



**Rapid City-Pennington County
Emergency Management**

130 Kansas City Street, Ste. 130A, Rapid City, SD 57701
Office: 605-394-2185 Fax: 605-394-2180
www.rcpcem.com

Alexa White
O: 605-394-2185, C: 605-381-8571
alexaw@pennco.org

PRESS RELEASE

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan – Public Review Period

*South Dakota's first Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
presented in an interactive, on-line format*

November 5, 2024 – Rapid City-Pennington County Emergency Management’s 2024 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is available for public comment and review, November 4 through December 3. It can be accessed using this link.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/f21ef1ac4e534d648404cda17794fde0>

Public Comments can be submitted using this link: <https://pennco.org/nhmppubliccomment>

“The Natural Hazard Mitigation (PDM) plan is a plan used to strategically guide investment in mitigation measures and access federal mitigation grant programs. This plan is the first step to planning effective mitigation strategies that reduce the risk of loss of life and property in our local community,” said Dustin Willett Pennington County Emergency Management Director. “We are excited to be able to present this Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in an interactive, on-line format. This is the first use of this format for a plan of this type in South Dakota and allows us to communicate risk and mitigation strategies visually using the power of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).”

Understanding the complex threats facing Pennington County is the first step to planning effective mitigation strategies that reduce the risk of loss of life and property. GIS maps and

analytics allow us to visualize potential risks and design proactive mitigation projects that strengthen our resilience when disaster strikes.

Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. The Natural Hazard Mitigation plan is not an emergency response or management plan, but more of a strategic plan that can be used to identify weaknesses, refocus emergency response planning, support decision making directed toward avoiding future risks and implement activities or projects that will eliminate or reduce the risk for those that may already have exposure to a natural hazard threat.

Learn more about the evolution of the plan over the last year by visiting

<https://www.penncomitigation.com/>

#