

3 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall purpose of this Plan is to reduce future losses to life and property from potential hazard events by identifying appropriate **Actions** to implement during the five-year span of this Plan.

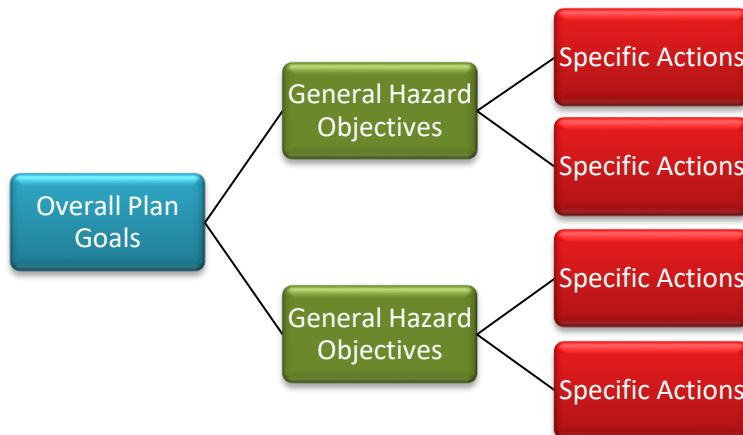
Inspired by early *State of New Hampshire Hazard Mitigation Plans*, the following Epsom **Goals** were initially developed in the previous **Epsom Hazard Mitigation Plans** and thus were reviewed and updated as applicable by the Hazard Mitigation Committee during a public meeting for the **2023 Plan**. While the hazard incidents have remained essentially the same as from the **2018 Plan** with a few disaster additions over the course of the last five years, it was important to reassess the continued relevancy of **Goals** and **Objectives** to influence the development of the best and most relevant hazard mitigation **Actions**. Lastly, with the most recent change in hazard types utilized in the *State of New Hampshire Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018*, it was necessary to revise some of the main hazard groups for the **General Hazard Mitigation Objectives** identification.

What Are Goals, Objectives and Actions

Goals, Objectives and Actions are used in the Hazard Mitigation Plan to define different levels of meaning. Their relationship is displayed in **Figure 3**.

The overall **Goals** of this Hazard Mitigation Plan provide a macro-level view of what emergency managers want to accomplish to keep the Town’s life, property and infrastructure safer from natural disasters. Statements of overall **Goals**, beginning with “To”, describe the desired vision of mitigation and safety for the community. **Goals** enable the development of thoughtful hazard **Objectives** designed to generally fulfill those **Goals**.

Figure 3
Relationship of Goals, Objectives and Actions



From the **Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment**, the individual natural, technological and human hazards under consideration have been grouped into similar event types for simplification, the Main Hazard categories in **Table X**. **Objectives** begin to narrow down the focus of the overall **Goals** into hazard minimization statements and will use these categories. Hazards not applicable to the Town and Central NH Region include Coastal Flooding, Avalanche, Tsunami and Volcanic Activity.

Finally, **Actions** are the specific activities or projects which can be undertaken to accomplish an **Objective**. The **Action** is the target to reach to help mitigate hazards in the community. The completed **Action** fulfills the associated **Objectives**. Actions will be listed and reviewed later in **8 MITIGATION ACTION PLAN**.

Table X
Updated Hazards for Objectives 2023

Main Hazard Category	Specific Hazards Included	Hazard Type
Drought	Drought	Hydrologic
High Wind/Tropical	Thunderstorms, Downbursts, High Winds, Tornadoes, Tropical and Post-Tropical Cyclones, Hail	Atmospheric
Wildfire/Fire/Lightning	Wildfire, Lightning, Fire	Hydrologic/Atmospheric
Flood/River	Dam Failure, Inland Flooding, River Hazards	Hydrologic
Winter	Winter Storms, Blizzard, Ice Storm	Atmospheric
Extreme Temperatures	Cold Wave, Heat Wave	Atmospheric
Earthquake/Landslide	Earthquake, Landslide	Geologic
Public Health/Biological	Swimming Water Quality, Air Quality, Drinking & Surface Water Quality, Infectious Diseases, Arboviral Diseases, Tickborne Diseases	Biologic
Solar	Geomagnetic Storms, Solar Radiation, Radio Blackout	Atmospheric
Hazardous Materials/Radiological	Hazardous Materials, Radiological	Haz Mat
Human Hazard	Crash, Mass Casualty Incident, Cyber Event, Terrorism/ Violence	Human
Technological	Aging Infrastructure, Conflagration (Fire), Long Term Utility, Outage	Technological

