RESOLUTION NO. 4059

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LEVEE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF MILES CITY

WHEREAS, the City of Miles City desires to establish a Levee Emergency Action Plan (LEAP) to establish a policy as to the City's response to flood emergencies in or affecting Miles City;

AND WHEREAS, the City's Floodplain Administrator has drafted a LEAP for the City of Miles City, attached hereto as Exhibit "A;"

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILES CITY, MONTANA AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Levee Emergency Action Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit "A", and made a part hereof, is hereby approved and adopted by this Council as the official LEAP for the City of Miles City.

SAID RESOLUTION FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILES CITY, MONTANA, AT A REGULAR MEETING THIS 13th DAY OF JUNE, 2017.

John Hollowell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lorrie Pearce, City Clerk

1 Plan Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This Levee Emergency Action Plan (LEAP) outlines Miles City's planned response to flood emergencies in or affecting Miles City.

The purpose of the plan is to provide information, policies, and procedures that will guide and assist Miles City in efficiently dealing with flood emergencies. The plan addresses flood preparedness, levee patrol, flood fight, evacuation procedures, floodwater removal, and other related subjects. This plan will facilitate multi-agency and multijurisdictional coordination, particularly among Miles City and local governments, special districts, and State agencies in flood emergency operations.

1.2 Scope

The Miles City Levee Emergency Action Plan:

- Establishes the emergency management organization to respond to a flood emergency affecting Miles City.
- Identifies policies, responsibilities, and procedures required to protect the health and safety of Miles City from the effects of flood emergencies.
- Establishes operational concepts and procedures associated with field response to flood emergencies and the recovery process.
- Identifies policies for after-action analyses and follow-up activities.

2 Concept of Operations

2.1 Situation Overview

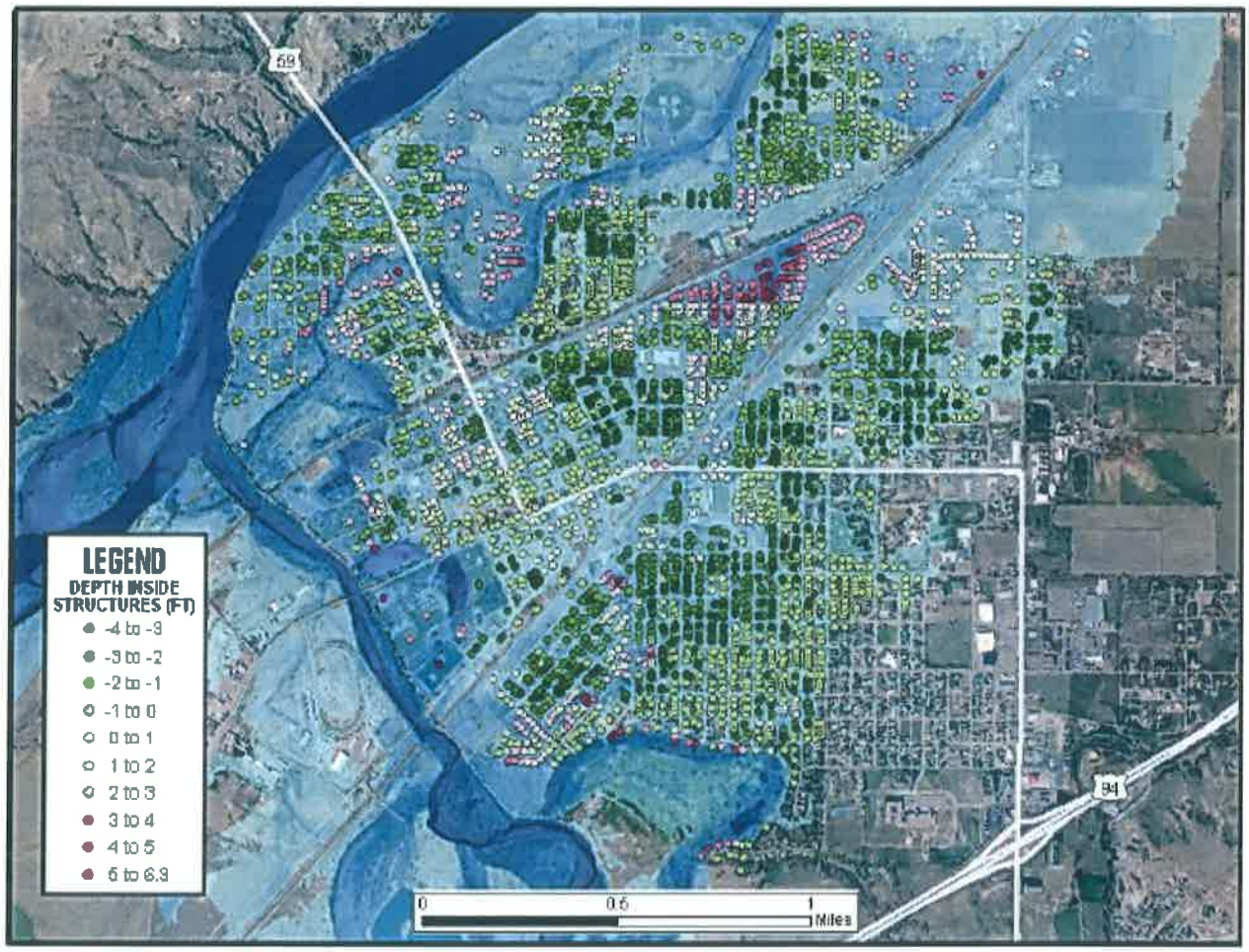
Miles City is located at the confluence of the Yellowstone River and Tongue Rivers in Custer County Montana. Areas adjacent to rivers, sloughs, creeks, and drainage canals and other low-lying areas are subject to flooding.

