

Municipality of Anchorage

Office of Emergency Management

MOA All-Hazard Mitigation Program

Priorities, Planning, and Significant Efforts



2024 HIRA Update

Risk Assessment Overview

- Threat Identification: Potential to Cause Harm
 - Hazard Profile, Location, Extent, History, Probability

- Vulnerability: MOA Susceptibility to the Hazard
 - Vulnerability to People, Property, Environment, MOA Operations

- Consequence Analysis: Impacts to the MOA
 - Public, Responders, Continuity of Operations, Property/Infrastructure, Environment, Economy, Public Confidence in the MOA's Governance



2024 HIRA Update

Hazard Summary

16 Hazards

4 Geological

Avalanche
Earthquake
Ground Failure/
Landslide/
Severe Erosion
Tsunami *

2 Weather

Extreme Weather
Flooding

4 Technological

Utility Failure
Dam Failure
Hazardous Materials Release
Transportation Incident

3 Health

Communicable Diseases
Volcanic Ash Fall
Air Pollution

3 Human-Caused

Civil Disturbance *
Fire
Tsunami *

*New hazards identified during the 2024 HIRA Update



2024 HIRA Update

Local Planning Team

- 45+ Community Representatives
- 6 planning meetings
 - Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
 - Capabilities Assessment
 - Hazard Vulnerability Overview

□ MOA Department Representation:

- Mayor's Office
- AFD
- APD
- AHD
- Port of Alaska
- Transportation
- Planning
- Parks & Recreation
- PM&E
- M&O
- AWWU
- IT



2024 HIRA Update

Hazard Vulnerability Overview

FIRE

HAZARD
Fire

TYPE
Human-Caused

RISK LEVEL
High

Fire hazards in Anchorage include wildfires, which occur in natural areas and are fueled by vegetation, and urban fires, which impact buildings and infrastructure. Wildfires are most common from April to August, with dry, windy conditions increasing risk near residential zones and wildland-urban interfaces. Urban fires, often occurring in green spaces within the city, pose threats to property, human lives, and critical infrastructure.

KEY FACTS

Fire Season: Fire season in Alaska is April 1st through August 31st.

Fuel: There are multiple fuel types in Anchorage's dense forests, such as black spruce and birch.

Invasive Species:

Purple loosestrife – a plant that is taking over wetlands and displacing native species.

White Sweet Clover – A plant that is spreading along the roadside and invading the glacial river floodplain.

Spruce Beetle – a beetle that is causing extensive damage to the spruce trees creating additional fire fuel.

TOP VULNERABILITIES

People: Residents in Anchorage's wildland-urban areas, like Hillside, Bear Valley, and Eagle River, face increased wildfire risks. Vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and those with mobility or respiratory issues, are especially impacted by evacuation and smoke-related health challenges.

Property: Homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure near Anchorage's wildlands face high wildfire risks, especially properties without defensible space, with potential disruptions to power, water, and communications affecting daily life, businesses, and emergency services.

Environment: Vegetation loss from fires destroys wildlife habitats and leaves ecosystems vulnerable to erosion, flooding, and water quality degradation, which can harm fisheries and aquatic life. Additionally, smoke reduces air quality, posing health risks to humans and animals, while recovery of natural areas can take years or even decades.

Municipal Operations: Wildfires can strain Anchorage's firefighting resources, complicate evacuations, disrupt essential services, and demand extensive interagency coordination and public communication to manage risks and sustain operations.

ANTICIPATED CONSEQUENCES

Public Impact: Fires in Anchorage can endanger public health and safety, forcing evacuations, displacing residents, and exacerbating respiratory issues, with risks of injuries or fatalities.

Responder Impact: First responders face hazardous conditions, physical exhaustion, and emotional strain during fires, which can hinder their efficiency and well-being.

Impact on Continuity of Operations: Fires may disrupt essential public services and government operations, hampering response coordination, communications, and critical functions.

Property Impacts: Residential and commercial properties near wildland areas are at high risk of destruction, causing displacement, costly rebuilding, and economic losses.

Environment Impacts: Fires destroy habitats, degrade water quality, increase erosion, and disrupt ecosystems, with recovery potentially taking decades.

OEM Planning Process

All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (Update by 2027)



Mitigation Grant Management

Projects in Progress

- Integration of the All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update (2027) into the Comprehensive Land Use Plans
 - 2024 Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
 - 2025-2026 5-Year Plan Update. Approved by FEMA
 - OEM financial reporting support

- Update Neighborhood and Targeted Plans with Mitigation Analysis
 - Planning Department management, OEM financial reporting support.

- Seismic Hazards Analysis and Mapping
 - Engineering Department management, OEM financial reporting support.



Mitigation Grant Management

- Equal Language Access Outreach
 - 60% complete
 - evaluating need for continued language translation outreach and education projects for OEM Website as well as other communication outreach materials designed to maximize mitigation education with all MOA residents.

- Wildfire Risk Reduction: Ortho Imaging and Mechanical Fuels Reduction
 - Phase I GIS Department management; OEM financial reporting support
 - Phase II Fire Department management; OEM financial reporting support.



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