

7.1 Town of Ault

The Town of Ault Comprehensive Plan shares the vision and guiding principles of the community.

“Ault will be a vibrant, safe, friendly, attractive small town with thriving businesses, well-tended neighborhoods, excellent parks, good schools and opportunities for everyone. It will be a model for social, economic and environmental sustainability.”

Guiding Principles:

- Maintain and Enhance Ault’s Small-Town Appeal
- Cultivate Sustainable Community
- Grow Responsibly
- Foster an Open, Inclusive Town Culture
- Continue to Enable Citizens to Travel Safely and Efficiently by Car, Bike and Foot

7.1.1 Community Profile

Ault is located on the intersection of Hwy 85 and Hwy 14 and is known as the “Gateway to the Pawnee Grasslands.” The Town is an important crossroads for transporting goods and services and is not heavily reliant on its agricultural roots. In recent years, Ault has transformed into a bedroom community for residents working in Cheyenne, Fort Collins and Greeley, all of which are within 45 minutes.

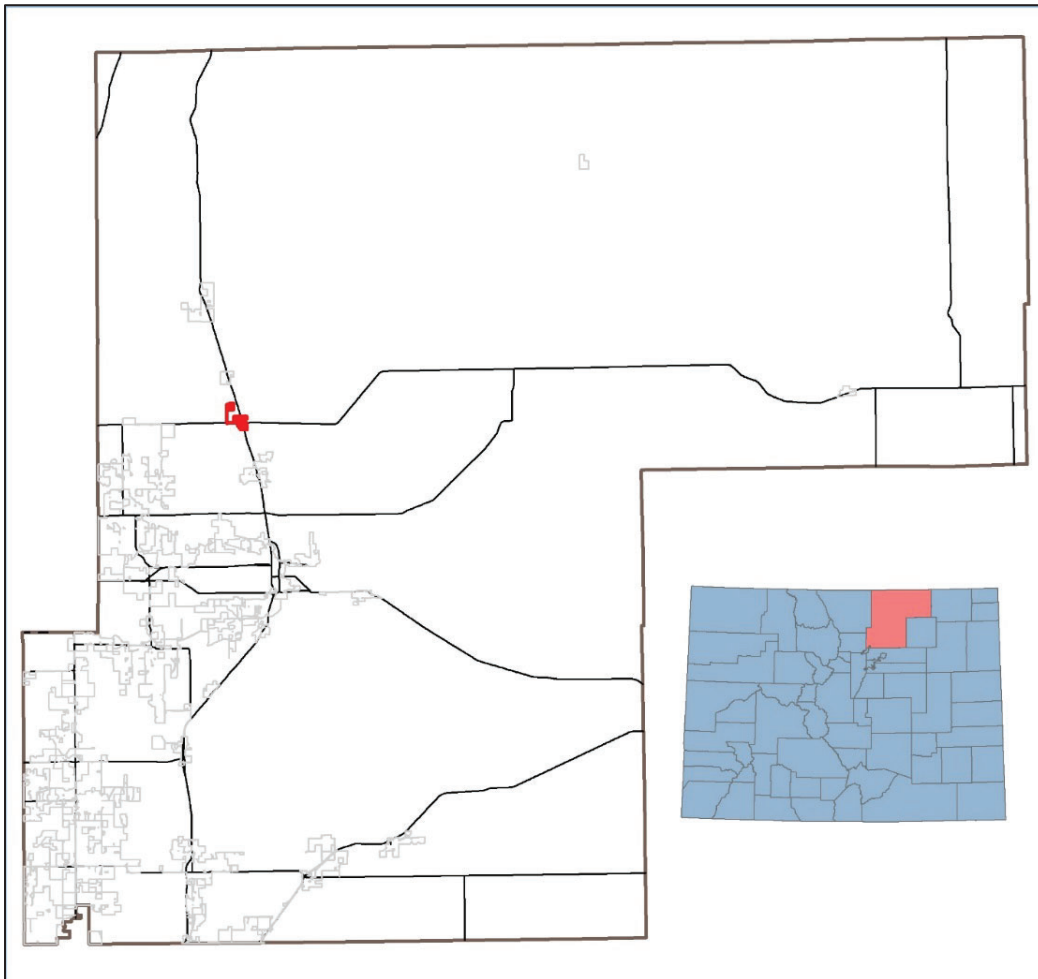


Table 66 shows some development information for the Town of Ault. Current information for specific characteristics of the population is only available from the US Census Bureau for municipalities with populations over 5,000 people.