Miles City is vulnerable to a number of flooding sources caused by river floods, levee failures, ice jams, pump failure, and dam failure. These may produce large losses to public infrastructure and private property. Deep flooding caused by levee failure or overtopping remains a significant threat to the city.

2.2 Hazard Analysis Summary

Levees and Dams

While most levees perform satisfactorily during flooding, failures occasionally occur. Levees require maintenance and inspection to remain properly functioning. At Miles City, there are levees along both banks of the Tongue River and the right bank of the Yellowstone River that offer some protection for the city itself. The Miles City dike system has never been overtopped. An analysis conducted by FEMA Region VIII indicates up to 79% of the city may be impacted if the levee overtops. In 2015, the USACE conducted flood modeling on 8 levee breach scenarios.



Source: FEMA Region VIII

Operation of existing dams strongly affects flooding potential for areas in Miles City.
There is always an extreme chance that an incident at a dam may cause an uncontrolled release of water. The following major dams affect flows in Miles City:

- Tongue River Dam
- Yellowtail Dam

The inundation areas of these dams have similar consequences to a levee overtopping scenario.

2.3 Capability Assessment

Priorities have been established for protective actions and a methodology exists for changing those priorities during flood response. Methods and equipment for communication have been established. Staffing levels are adequate and the training and exercise program ensures a proper level of readiness. Written documentation of procedures and techniques exists for levee emergencies such as boils, overtopping, sloughing, or other incident.

Miles City has staging areas for response teams, as well as stockpiles of materials and supplies. (Note: These staging areas are separate from the evacuation centers described elsewhere in this plan.) Security for these sites has been arranged with the (Police Department/Sheriff).

Logistics procedures for augmenting available supplies and equipment exist. Mutual aid arrangements have been made through the state's intra-jurisdictional mutual aid program

2.4 General Approach to Seasonal Flood Operations

Miles City is responsible for the levee segments surrounding the city on the Yellowstone and Tongue Rivers.

2.4.1 Monitoring

Miles City flood stage monitoring is comprised of observing the readings from specific real time, telemetered stream gages that report the conditions on water courses that affect potential flooding in the jurisdiction. For each gage location on a stream or water course, stages or flows have been categorized into three levels: flood stage, moderate stage, or major stage.

