

### 7.14 Town of Mead

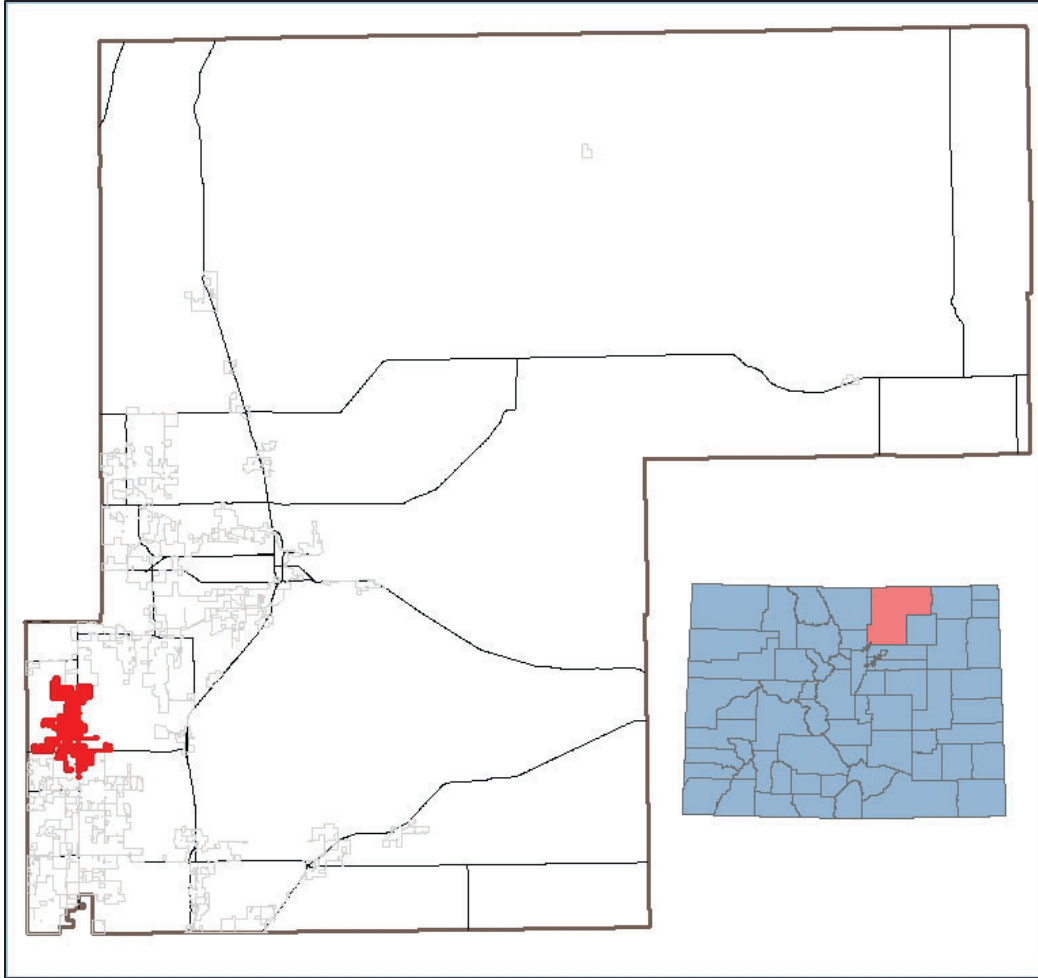
In the 2018 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Mead, a shared community plan was developed through stakeholder input. The major themes of this plan guide the direction and decisions of community development.

The major themes are:

- A small-town community character
- Diverse economy
- Friendly neighborhoods
- Strong connectivity
- Dynamic parks, recreation and open space
- An expansive natural and agrarian setting
- Thoughtful community planning, facilities and services

#### 7.14.1 Community Profile

The Town of Mead is located on the western edge of Weld County. The town's total area is 4.4 square miles, although the Town is included in the larger planning area spanning almost 50 square miles. Mead is bisected by both Interstate 25 and Highway 66. Highway 66 corridor is the southern scenic gateway into Rocky Mountain National Park and more than 80,000 people drive through the Town limits each day.



The table below summarizes development information of the Town of Mead. 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 170. Town of Mead Demographics

<b>Mead</b>	<b>Colorado</b>	
4,677	5,758,736	Population, 2019
36.1%	14.5%	Population, % change April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019
3.03	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*

### 7.14.2 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Table 171 summarizes the results of the RF ranking exercise performed by the Town of Mead. 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 171. Risk Factor Results for Mead

Hazard	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	RF Ranking
Agricultural Hazards	3	2	3	1	4	2.6
Cyber Hazards	3	3	3	4	4	3.2
Drought	3	2	3	1	4	2.6
Earthquake	1	3	3	4	2	2.4
Extreme Temps.	3	3	3	2	3	2.9
Flood	3	3	3	4	4	3.2
Hazmat Release	3	3	3	4	2	3.0
Land Subsidence	1	1	1	4	1	1.3
Prairie Fire	3	1	2	4	1	2.1
Public Health Hazards	4	4	4	1	4	3.7
Severe Storms	4	3	4	2	3	3.4
Tornado & Wind	3	3	3	4	1	2.9

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 Mead 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 172. Hazard Risk Conclusions for Mead

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

Since the 2016 Plan, the Town has increased the assessed risk from drought to High Risk (formerly Low) and from earthquake and prairie fire to Moderate Risk (formerly Low). Mead increased its risk assessment for extreme temperatures, flood, and hazmat release to be High Risk (all formerly Moderate). Public health hazards, previously a Low Risk, are now considered High. 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 Mead'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.