Table 66. Town of Ault Demographics

| Ault | Colorado | |
|-------|-----------|--|
| 1,843 | 5,758,736 | Population, 2019 |
| 21.0% | 14.5% | Population, % change April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019 |
| 2.62 | 2.56 | Persons Per Household, 2019 |

Note: Recent data is unavailable from the US Census Bureau for some categories, based on the size of the municipality. Source: US Census Bureau

Growth in Ault has been substantial over the last decade and when the 2020 Census data is available the characteristics of the population should be reviewed to help with inclusive preparedness, mitigation, and response planning. See Chapter 4 of this Plan for information on Community Inclusion within the County.

7.1.2 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Table 67 summarizes the results of the RF ranking exercise performed by the Town of Ault. The results represent the relative risk of different hazards across the municipality from the perspective of local stakeholders and subject matter experts. Note the final RF Ranking values in this table include the weighting factors detailed in the Risk Assessment chapter of this Plan.

Table 67. Risk Factor Results for Ault

| Hazard | Probability | Impact | Spatial Extent | Warning Time | Duration | RF Ranking |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------|----------------|--------------|----------|------------|
| Agricultural Hazards | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1.3 |
| Cyber Hazards | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1.6 |
| Drought | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2.0 |
| Earthquake | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Extreme Temps. | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2.0 |
| Flood | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1.8 |
| Hazmat Release | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2.5 |
| Land Subsidence | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1.3 |
| Prairie Fire | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2.0 |
| Public Health Hazards | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2.4 |
| Severe Storms | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2.2 |
| Tornado & Wind | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1.9 |

The conclusions drawn from the qualitative assessment are organized into three categories shown in the following table and provide a summary of hazard risk for Ault as a whole - based on High, Moderate, or Low risk designations. This process helped frame ongoing planning discussions around local and regional hazard risks and assisted with the development of the Plan's updated mitigation strategy.

Table 68. Hazard Risk Conclusions for Ault

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| HIGH RISK (2.5 or higher) | Hazmat Release |
| MODERATE RISK (2.0 – 2.4) | Drought, Extreme Temperatures, Prairie Fire, Public Health Hazards, Severe Storms |
| LOW RISK (1.9 or lower) | Agricultural Hazards, Cyber Hazards, Earthquake, Flood, Land Subsidence, Tornado & Straight-Line Wind |

Since the 2016 Plan, the Town has decreased the assessed risk from prairie fire and straight-line winds & tornadoes to Moderate Risk (both formerly High). It has also elevated drought and public health hazards from Low Risk to Moderate. Besides the newly added hazards of agricultural hazards and cyber hazards, all other risk rankings remain the same.

The following sections highlight the Town of Ault's High Risk hazards and include any specific content relevant to the Town. They are intended to supplement information included in each hazard profile in the main body of this Plan.

7.1.2.1 Hazmat Release

Vulnerability to hazmat release is increased for the Town of Ault, mainly due to the location of a CDOT hazardous materials route through the community. Additionally, railroads span across Ault, which present their own increased risk for hazmat release. As is true for the entire County, the presence of any businesses that store hazardous materials also increases the risk for these types of events.

Based on data supplied by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) Incident Reports Database there have been three events that have occurred within Ault between 1991 and 2019. One of these events was a rollover accident. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

7.1.3 Capabilities Assessment

The capability assessment examines the ability of the Town of Ault to implement and manage the comprehensive mitigation strategy laid out in this Plan. The strengths, weaknesses, and resources of the community are identified here as a means for evaluating and maintaining effective and appropriate management of the Town's hazard mitigation program.

Planning and regulatory capabilities are powerful tools for implementing hazard mitigation. The Town currently utilizes some of these capabilities shown in Table 69. It is important for all municipalities to regularly review each of these tools, to identify opportunities for further risk reduction efforts.