Gauge Location	Flood Stage	Moderate Stage	Major Stage	Record Stage
Yellowstone River at Highway 59 Bridge	13 feet	15 feet	19 feet	21.70 feet (1948)
Tongue River at I-90 Bridge	10 feet	13 feet	15 feet	16.51 feet (2011)

The real-time gages can be accessed through the National Weather Service AHPS or USGS.

2.4.2 Analysis and Initial Response

After compiling monitoring and surveillance information, Miles City decides if it is necessary to begin flood operations or direct flood fight resources to specific areas where flooding is occurring or may occur soon. Miles City emergency personnel also monitor the flood stage information or monitoring system and are in constant communication with flood control staff throughout the storm episode.

2.4.2.1 Patrol Trigger

Levee patrols may begin at flooding around moderate stage occurrences. Ice Jams may also prompt levee patrols. If patrols observe boils or slumping down on levees, the Public Works Department will begin flood fight preparations.

The Montana DES may request support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under PL 84-99.

2.4.3 Alerting and Activation

As coordinated operations continue, local jurisdictions will brief their administrators. These positions often serve as the DES Coordinators at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Depending on the flooding situation, the EOC will be activated and staff will respond to the EOC to coordinate operational area response to the disaster with other agencies. County EOCs remain operational until the threat from flooding is contained and controlled.

2.5 Public Notification for Flood Threats

2.5.1 Initial Notifications

Initial notification is often limited in detail. For example, a flash flood warning may be issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for a general area or location where there is a threat to the public. Some emergency actions might be needed, but not enough to warrant EOC activation. A follow-up call from the EOC to the notifying party or agency can be made to obtain further detail.

- A flash flood watch means it is possible that rain may cause flash flooding in specified areas.
- A flash flood warning means flash flooding is highly likely, imminent, or is occurring.
- A flood watch means long-term flooding is possible in specified areas.
- A flood warning means long-term flooding is either imminent or is occurring.

The local Emergency Office or EOC may receive direct warning from DNRC, NWS, or the Montana Emergency Management Agency (MT DES). The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), USACE, or other agency that locally controls dams will advise of dam incidents, significant releases, or significant changes in releases. The county is responsible for warnings in unincorporated areas. Various incorporated areas have responsibility for evacuation notification of the public within their boundaries. They are also responsible for activating their own emergency response plans for the flooding threat.

3 Levee Emergency Operations

3.1 Flood/Threat Operations

Some floods will be preceded by a buildup period, providing advance warning to those who might be affected. Others occur without advance warning, requiring mobilization and commitment of the emergency organization after the onset of the emergency situation. Miles City must be prepared to respond promptly and efficiently. In all flood situations, this plan will be implemented in several phases. In the case of slow rise flood threats, the phases are initiated based on various river elevations.

3.1.1 Phase I: Normal Preparedness

Departments having emergency responsibilities assigned in this LEAP prepare service support plans, operating procedures, and checklists detailing the use and disposition of their resources in an emergency. Such plans and procedures include coordination and communication lines with counterpart organizations of other departments and jurisdictions.

During this Phase, Flood Fight Training is generally given. Miles City conducts preseason coordination and plans review meeting with Custer County.

3.1.2 Phase II: Increased Readiness

This phase begins with *monitoring* when conditions exist that could result in a flood, such as continuing and excessive rainfall, an unusually rapid snowmelt, ice jams, or rising rivers. The river warning stage would trigger Phase II (monitor/initial action). The river warning stage is initiated when the elevation of the rivers reach flood stage.

As this situation develops, the Chief Executive of Miles City, or a designee, will evaluate information, decide upon necessary action, and initiate appropriate response. Generally this means to put the emergency response plan into limited operation. This includes alerting key personnel, ensuring readiness of essential resources, and preparing to move resources to the threatened area when required. Miles City will coordinate with Custer County DES. The extent of staffing is event-driven and at the discretion of the EOC Director.

The EOC monitors communications, receives information on field situations, weather, river, and reservoir stages, directs response, coordinates with adjacent and local agencies, provides and coordinates resources and assets, provides information, arranges for State, federal, and volunteer resources, activates mutual aid from adjacent agencies, and plans, organizes, controls, and documents actions during the flood event.

