

5.3 HAZARD RANKING

After the hazards of concern were identified for Greene County, the hazards were ranked to describe their probability of occurrence and their impact on population, property (general building stock including critical facilities) and the economy. Each participating Town or Village may have differing degrees of risk exposure and vulnerability compared to the County as a whole; therefore each Town/Village ranked the degree of risk to each hazard as it pertains to their community using the same methodology as applied to the County-wide ranking. This assures consistency in the overall ranking of risk process. The hazard ranking for each participating Town or Village can be found in their jurisdictional annex in Volume II of this Plan.

HAZARD RANKING METHODOLOGY

The methodology used to rank the hazards of concern for Greene County is described below. Estimates of risk for the County were developed using methodologies promoted by FEMA's hazard mitigation planning guidance and generated by FEMA's HAZUS-MH risk assessment tool.

Probability of Occurrence

The probability of occurrence is an estimate of how often a hazard event occurs. A review of historic events assists with this determination. Each hazard of concern is rated in accordance with the numerical ratings and definitions in Table 5.3-1.

Table 5.3-1. Probability of Occurrence Ranking Factors

| Rating | Probability | Definition |
|--------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 0 | None | Hazard event is not likely to occur. |
| 1 | Rare | Hazard event is not likely to occur within 100 years. |
| 2 | Occasional | Hazard event is likely to occur within 100 years. |
| 3 | Frequent | Hazard event is likely to occur within 25 years. |

Impact

The impact of each hazard is considered in three categories: impact on population, impact on property (general building stock including critical facilities), and impact on the economy. Based on documented historic losses and a subjective assessment by the Planning Committee, an impact rating of high, medium, or low is assigned with a corresponding numeric value for each hazard of concern. In addition, a weighting factor is assigned to each impact category: three (3) for population, two (2) for property, and one (1) for economy. This gives the impact on population the greatest weight in evaluating the impact of a hazard.

Table 5.3-2 presents the numerical rating, weighted factor and description for each impact category. The impact rating definitions for population and property are consistent with the New York State Hazard Mitigation Plan (NYS HMP) ranking methodology with minor modifications. Impact to the economy is also being evaluated.

Table 5.3-2. Numerical Values and Definitions for Impacts on Population, Property and Economy

| Category | Weighting Factor | Low Impact (1) | Medium Impact (2) | High Impact (3) |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Population* | 3 | 14% or less of your developed land area is exposed to a hazard due to its extent and location | 15% to 29% of your developed land area is exposed to a hazard due to its extent and location | 30% or more of your developed land area is exposed to a hazard due to its extent and location |
| Property* | 2 | Property exposure is 14% or less of the total replacement cost for your community | Property exposure is 15% to 29% of the total replacement for your community | Property exposure is 30% or more of the total replacement cost for your community |
| Economy | 1 | Loss estimate is 9% or less of the total replacement cost for your community | Loss estimate is 10% to 19% of the total replacement cost for your community | Loss estimate is 20% or more of the total replacement cost for your community |

Note: A numerical value of zero is assigned if there is no impact.

*For the purposes of this exercise, "impacted" means exposed for population and property and loss for economy.

Risk Ranking Value

The risk ranking for each hazard is then calculated by multiplying the numerical value for probability of occurrence by the sum of the numerical values for impact. The equation is as follows: Impact Value (1, 2, or 3) X Impact Value (6 to 18) = Hazard Ranking Value. Based on the total for each hazard, a priority ranking is assigned to each hazard of concern (high, medium, or low).

HAZARD RANKING RESULTS

Using the process described above, the risk ranking for the identified hazards of concern was determined for Greene County. Based on the combined risk values for probability of occurrence and impact to Greene County, a priority ranking of “high”, “medium” or “low” risk was assigned. The hazard ranking for Greene County, from high to low risk, is summarized below:

1. Flooding / Severe Storm
2. Severe Winter Storm
3. Ground Failure
4. Earthquake

The following tables present the step-wise process for the ranking. Table 5.3-3 shows the probability ranking assigned for likelihood of occurrence for each hazard.

Table 5.3-3. Probability of Occurrence Ranking for Hazards of Concern for Greene County

| Hazard of Concern | Probability | Numeric Value |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Earthquake | Low | 1 |
| Flood | High | 3 |
| Ground Failure | High | 3 |
| Severe Storm | High | 3 |
| Severe Winter Storm | High | 3 |

Table 5.3-4 shows the impact evaluation results for each hazard of concern, including impact on property, structures, and the economy. The weighting factor results and a total impact for each hazard also are summarized.

Table 5.3-4. Impact Ranking for Hazards of Concern for Greene County

| Hazard of Concern | Population | | | Property | | | Economy | | | Total Impact Rating (Population + Property + Economy) |
|---------------------|------------|---------------|------------------------------------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact | Numeric Value | Multiplied by Weighting Factor (3) | Impact | Numeric Value | Multiplied by Weighting Factor (2) | Impact | Numeric Value | Multiplied by Weighting Factor (1) | |
| Earthquake | Low | 1 | $1 \times 3 = 3$ | High | 3 | $2 \times 2 = 6$ | Low | 1 | $1 \times 1 = 1$ | 10 |
| Flood | High | 3 | $3 \times 3 = 9$ | High | 3 | $3 \times 2 = 6$ | High | 3 | $3 \times 1 = 3$ | 18 |
| Ground Failure | Medium | 2 | $2 \times 3 = 6$ | Medium | 2 | $2 \times 2 = 4$ | Medium | 2 | $2 \times 1 = 2$ | 12 |
| Severe Storm | High | 3 | $3 \times 3 = 9$ | High | 3 | $3 \times 2 = 6$ | High | 3 | $3 \times 1 = 3$ | 18 |
| Severe Winter Storm | High | 3 | $3 \times 3 = 9$ | High | 3 | $3 \times 2 = 6$ | Low | 1 | $1 \times 1 = 1$ | 16 |

Table 5.3-5 presents the total ranking value for each hazard.

Table 5.3-5. Total Risk Ranking Value for Hazards of Concern for Greene County

| Hazard of Concern | Probability | Impact | Total = (Probability x Impact) |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Earthquake | 1 | 10 | 10 |
| Flood | 3 | 18 | 54 |
| Ground Failure | 3 | 12 | 36 |
| Severe Storm | 3 | 18 | 54 |
| Severe Winter Storm | 3 | 16 | 48 |

Table 5.3-6 presents the hazard ranking category assigned for each hazard of concern. The ranking categories are determined by an evaluation of the total risk ranking score into three categories, low, medium, and high whereby a total score of below 20 is categorized as low, 20 to 39 is medium, and 40 and over is considered a high risk category.

Table 5.3-6. Hazard Ranking Results for Hazards of Concern for Greene County

| Hazard Ranking | Hazard of Concern | Category |
|----------------|---------------------|----------|
| 4 | Earthquake | Low |
| 1 | Flood | High |
| 3 | Ground Failure | Medium |
| 1 | Severe Storm | High |
| 2 | Severe Winter Storm | High |

HAZARDS PROFILES AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The following sections profile and assess vulnerability for each hazard of concern. For each hazard, the profile includes: the hazard description; its location and extent; previous occurrences and losses; and the probability of future events. The vulnerability assessment for each hazard includes: an overview of vulnerability; the data and methodology used; the impact on life, health and safety; impact on general building stock; impact on critical facilities; impact on the economy; additional data needs and next steps; and the overall vulnerability assessment finding. Hazards are presented as listed above, starting with the flood hazard and ending with the earthquake hazard.