#### 7.14.2.1 Agricultural Hazards (including Disease & Pests)

Vulnerability to agricultural hazards is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Those communities whose economies are more dependent on the agriculture industry do experience higher risk to these hazards. There are no previous events to document specific to the Town of Mead. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### 7.14.2.2 *Cyber Hazards*

For any municipality, vulnerability to cyber hazards does not vary from that of the County as a whole. While there are no documented cyber events impacting Mead, the threat of this hazard is continually increasing. There are no previous events to document specific to the Town of Mead. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### 7.14.2.3 *Drought*

The community vulnerability to drought is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Those communities whose economies are more dependent on the agriculture industry do experience higher risk to this hazard. There are no previous events to document specific to the Town of Mead. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### 7.14.2.4 *Extreme Temperatures*

The Town of Mead's vulnerability to extreme temperatures is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Those communities whose economies are more dependent on the agriculture industry do experience higher risk to these hazards due to potential crop and livestock losses. Additionally, individuals at a higher risk to extreme temperatures include those with mobility issues, independent living difficulty, the elderly, low-income families, outdoor laborers, and those experiencing homelessness. Data for these demographics is collected at census tract level, however snapshot data for populations that can fluctuate drastically, such as the number of outdoor laborers and those experiencing homelessness is not included. These are still considerable populations in the County and the Town of Mead and local efforts to quantify these populations periodically can help with mitigation planning.

The data for high risk populations has been analyzed by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and has been used to create Community Inclusions [maps](#). These maps can be zoomed into specific census tracts for municipalities and communities, illustrating the population variances. Refer to Chapter 4 for examples of these maps for Weld County.

There are no previous events to document specific to the Town of Mead. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### 7.14.2.5 *Flood (including Dam & Levee Failure)*

Flood is a very localized hazard and vulnerability is unique for each municipality. There are no previous events to document specific to Mead.

The Town of Mead's overall vulnerability to flood is noticeably different from the rest of the County. Mead has 12 address points located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This equates to 0.5% of all address points for the Town, as compared to 1.6% of Countywide addresses located in the SFHA.

Flood events can also occur as a result of dam or levee failure. In these cases, flood waters may not follow the typical floodplains mapped as the SFHA.

The Town of Mead's overall vulnerability to flooding in dam inundation areas is significantly lower than the rest of the County. Mead has one address point located in these dam inundation areas. This equates to 0.04% of all address points for the Town, as compared to 1.0% of Countywide addresses located in these areas.

Additionally, the Town is the first jurisdiction downstream from two dams. Both have a hazard classification of Low. Additional information pertaining to dams can be referenced at the State's Dam Safety website: <https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/DamSafety/Dams>.

The Town's overall vulnerability to flooding in areas protected by known levees is substantially different from the rest of the County. Mead has no address points located in these levee protected areas. This is compared to 1.6% of Countywide addresses located in these areas.

It is important to note that this analysis is only as good as best available data allows. Current floodplains, dam inundation areas, and areas protected by levees may not currently map all hazard areas. Additionally, mapped hazard areas may be dated and in need of updated mapping and analysis.

Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### *7.14.2.6 Hazmat Release*

Vulnerability to hazmat release is increased for the Town of Mead, mainly due to the location of a CDOT hazardous materials route through the community. Additionally, railroads span across Mead 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 six events within Mead between 1991 and 2019. These events were due to overfilling and improper preparation for transport. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### *7.14.2.7 Public Health Hazards*

Vulnerability to public health hazards is not expected to be noticeably different from the rest of the County. Individuals at a higher risk to this hazard include the aging adult population, those with a chronic illness, such as diabetes, asthma, coronary heart disease, and those who are obese or overweight. Other populations at risk include children, those in poverty and those with a disability. This data is collected at census tract level by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and is unavailable at a municipality level. The data by census tract can be found in the Colorado Department of Health and Environment Open Data database [here](#).

Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. There are no previous events to document specific to Mead. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details, including a summary of the higher risk population demographics for Weld County and the State.

#### *7.14.2.8 Severe Storms (including Hail, Lightning, & Winter Storm)*

Vulnerability to severe storm, which includes hail, lightning, and winter storm, is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. The Town of Mead's more densely developed areas experience the greatest risk, in addition to potential greater losses to the agriculture sector. Any structures not constructed to meet recent building codes experience the greatest risk from structural damages.