State and federal actions in this phase include the following: DNRC/DES/USGS/NWS monitors flooding situations on a daily operational schedule. If local governments begin to encounter extensive problems, the state extends operations and increases coordination efforts for State support of flood fight operations. Typically the MT DES State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) and the MT DES Field Operations Coordinator, and the Dam Management Center operated by USACE are all activated to some degree as flood threats increase. Adjacent counties and cities decide when and at what level they will activate their EOCs.

3.1.3 Phase III: Emergency Preparedness

This phase begins when an evaluation of the situation indicates it is a matter of "when" rather than "if" emergency conditions will exist. The river flood stage would exist under this phase. The river flood stage

starts when rivers reach moderate flooding. The Chief Executive of Miles City, or a designee, will immediately put emergency plans into full operation and conduct operations as follows:

- Advise responders to activate resources and advise the County Office of Emergency Services.
- Where resources appear insufficient, prepare to apply for and receive mutual aid.
- Contact the Office of Disaster and Emergency Services to give available information as to the kind of threat, its imminence, potential severity, area affected, and associated problems. Reports will include action being planned or taken, as well as possible deficiencies in critical emergency resources.
- Should the possible or expected emergency develop, ensure that ALL alerted agencies are promptly notified of this new change in conditions. This may also prompt immediate public notification, as is required by the nature of the threat.
- Recommend that the EOC be opened when projections clearly indicate a potential need for EOC multi-agency coordination.

3.1.3.1 Maintaining Situational Awareness

Situational Awareness utilizes tools and techniques Miles City uses to identify, collect, analyze, and disseminate information on the current and future extent and consequences of the flood.

3.1.3.2 Weather Forecast

The advent of satellite imagery and sophisticated computer models has significantly improved the ability to forecast times and intensities of rainfall. Managing flood response requires knowledge and understanding of the implications of weather predictions for other parts of the watershed as well as the local area. The National Weather Service provides daily briefings on upcoming weather as part of its role to DNRC. Miles City participates in these briefings starting at the River Advisory stage.

3.1.3.3 River Forecast

In addition to precipitation forecasts, the emergency manager also must know how resulting runoff will affect reservoir storage, releases from dams, and ultimately the amount of water flowing in the river. Hydrologists for DNRC work with the National Weather Service to provide additional forecast information.

3.1.3.4 Sewer and Stormwater Systems

Miles City's sanitary sewer and stormwater systems are integral to controlling flood waters from infiltrating the dry side of levees. Through the city's system of valves, plugs, gates, lift stations, and drains, the City maintains control of both exiting water issues and infiltration (this may include sump pumps being drained into sanitary sewer) which may overwhelm the system.

3.1.3.5 Electrical Generation

Loss of power is critical to operations such as communications, water treatment, sanitary treatment, lift stations, health care, shelters, heating/cooling, and maintenance to other critical infrastructure. The integration of local utilities within situational awareness needs constant attention.

3.1.3.6 Levee Slumps or Boils

As important as it is to anticipate the potential situation, it is equally as vital to be aware of current conditions and sudden shifts in those conditions. Miles City maintains regular contact with Levee Patrols and other field responders. This ensures it quickly learns of any changes in the situation, facilitating prompt response.

3.1.3.7 Traffic Information

Similarly, Miles City maintains regular contact with Law Enforcement, Custer County Road Department, Montana Department of Transportation, and others to ensure situational awareness of traffic issues. Reports from (Department) apprise emergency managers of flooded intersections due to storm drains being stopped up.

3.1.4 Phase IV: Emergency Phase

This phase can be initiated by a river danger stage of: Major Flood Stage or upon occurrence of a flood emergency requiring extraordinary effort. The nature of response operations is dependent upon the characteristics and requirements of the situation. The emergency organization will be mobilized to cope with the specific situation. Each service, when mobilized, will operate according to the provisions of this LEAP. Priority will be given to operations such as the following:

- Survey and evaluate the emergency situation and advise the Custer County EOC
- Have the EOC immediately notify the (Chief Executive) of Miles City
- Mobilize, allocate, and position personnel and materials for patrolling and flood fight
- Establish staging areas for personnel, supplies, and equipment
- Establish Evacuation Centers to aid in managing the movement of people from the area
- Produce and disseminate emergency information and advice to other EOCs when a Joint Information Center is not operational
- Protect, control, and allocate vital resources
- Restore or activate essential facilities and systems

All the preceding actions are based on extensive local coordination of plans and response. In addition, there are daily briefings at the EOC involving all parties. When local resources are committed to the maximum and additional materials/personnel are required to control or alleviate the emergency, requests for mutual aid will be initiated through the county EOC.