Table 69. Planning & Regulatory Capabilities

| Mitigation Capability | Utilized? | Comments |
|---|------------------|-----------------|
| Comprehensive, Master, or General Plan | Yes | |
| Capital Improvement Program or Plan (CIP) | No | |
| Floodplain Management Plan | No | |
| Stormwater Program / Plan | No | |

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| Mitigation Capability | Utilized? | Comments |
|--|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) | No | |
| Erosion / Sediment Control Program | No | |
| Economic Development Plan | No | |
| Other: | | |
| Building Codes (Year) | Yes | 2018 IBC |
| Site Plan Review Requirements | Yes | Planning Committee / Town Board |
| Other: | Yes | Consultant |
| Zoning Ordinance (Land Use) | Yes | Planning Committee / Town Board |
| Subdivision Ordinance | Yes | Planning Committee / Town Board |
| National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant | Yes | |
| Flood Insurance Study / Flood Insurance Rate Map / DFIRM | Yes | |
| Floodplain Ordinance | Yes | |
| Elevation Certificates for Floodplain Development | Yes | Consultant |
| Community Rating System (CRS) Participant | No | |
| Open Space / Conservation Program | No | |
| Growth Management Ordinance | No | |
| Stormwater Ordinance | No | |
| Other Hazard Ordinance (steep slope, wildfire, snow loads, etc.) | No | |
| Other: | No | |

Available resources including staff, municipal groups, and technology are all vital for a community to be able to implement hazard mitigation. Ault is fortunate to have a number of these capabilities identified in Table 134.

Table 70. Administrative & Technical Capabilities

| Mitigation Capability | Utilized? | Comments |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|
| Planning Commission | Yes | |
| Mitigation Planning Committee | No | |
| Maintenance Programs (tree trimming, clearing drainage, etc.) | No | |
| Emergency Manager | Yes | Tom Nissen |
| Building Official | Yes | Consultant |
| Floodplain Administrator | Yes | Consultant |
| Community Planner | Yes | Development review team |
| Transportation Planner | No | |
| Civil Engineer | Yes | Consultant |
| GIS Capability | Yes | Limited |

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| Mitigation Capability | Utilized? | Comments |
|---|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Resiliency Planner | No | |
| Other: | No | |
| Warning Systems / Services (flood) | Yes | Sirens |
| Warning Systems / Services (other / multi hazard) | Yes | Code Red / IPAWS through Country |
| Grant Writing / Management | Yes | FPD |
| Other: | No | |

The ability of a community to implement a comprehensive mitigation strategy is largely dependent on available funding. These related municipal capabilities are outlined in Table 135 and show that Ault could leverage a number of tools in the future to implement mitigation activities.

Table 71. Financial Capabilities

| Mitigation Capability | Utilized? | Comments |
|--|-----------|---|
| Levy for Specific Purposes with Voter Approval | No | |
| Utilities Fees | Yes | |
| System Development / Impact Development Fee | Yes | For police, infrastructure, drainage, streets and parks |
| General Obligation Bonds to Incur Debt | No | |
| Special Tax Bonds to Incur Debt | No | |
| Open Space / Conservation Fund | No | |
| Stormwater Utility Fees | No | |
| Capital Improvement Project Funding | No | |
| Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) | Yes | Partner with County |
| Withheld spending in hazard-prone areas | No | |
| Other: | | |

Education and outreach are important capabilities that allow a community to continue the conversation with their public regarding hazard risk and opportunities to mitigate. Table 136 shows that Ault does leverage a public outreach program for wildfire.

Table 72. Education & Outreach Capabilities

| Mitigation Capability | Utilized? | Comments |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Public Hazard Education / Outreach Program | Yes | Wildfire |
| Local Citizen Groups That Communicate Hazard Risks | No | |
| Firewise | No | |
| NOAA StormReady Program | No | |

| Mitigation Capability | Utilized? | Comments |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------|
| Other: | No | |

7.1.4 Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning

The Town of Ault has identified several ways to integrate hazard mitigation planning into local planning mechanisms and policies. Following are the specific integration strategies identified:

- Hazards and mitigation strategies will be discussed when identifying changes to land use by the Planning Committee and Town Board.
- As plans and studies are conducted, project leads will review the relevant information from the HMP.
- As the Comprehensive Plan is updated, relevant information from the HMP will be included.
- The HMP plan and high hazards identified will be discussed with the Emergency Preparedness Collaboration committee when updating and identifying mitigation projects.

7.1.5 Mitigation Actions

The new mitigation actions identified by the Town during the Plan update are included in Table 73.

Table 73. 2021 Mitigation Action

| ID | Organization | Action |
|---------|--------------|--|
| 2021-17 | 1-Ault | Community Impact Study -Vulnerable Populations-Shelter Capabilities Planning |
| 2021-18 | 2-Ault | Hazardous Materials – Community Impact Study |