



John A. Chisholm  
Fire Chief

# FIRE DEPARTMENT CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*



## REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** John A. Chisholm, Fire Chief

**DATE:** March 14, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Report from the Fire Chief on the City Hazard Mitigation Plan Revision

### **Recommendation**

The Fire Department recommends that the City Council accept this report on the revision of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan and approve the accompanying resolution formally adopting the plan.

### **Background**

Title 44 Section 201.1 of the Code of Federal Regulations requires "State, local, and Indian tribal governments to identify the natural hazards that impact them, to identify actions and activities to reduce any losses from those hazards, and to establish a coordinated process to implement the plan, taking advantage of a wide range of resources." The City completed its first plan in 2006, adopted the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2011, and adopted the prior updated Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2017. Title 44 Section 201.3 requires that plans be updated every five years.

In April of 2022, a steering committee for plan revision was convened under the direction of the Fire Chief and with technical assistance provided by Ms. Stephanie Alexander of the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission. The members of the committee included:

### **Department Representatives**

Carlos Baia, Concord Deputy City Manager (former)  
Rob Buelte, Concord Police Department Lieutenant (former)  
Chip Chesley, Concord General Services Director  
John Chisholm, Concord Fire Chief, Emergency Management Coordinator, and Hazard Mitigation Committee Staff Coordinator  
Martha Drukker, Concord Community Development- Engineering Division City Engineer (former)  
Todd Fabian, Concord Library Director  
Elisa Folsom, Concord Fire Department Deputy Chief  
Heather Shank, Concord Community Development – Planning Division City Planner (former)  
Jonathan Smullen, Concord Information Technology Director  
Charles Wroblewski, Concord Police Department Lieutenant  
Ying Zhou, Concord Community Development- Engineering Division GIS Coordinator

### Additional City Staff and non-City affiliated individuals or agencies

Rob Ackerson, Concord Fire Department Fire Fighter (former)  
Crayton Brubaker, Concord Community Development- Planning Division Specialist (former)  
Matt Cashman, Concord School District Facilities Director  
Jamie Costa, Concord Monitor Staff Writer (former)  
Sam Dove, Resident  
John Duncan, Resident and Representative of Concord Heights District  
John Gaudet, Resident and Representative of Hot Hole Pond  
Daniel Hussein, Overcomers Refugee Services  
Clement Kigugu, Overcomers Refugee Services  
Christine Miller, Penacook Village Association Board Member  
John Marcel, NH HSEM State Hazard Mitigation Planner (former)  
Jessica Martin, InTown Concord Executive Director  
Tim McGinley, St. Paul's School, Director of Environmental Health & School Safety  
Michael Melody, Concord Hospital, Director of Safety & Emergency Management  
Mike O'Meara, City Liaison for Concord TV  
Fred Reagan, Merrimack Valley School District, Facilities Director  
Zach Reed, Nobis Engineering Health & Safety Manager  
Angela Spinney, Concord Coalition to End Homelessness Director of Programs  
Jason Wovkanech, NHTI Director of Campus Safety

The committee met several times until December of 2022 to revise the plan. The revised plan and the associated maps were made available for a public review held via Zoom on December 21, 2022.

The plan was transmitted to the New Hampshire Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) on December 28, 2022. In April of 2023, the City was informed that FEMA Region 1 would require the submitted plan to comply with the new 2023 FEMA regulations. The committee reconvened via Zoom on July 10, 2023 and July 17, 2023 to discuss the required changes. The plan was resubmitted to NH HSEM on July 25, 2023. On December 6, 2023, the plan was returned to the City with comments and two (2) minor adjustments needed. City staff were able to provide the required information without having to reconvene the entire committee. The plan was resubmitted with the changes on December 12, 2023 to NH HSEM. A noticed of Approval Pending Adoption (APA) was given to the City on March 3, 2024.

Copies of the plan are available at the City Clerk's Office, the Concord Public Library, and Fire Headquarters. An electronic copy of the plan has also been made available on the City's web site. The final step in the process is adoption by the City Council. Adoption of the plan will ensure that the City remains eligible for federal funding for hazard mitigation projects.

### Discussion

The Fire Department will continue to work closely with the other City departments involved in the plan and provide updates as significant milestones are achieved.