3.1.4.1 Levee Patrols and Security

The purpose of levee patrols is to have qualified personnel visually evaluate the performance of the Miles City levee system. Their intent is to determine the condition of the levee and to identify potential and existing problems:

- Threats
- Instabilities
- Seepage conditions
- Erosion points
- Freeboard

Implementation of this procedure will ensure each member of the Levee Patrol Team is capable of participating in precautionary actions and emergency response that may occur with Miles City's levee system.

This program will predominantly be undertaken by the Miles City Public Works, with operational support from other Miles City's Departments. The major objectives of this procedure are to:

- Develop a training program to ensure qualified personnel are available for use
- Ensure materials, equipment and supplies are available to implement this procedure and are maintained in a serviceable condition to meet the needs of Miles City
- Ensure action levels are established and in place to manage potential challenges
- Prepare members to recognize the interface between allied agencies should escalating events require large-scale operations

• Prepare members to patrol levees to locate potential problems, to alert the EOC, and to actively coordinate work, using flood fight and other methods, to resolve problems and minimize adverse consequences

3.1.4.1.1 Motor Patrols

• The levee motor patrol will be initiated when slow rise flood waters reach Moderate Flood Stage, or at the direction of the Custer County DES Director, or upon request from the Miles City Public Works. The levee motor patrol will consist of the following:
o Two four-wheel drive vehicles with mobile radio capabilities.
o Two trained and currently qualified observers per vehicle.
o Patrol areas will be divided as shown on the attached map.
Radio designators will be designated as Division A (Tongue) or B (Yellowstone).
o Patrol crews will be rotated on a 12-hour frequency.
o Completion of a Division Activity Log will be required for each shift using ICS Form 214).
o All members will receive a safety briefing and utilize appropriate safety gear.

3.1.4.1.2 Walking Patrol and Security

Security measure for safety will be implemented when walking patrols are initiated. This may include closure of roads around and on the levee, enforcing trespass violations, and barricades at key infrastructure points.
• The levee walking patrol will be initiated when slow rise flood waters reach Major Flood Stage. A levee walking patrol will consist of:
• Teams of two personnel physically walking a designated section of levee. One person will be positioned at the toe of the land side of the levee. The second will be assigned to the top of the levee.
• Foot patrols will check visually for potential problems with the levee as per training.
• Areas of concern will be identified using a yellow wire flag.
• All yellow flags will be evaluated by the Division Supervisor conducting motor patrol activities.
• Upon evaluation of the potential problem area, the Division Supervisor will either:
o "Orange Flag" the area, which means at the present time the levee condition is performing as designed or
o "Red Flag" the area, which indicates a potential problem requiring action such as an engineer's review. All red flag conditions will be reported to Command immediately for evaluation by the Engineer.
• All levee foot patrol personnel will have the following at a minimum:
o Three-cell watertight flashlight
o OSHA-approved hardhat
o Raingear, if warranted; each individual is responsible for boots
o Orange reflective vest
o (10) Yellow marking flags
o Global Positioning System (GPS) unit to establish latitude and longitude of trouble sites
o U.S. Coast Guard-approved lifejacket
o One member of each foot-patrol team will be equipped with a portable radio, operating on (frequency).
• Walking patrol personnel should be rotated on an 8-hour frequency.

