow state recommendations for roadside mowing to prevent seed production of Poison Parsnip Provide Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) education, conduct a town road ash tree inventory
Flash Flood	State Route 125 box culvert replacement/rebuild (Beaver Brook)
Severe Heat/Cold	Maintain Town Hall as emergency heating/cooling shelter with generator and air-conditioning
Infectious Disease-Pandemic	Develop and maintain continuity planning and agreements for potential town staff shortages.
Widespread Power Failure	Maintain Town Hall as emergency warming shelter with generator
Wildfire	Require outdoor burn permits prior to any outdoor burning. Install additional dry hydrants throughout town.
Structure Fire	Install additional dry hydrants throughout town. Provide Fire Safety education program in the elementary school Upgrade driveway standards in the next zoning bylaw rewrite to support basic accessibility for emergency vehicles to all structures in town.
Highway Accident	Support the mitigation of the following high-risk locations: The intersection of US Rte #30 and Cider Mill Road VT Route 74 at the base of the "Ledges" VT Route 74 from the "Old Red Barn" site to the junction of Clark Road VT Route 125 by "the Knoll"- VTrans efforts to improve sightlines and safety James Rd and Route 125 intersection-VTrans implementation of safety measures

A Hazard Mitigation Plan is dynamic and should not be static. To ensure that the plan remains current and relevant, it is important that it be updated periodically. The hazard mitigation plan should be reviewed by all new town officials and revised and updated in its entirety every 5 years.

The Town of Cornwall will monitor and evaluate its hazard mitigation goals, strategies and actions annually as the town budget is created. In updates of the Municipal Plan by the planning commission, the concepts, goals and strategies from this hazard mitigation plan should be incorporated and used to inform municipal development strategies.