Source: Hazard Mitigation Committee 2023

Overall Hazard Mitigation Plan Goals

The following **three (3)** Goals for the **Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023** were developed by the Hazard Mitigation Committee as the vision for the community with respect to the declared disaster declarations, general hazard events, seasonal weather events and changing climate patterns resulting in unexpected events. Collectively, the **Goals** guided the formulation of **Objectives** for each of the main hazard categories. These **Goals** were revised from the **2018 Plan** to emphasize hazard mitigation instead of preparedness, response and recovery which are covered in the *Emergency Operations Plan*.

Figure X
Hazard Mitigation GOALS

2018 Epsom Hazard Mitigation Goals

RESTATED for 2023 for HMC review

1. To reduce the risk of injury in the Town from the impacts of natural hazards, severe weather, disasters, and human and technological hazards.
 2. To reduce the risk of potential damage in Town to public and private property, infrastructure, critical facilities, historic resources and the natural environment from the impacts of natural hazards, severe weather, disasters, and human and technological hazards.
 3. To enhance communication and public outreach, educational programs, public awareness activities and enforcement in Epsom, to help protect the community from the impacts of natural hazards, severe weather, disasters, and human and technological hazards.
- To reduce the risk of injury and the loss of life in the Town from all natural hazards and disasters and impacts from secondary hazards.
 - To reduce the risk of potential damages in Town to public and private property, critical facilities, infrastructure, historic resources and the natural environment from all natural hazards and disasters.
 - To promote public awareness of hazard mitigation planning and activities to the Town's residents, visitors and businesses.

General Hazard Mitigation Objectives

The main hazard categories of **Earth, Extreme Temperatures, Fire, Flood, Health, Solar, Wind, Winter, Human, and Technological** guide the direction of mitigation efforts. These hazard **Objective** statements, beginning with “Minimize”, state Town’s desired outcome for each hazard category. The **Objectives** support the overall **Goals** by placing a focus on hazard mitigation or minimization and support the overall **Goals** while driving the direction of **Action** development later in the Plan. These hazard categories are previously displayed in **Table X**.

Although human and technological hazards are not natural disasters, many technological hazards in particular are secondary to (caused by) the natural and weather hazards. **General Hazard Mitigation Objectives** were crafted for the **Epsom Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023** to minimize the damages to life, property and infrastructure in **Figure X**.

2018 Epsom Hazard Mitigation Objectives

RESTATED for 2023 for HMC review in New Hazard Categories

DROUGHT HAZARDS (THERE WERE NO 2018 DROUGHT OBJECTIVES)

1. Minimize the impact of drought events to agricultural and forest areas, private and municipal wells, and other locations by providing public education and access to potable water.

HIGH WIND/TROPICAL HAZARDS

2. Minimize the damage to life, property, and infrastructure from severe wind events, including thunderstorms, hail, downbursts, tornadoes, hurricanes and tropical storms, including damage resulting from tree debris.

- Minimize the damages from severe wind events, including thunderstorms, downbursts, hurricanes and tropical storms, and tornadoes to life, property, and infrastructure.

WILDFIRE/LIGHTNING/FIRE HAZARDS

3. Minimize the damage to life, property, and infrastructure, including the conservation properties, areas of Town Forest, Town-owned property, woodlands, and communication towers from wildfires, brushfires, other outdoor fires, and lightning.

- Minimize the damages from fire, lightning, and wildfire to life, property, and infrastructure, including the Town Forests, Town-owned property and all telecommunications towers.

FLOOD/RIVER HAZARDS

4. Minimize the damage to life, property, and infrastructure from floodwaters or erosion Suncook River, Little Suncook River, Lockes Brook, Blakes Brook, Leighton Brook, Mason Brook, Burnham Brook, Gulf Brook, Little Bear Brook, Griffin Brook, and Deer Meadow Brook result in expanded flooding. Northwood Lake, Cass Pond, Deer Meadow Pond, Mill Pond, Bixby Pond, Chestnut Pond, Tarleton Mill Pond, Farm Ponds, other brooks and ponds, wetlands, and water bodies in Town.