3.1.4.2 Infrastructure Protection

Infrastructure	Location(s)	Protection Method	Trigger
Lift Stations		Sandbagging to height	Reach Major Flood

		of levee	Stage
Electric Substations		Sandbagging	Reach Major Flood Stage
Tongue River Storm Sewer		Gates - backflow	Flood Stage
Waterwater Treatment Plant			Moderate Flood Stage
Water Treatment Plant		Valves	Flood Stage
City Slough Surface Water Exit	West of WW Treatment Plant	Gate	Flood Stage
City Surface Drainage	East of WW Treatment Lagoons	Plug	February or before Flood Stage
Entire Levee	Entire Site	Clay raise on entire system to meet AHPS	2 feet freeboard or less
Roads			
Sewers/Covers			
Orange Spots	Tagged by Orange Flag	Preforming to expectations	As observed and safe to do so
Red Spots	Tagged by Red Flag	Engineer survey and actions based upon recommendations	As observed and safe to do so

3.1.4.4 Public Information

Public notification and awareness is extremely important during an emergency. In the case of a potential flood, the public must be kept informed of:

- Water levels and their implications for a flood event
- Levee conditions
- Short- and long-term weather forecasts
- Any other flood related threat that might exist

A well-informed public is likely to respond well in the face of an actual disaster. In Miles City and surrounding areas, there are many ways to inform the public. These include:

- Emergency Siren System
- Emergency Alert System
- Reverse 9-1-1 System
- Fire and Police Vehicle Loudspeakers
- Neighborhood Watch and other community support programs

3.1.4.5 Evacuation

- The decision to evacuate rests with the Chief Executive of Miles City and coordinated by Custer County EOC.
- Operational responsibility rests with local law enforcement, possibly assisted by city personnel, public health, the school district, health care facilities, and EMS.
- If it appears that an evacuation may be necessary due to conditions in the field, the IC will provide that recommendation to the Custer County EOC.
- If the need to evacuate is extremely urgent, the Flood Fight IC or Operations Chief may communicate directly with their Law Enforcement counterpart in the field and advise the Custer County EOC.

- In case of an evacuation, Custer County Public Health will notify the area's special needs care providers of the emergency. These providers will be asked to notify their clients in the affected area and give instructions to their clients.
- The Custer County EOC will advise nearby communities and reception centers.

3.1.5 Phase V: Recovery

Miles City will address identified recovery needs. Governmental assistance could be required for an extended period. Recovery activities would include:

- Removal of debris
- Clearance of roadways
- Demolition of unsafe structures
- Re-establishment of public services and utilities
- Provision of care and welfare for the affected population including temporary housing for displaced persons
- Care of animals and disposal of carcasses

This stage has three major objectives:

- Reinstatement of family autonomy and the provision of essential public services
- Permanent restoration of public property along with reinstatement of public services
- Performance of research to uncover residual hazards, to advance knowledge of disaster phenomena, and to provide information to improve future flood operations

3.1.5.1 Flood Water Removal

With overtopping or failure of a levee flood protection system, the lands protected by the levee system may become partially or fully inundated. Depending on the situation, there may be an immediate need to dewater that area to prevent further flooding or to protect the overall integrity of the flood protection system, or to remove the water to recover the area to pre-flood conditions.

Flood water removal is an integral part of flood emergency response and needs to be considered in planning for floods. A plan for flood water removal should describe alternatives to dewater areas protected by a jurisdiction's levees. It should address how this will be carried out, where activities will occur, and who will be responsible for carrying out those activities.

3.1.5.1.1 Alternative 1 – No Immediate Dewatering Needed

Based on the situation, it may be advisable to take no immediate action. For example, an inundated agricultural area with no threat to life and property may be left flooded until waters naturally recede. Due to public perception and expectations, this may be a difficult decision to reach, albeit logical. For some areas this choice can be made in advance of a flood event. LMAs, local governments, DNRC, USACE, and MT DES must work together to ensure everyone understands the reasoning and supports the choice.

3.1.5.1.2 Alternative 2 – Close Breach; No Water Removal

Closing the opening in a failed levee is generally the first step of any levee breach repair. It may be necessary to wait for the inflow to slow before taking this action. Rock and suitable materials must be available to armor the ends of the break before closing the opening with additional suitable material. After the breach is closed, it may be cost-effective to simply let the ground dry out on its own depending on the extent of flooding. Equipment and contractors must be mobilized, the ends of the breach must be able to be accessed, and material for the closure must be available.