According to the NOAA's Storm Events Database, between 2015 and 2020, the Town of Mead has had seven severe storm events. All of these events resulted in reports of hail, which ranged in size from .88 inch to 1.25 inches. None of these events resulted in reported damage to property or crops and no injuries or deaths.

No other events for severe storm, specific to Mead, were recorded over this time period.

Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### 7.14.2.9 Tornado & Straight-Line Wind

Vulnerability to tornado & straight-line wind is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Mead's more densely developed areas experience the greatest risk, in addition to any structures not constructed to meet recent building codes.

Between 2015 and 2020, there were no reports of occurrences specific to Mead. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

### 7.14.3 Capabilities Assessment

The capability assessment examines the ability of the Town of Mead 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 or has implemented most of these capabilities shown in Table 173. It is important for all municipalities to regularly review each of these tools, to identify opportunities for further risk reduction efforts.

Table 173. Planning & Regulatory Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Comprehensive, Master, or General Plan	Yes	
Capital Improvement Program or Plan (CIP)	No	Informal
Floodplain Management Plan	No	
Stormwater Program / Plan	Yes	
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	No	
Erosion / Sediment Control Program	Yes	
Economic Development Plan	No	
Other:	No	
Building Codes (Year)	Yes	2018
Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes	
Other:	No	
Zoning Ordinance (Land Use)	Yes	
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	Yes	
Flood Insurance Study / Flood Insurance Rate Map / DFIRM	Yes	
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	

## WELD COUNTY 2021 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Elevation Certificates for Floodplain Development	Yes	
Community Rating System (CRS) Participant	No	
Open Space / Conservation Program	Yes	
Growth Management Ordinance	Yes	
Stormwater Ordinance	Yes	Master Plan
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. Mead is fortunate to have most all of these capabilities identified in Table 174.

Table 174. Administrative & Technical Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Planning Commission	Yes	
Mitigation Planning Committee	No	
Maintenance Programs (tree trimming, clearing drainage, etc.)	Yes	
Emergency Manager	No	
Building Official	Yes	
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	Town Engineer
Community Planner	Yes	In-house Staff
Transportation Planner	Yes	Contract Staff
Civil Engineer	Yes	In-house/Contract Staff
GIS Capability	Yes	In-house/Contract Staff
Resiliency Planner	No	
Other:	No	
Warning Systems / Services (flood)	Yes	Currently identified systems: Weld County dispatch; CodeRed; social media
Warning Systems / Services (other / multi hazard)	Yes	Currently identified systems: Weld County dispatch; CodeRed; social media
Grant Writing / Management	Yes	In-house Staff
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 175 and show that Mead utilizes a broad range of financial tools that can support mitigation activities.

Table 175. Financial Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Levy for Specific Purposes with Voter Approval	No	General Mill Levy 11.522, but no specific purpose mill levy
Utilities Fees	Yes	Sewer PIF
System Development / Impact Development Fee	Yes	
General Obligation Bonds to Incur Debt	No	
Special Tax Bonds to Incur Debt	No	
Open Space / Conservation Fund	Yes	Impact Fees
Stormwater Utility Fees	Yes	Impact Fees
Capital Improvement Project Funding	Yes	Impact Fees
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	Yes	IGA with Weld County for CDBG
Withheld spending in hazard-prone areas	No	
Other:	No	

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 176 shows that Mead could benefit by expanding upon these capabilities.

Table 176. Education &amp; Outreach Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Public Hazard Education / Outreach Program	No	
Local Citizen Groups That Communicate Hazard Risks	No	
Firewise	No	
NOAA StormReady Program	No	
Other:	No	

#### 7.14.4 Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning

The Town is integrating natural hazard information and the mitigation strategy into our local planning. Specifically, putting an emphasis on emergency operations, coordination, and floodplain management. In addition, the Town is collaborating with key staff and county emergency operations staff on training, planning, and implementation. Plans that will specifically be reviewed for HMP integration include: capital improvement plan, comprehensive plan, floodplain management plan, and continuity of operations plan.

#### 7.14.5 Mitigation Actions

The new mitigation actions identified by the Town during the Plan update are included in Table 177. Two actions from the 2016 Plan have been carried over into the Town's updated mitigation strategy.

Table 177. 2021 Mitigation Actions

ID	Organization	Action
2021-72	1-Mead	Policy Group Training for Elected Officials
2021-73	2-Mead	Update Policies and Plans with Mitigation Principles -North Creek Flood Plain Analysis
2021-74	3-Mead	Update Policies and Plans with Mitigation Principles - Emergency Operations Plan
2021-75	4-Mead	Update Facilities- Public Works facility – Design & Construction
2021-76	5-Mead	Community Impact Study -Vulnerable Populations-Shelter Capabilities Planning