5. Minimize the damage to life, property and infrastructure caused by snowmelt and flash flood precipitation resulting in erosion and flooded roads; culvert washouts, small dam failures, or debris (tree limbs, leafy material/ sediment), beaver dam breakage, etc).

- Minimize the damages from floodwaters of the Suncook River, Little Suncook River, Lockes Brook, Blakes Brook, Leighton Brook, Mason Brook, Burnham Brook, Gulf Brook, Little Bear Brook, Griffin Brook, and Deer Meadow Brook result in expanded flooding. Northwood Lake, Cass Pond, Deer Meadow Pond, Mill Pond, Bixby Pond, Chestnut Pond, Tarleton Mill Pond, Farm Ponds, other brooks and ponds, wetlands, and other water bodies to life, property, and infrastructure.
- Minimize the damages caused by flash flooded erosion and washed out and overtopped roads, culvert washouts, dam failures or debris (tree limbs, leafy material/ sediment) to life, property, and infrastructure.

WINTER HAZARDS ((THERE WERE NO 2018 WINTER OBJECTIVES))

6. Minimize the damage to life, property and infrastructure from winter weather events, including storms, snow, ice and minimize damage from utility failure, tree fall, blocked transportation routes, and roof collapses.

EXTREME TEMPERATURE HAZARDS

7. Minimize the damage to life, property and infrastructure due to temperature fluctuation resulting from climate change, including excessive heat events, energy consumption, heat waves, extreme cold events, and wind chill.

- Minimize the damages from both severe winter weather, including storms, snow, ice, and wind chill events and from excessive heat events such as heat waves, drought, energy consumption, air and water quality, and climate warming to life, property and infrastructure.

EARTHQUAKE/LANDSLIDE HAZARDS (THERE WERE NO 2018 EARTHQUAKE OBJECTIVES)

- 8. Minimize the threat of potential landslide or rockslide areas along local roads and excavation areas and engage in public awareness of local earthquake activity and safety precautions.**

PUBLIC HEALTH/BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

- 9. Minimize the threat or impact of public health events to the public, including close-quarter communicable diseases (coronavirus, influenza, hepatitis, meningitis), air and water quality decline, biological infestations (milfoil, emerald ash borer, others), arboviral (mosquito) and tick-borne diseases, and addiction, etc.**

MOVED FROM EXTREME TEMPS

- Minimize the threat of public health events from the cold and warm weather seasons to the public, especially those in close quarters.

SOLAR HAZARDS (THERE WERE NO 2018 SOLAR OBJECTIVES)

- 10. Minimize the impact to life, property and infrastructure from solar storms and space weather, including solar winds, geomagnetic storms, solar radiation, and radio blackouts.**

HAZ MAT/RADIOLOGICAL HAZARDS (SEPARATE CATEGORY)

- 11. Minimize the damages from hazardous materials exposure, chemical spills, radiological materials incidents, or biological incidents to life, property, and infrastructure.**

HUMAN HAZARDS

- 12. Minimize the damage to life, property, and infrastructure from hazardous materials exposure, chemical spills, trucking accidents, and radiological materials incidents, including impact and exposure caused by brownfields sites, leaking underground storage tanks, and occupational sites.**

- Minimize the damages from human threats such as sabotage, vandalism, terrorism, hostage situations and civil disturbance to life, property and infrastructure.

TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

13. Minimize the impact to Epsom residents from the risks of various utility outages, aging infrastructure of roads, bridges, culverts, dams and facilities, and from the risks of cyber events.

- Minimize the impact to travelers through blocked transportation systems, including NH 28, NH Route 107, US Routes 4/202, Epsom Traffic Circle and other local roads.
- Minimize the damages from multiple hazards to the operational efficiency of all communications systems, dams, underground water and sewer utilities, bridges, and transportation roadways.
- Minimize the damages from electrical power failure to life, property, and infrastructure, in both rural and urban environments.