3.1.5.1.3 Alternative 3 – Repair Breach and Remove Water by Pumping

After the breach is closed, this alternative would remove water using available on-site or perhaps portable pumps. For large flooded areas, the time and expense for this can be extensive.
Providing information on pump suppliers, possible locations for pumps, and other logistics before the event would be part of the plan.

3.1.5.1.4 Alternative 4 – Repair Breach and Remove Water by Making a Relief Cut

The situation may warrant excavating a second breach in a levee system to allow flood waters to drain from behind the land side of a levee. This effort may also limit the depth of those flood waters behind the levee and prevent further flooding of areas within the basin, and may be employed under emergency conditions.
Contractors, equipment, locations of the excavated breach, and material supplies should be included in the plan. Consideration should be given in that the second breach must now be closed as well as the first.

3.1.5.1.5 Environmental Considerations

Flood Water Removal projects are generally exempt from Department of Environmental Quality. Statutory exemptions include "emergency projects such as actions required to restore damaged facilities or mitigate an emergency". Nevertheless, Miles City will consult legal counsel before making a final decision.

3.2 Federal and State Emergency and Disaster Assistance

State and federal support during the Emergency Phase:
• Miles City will consider requesting MT DES and DNRC support during the Emergency Phase. Montana Mutual Aid and USACE assistance are available when resources beyond local capability are needed for flood fight operations.
Emergency Phase support following flooding:
• If the County declares a disaster, the Governor may support it by proclaiming a State of Emergency and then requesting the President make a National Disaster declaration for the affected area.
• If the President declares the area a national disaster, assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be requested.
• If residential flooding occurs, regardless of the declaration, USACE can provide federal funds for recovery operations for up to 30 days following the incident.
• USACE assistance can also be requested to repair eroded and damaged levees following high flows. Request for this authority must be made in a timely manner (30 days).

4 Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

4.1 General Organization and Responsibilities

4.1.1 Levee Flood Control Operations

The City of Miles City exists within Custer County and has responsibility for the levees within its jurisdiction. The district has a (Engineer/contracted firm) to help with flood fight responsibilities during flood emergencies. Miles City can request mutual aid and coordinates with the (Name) County Operational Area during flooding episodes.

4.1.2 Operational Area Flood Control Operations

The Custer County Operational Area Flood Operations are coordinated through its EOC. The EOC ensures proper communication and coordination among all entities responding to the flood.

4.1.3 Mutual Aid Regions and Regional Support

Mutual Aid requests go to the State Emergency Coordination Center and then are passed to other counties in the region. (Other counties will only supply what they can without endangering their own response capability.) The SECC may then request resources from other state and federal agencies.

4.1.4 State Flood Control Operations

MT DES is responsible for State flood control operations through its SECC. FWP, DEQ, MDT, and DNRC coordinates with USACE, USBR, and other agencies. DNRC also monitors rainfall, stream flow, river stages, snow amounts, and reservoir releases across the State. DES will work with other State agencies as needed during flood emergencies.

4.1.5 Federal Flood Control Operations

The USACE and the USBR have responsibilities for federal flood activities in Montana. The USACE has a major responsibility for overseeing reservoir releases and supporting the State's effort in maintaining the levees and structures associated with the State Plan of Flood Control. The USACE can support emergency work as requested by the State under Public Law 84-99, which includes levee flood fighting. The USBR has responsibility for their dam releases and reservoir operations.

5 Direction, Control, and Coordination

5.1 Chief Executive

The (Chief Executive) of Miles City establishes overall policies and priorities, providing direction for local flood response. Responsibility for managing emergency response within these policies and priorities is delegated to the EOC Manager and, on scene, to the Incident Commander (IC), who reports to the EOC Manager. The EOC supports Incident Response by supplying resources, equipment, and supplies. Where supplies are limited, the EOC establishes priorities for allocation.

5.2 Incident Commander

The IC at the flood fight scene is in charge of all resources responding to that emergency site.
The IC may assign missions to flood fight crews acquired under Mutual Aid from other governmental agencies, tasking them to perform specific tasks to facilitate the response. Based on these missions, the crews' normal supervisors will direct State and federal crews.

