

4.5 Tompkins County’s Multi-Jurisdictional Risk Assessment

For communities in which multi-jurisdictional risk assessment efforts are performed, DMA 2000 requires that overall risk priorities and potential losses and impacts be evaluated for the study region as a whole. In addition, the specific risks posed for each individual jurisdiction also should be assessed in terms of vulnerability and potential loss.

For many of the hazards identified for the Tompkins County area, each town is at risk; this is because all of the towns are exposed to some of the natural hazards (for example, severe winter storm including ice storm). The study region and all of the participating jurisdictions lie within a 332 square mile geographic area. Therefore, major weather or geologic differences are not present that would make one area more vulnerable to some hazards evaluated because these hazards impact the entire area (e.g., severe winter storms). However, assets and conditions within the various towns differ significantly and therefore, some municipalities are particularly vulnerable and more concerned about specific hazards. Also, the exposure to human-caused hazards varies based on factors such as the source of water supply for the various towns, which impacts risk related to the water supply contamination hazard. Also, particular buildings, facilities, utilities, and geographic areas are at particular risk for specific human-caused and technological hazards. For example, agricultural epidemics are a concern in the towns with significant reliance on agriculture. Human epidemics are of greater concern in the towns with high proportions of vulnerable persons (i.e., the elderly, impoverished, and infirm) or universities where international students could transfer diseases when entering or re-entering the country.

As part of the planning process, the planning group identified hazards to which each town is particularly vulnerable. These specific exposures and concerns are discussed in the hazard profiles and the loss estimates. They are summarized in Tables 4-5-1 and 4-5-2. Mitigation actions that are ongoing or planned for each town and for the study region as a whole are based on the evaluations conducted in this risk assessment portion of the plan.

Table 4-5-1. Summary of Multi- and Single-Jurisdiction Risk Assessment Outcomes – Risks of Particular Concern by Hazard Category and Order of Significance

	County wide	Town of Caroline	Town of Danby	Town of Enfield	Town of Groton	Town of Ithaca	Town of Lansing	Town of Ulysses
Natural Hazards								
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Severe Winter Storm (including ice storm)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Severe Storm (including hurricane)								✓
Epidemic - Agricultural				✓	✓		✓	✓
-						✓	✓	
Fire (urban and wildland)			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Technological Hazards								
Utility Failure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Human-Caused Hazards								
Transportation Accident (including HazMat in transit)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Terrorism	✓					✓	✓	
						✓		✓

Table 4-5-2. Summary of Multi- and Single-Jurisdiction Risk Assessment Outcomes – Risks of Particular Concern in Order of Significance to the Communities

	County wide	Town of Caroline	Town of Danby	Town of Enfield	Town of Groton	Town of Ithaca	Town of Lansing	Town of Ulysses
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Severe Storm (including hurricane)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Severe Winter Storm (including ice storm)								✓
Utility Failure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Epidemic - Agricultural				✓	✓		✓	✓
Transportation Accident (including HazMat in transit)								✓
Water Supply Contamination		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
	✓					✓		
Epidemic - Human						✓	✓	
			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Civil Unrest						✓		✓

Section 5 builds on the outputs of this risk assessment portion of the plan and presents the mitigation strategy for the Tompkins County Multi-Jurisdictional Study Area.