5.3 Support Personnel

Flood fight crews responding from other areas pursuant to mutual aid – and contractors hired to undertake repairs – receive work assignments from the organization that requested or hired them. Organized crews will work under the immediate control of their own supervisors in response to missions assigned by the IC.

5.4 Plan Activation

The Chief Executive, Public Works Director, and County DES Coordinator have authority to activate this plan based on the previously identified stages.

5.5 Montana Emergency Response Framework (MERF)

Under MERF, common structure and terminology combine to ensure smoother communication and better coordination of inter-jurisdiction and interagency response to flood emergencies. The five sections below have uniform responsibilities throughout Montana – whether the governmental level is a special district, city, county, or the State.

- Command Staff
- Operations
- Planning and Intelligence
- Logistics
- Finance and Administration

Table 1. Summary of Critical Flood Emergency Responsibilities
P= Primary S= Support

	Public Works	Public Utilities	DES	Public Health	Law Enforcement	Fire Service	Health Care/EMS	Admin	Schools
Public Information / Outreach	S		S					P	
Define Emergency Phase	P							S	
Alerting and					P	S			

Warning									
Activation of EOC/ICP	S		P					S	
Flood Management	P								
Monitoring and Surveillance	P	S			S	S			
Levee Patrols	P	S			S	S			
Flood Fight Operations	P	S							
Evacuations*				S	P	S	S		S
Care and Shelter				P			S		S
Critical Infrastructure Protection	S	P				S			
Recovery	S		S	S				P	

*Local law enforcement, part of Operations in the EOC, has responsibility for this task in accordance with its Standard Operating Procedures.

5.6 Utilization of the Incident Command System (ICS)

The Incident Command System creates a set of personnel, policies, procedures, facilities, and equipment that is integrated into a common organizational structure designed to improve emergency response operations of all types and complexities. ICS creates a flexible, scalable response organization providing a common framework within which people can work together effectively. These people may be drawn from multiple agencies that do not routinely work together. So, ICS provides standard response and operation procedures to reduce problems and potential miscommunications on such incidents.

5.7 State Assistance

During emergency response to flooding or storms Miles City may require assistance in performing sand bagging, emergency debris clearance, and similar activities to save lives and protect public safety. These activities often require the use of trained crews to augment local personnel. In accordance with MERF, once local resources are depleted or reasonably committed, mutual aid is accessed and coordinated within the Operational Area (OA). If Custer County OA resources are not sufficient or timely, then the request is forwarded to the State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC).

The SECC evaluates and fills requests by coordinating mutual aid from unaffected OAs, tasking a State agency, or accessing federal assistance. Due to the nature of the need and the resource, requests for crews are usually tasked to a State agency.

5.8 Stockpiles – Location and Access
Miles City maintains stockpiles of flood fight equipment and supplies in the following locations.

- City Public Works Building

5.9 Staging Areas
Miles City has identified the following sites for use as Staging Areas for incoming resources.

- Montana National Guard Barraks

5.10 Evacuation Collection Centers
Miles City has identified the following sites for use as Shelter and Care facilities.

- Miles City Airport
- Miles City Community College

6 Plan Development and Maintenance

6.1 Plan Development

The Miles City Public Works Department has primary responsibility for developing, reviewing, and updating this Levee Emergency Action Plan on a regular basis.

6.2 Plan Review and Maintenance

Agencies and individuals providing emergency response will review this plan at least annually. In addition, this plan may be modified as a result of post-incident analyses and/or post-exercise critiques.

6.3 Training and Exercises

Miles City Public Works will notify holders of this plan of training opportunities or scheduled exercises associated with flood emergency management and operations, such as regional annual Flood Fight sessions. Individual jurisdictions and agencies are responsible for maintaining training records. This plan will be exercised regularly.

6.4 Evaluation

Custer County DES will coordinate and facilitate post-incident analyses following emergencies and exercises. An After-Action Report and Implementation Plan will be prepared by Custer County DES and distributed to those jurisdictions and agencies involved in the emergency or exercise.