

## Risk Assessment Structure

Please read the following FAQs to familiarize yourself with the concept of a risk assessment, and then review the outline for the core plan's risk assessment and draft outline for plan annex risk assessments. Please come ready to discuss your thoughts on the structures.

### Risk Assessment FAQs

**What is a risk assessment?** The risk assessment identifies the hazards that may affect plan partners. It "assesses the risk" of each of these hazards and goes into how the severity of hazards are measured, location, previous occurrences, probability of future occurrences, vulnerabilities, impacts, and an overall risk rating for each hazard. This information is referred to as each hazard's "hazard profile". The 2017 plan's risk assessment can be reviewed here:

[https://www.trpc.org/DocumentCenter/View/4170/HazMit\\_Ch-4\\_RiskAssessment?bidId=](https://www.trpc.org/DocumentCenter/View/4170/HazMit_Ch-4_RiskAssessment?bidId=)

**How will this look in the core plan (completed by TRPC)?** The core plan's risk assessment will describe each hazard at a countywide scale. It will profile the hazards agreed upon by the workgroup (dam failure, earthquake storm, extreme temperatures, flood, landslide, tsunami, wildland fire and volcanic activity).

**What is the core plan, and how is it different from an annex?** The "core plan" is the countywide hazard mitigation plan completed by TRPC, with support from Thurston County Emergency management and the workgroup. Plan "annexes" are shorter plans that cover a specific jurisdiction. To be eligible for grant funding, agencies must complete and adopt a FEMA approved annex. TRPC will provide guidance and templates, but agencies prepare their own annexes.

The 2017 core plan can be viewed here:

[https://www.trpc.org/DocumentCenter/View/4180/WEB\\_DRAFT\\_HazardsMitigationPlan\\_March2017\\_v2?bidId=](https://www.trpc.org/DocumentCenter/View/4180/WEB_DRAFT_HazardsMitigationPlan_March2017_v2?bidId=)

An example (Tumwater) 2017 annex can be viewed here:

[https://www.trpc.org/DocumentCenter/View/6149/ANNED\\_Tumwater](https://www.trpc.org/DocumentCenter/View/6149/ANNED_Tumwater)

**How will this look in the plan partner's annexes?** Plan partners can expand or limit the number of hazards in their annex as part of the risk assessments, but must comply with all the FEMA risk assessment requirements. TRPC will provide support on jurisdiction-specific maps for each hazard. Plan partners will be responsible for summarizing a risk rating for each hazard where it differs from the overall planning area. This includes describing the vulnerabilities within your jurisdiction that are relevant to each hazard. For example, lahar inundation zones only apply to the Nisqually Valley area. TRPC will offer templates and guidance for developing the annex risk assessments.

**What does FEMA require for the risk assessment?** FEMA requirements can be found on pdf pages 28-31 of the local planning and policy guide:

[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_local-mitigation-planning-policy-guide\\_042022.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_local-mitigation-planning-policy-guide_042022.pdf)

## Outline for Each Hazard Profile in the Core Plan

Element	Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition</li> </ul>	Description of what the hazard is
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location</li> </ul>	Description of hazard location countywide and some description of variations between plan partners. Includes countywide hazard map
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent</li> </ul>	Description of the severity of the hazard using the measure that pertains to the hazard. For example, magnitude is used for earthquakes and Fujita scale is used for tornados.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous Incidents &amp; Probability of Occurrence</li> </ul>	A list and short descriptions of previous disaster declarations for the hazard in Thurston County. We will also include a general probability of occurrence using a framework developed by Tetra Tech
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerabilities and Impacts to...               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People</li> <li>○ Structures</li> <li>○ Systems</li> <li>○ Natural, cultural, and historic resources</li> <li>○ Activities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	At a countywide scale, we will discuss the people, structures, systems, resources, and activities vulnerable to the hazard, and HOW each group is vulnerable. This description will include discussions of how climate change affects vulnerabilities, what socially vulnerable populations are affected, and how each hazard may trigger or have relationships to other hazards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall risk rating               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Changes since last plan update</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	An overall risk rating (high, medium, or low) countywide using a framework developed by Tetra Tech. We will also describe how we got to this rating. We will include a discussion of how and why the rating changed since last plan update, with consideration to changes in development, population density, and socially vulnerable folks at a countywide scale.

## Draft Outline for Each Hazard Profile in Plan Annexes

Element	Description	Is it required?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition</li> </ul>	Description of what the hazard is	No, unless you choose to profile a hazard not profiled in the core plan or if you are eliminating a hazard.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location</li> </ul>	Description of hazard location in your jurisdiction. Includes jurisdiction-specific hazard map provided by TRPC/Tetra Tech	Yes, you must include the hazard map and a description of the hazard’s location within your jurisdiction – focusing in on areas most prone to the effects of the hazard.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent</li> </ul>	Description of the severity of the hazard using the measure that pertains to the hazard. For example, if we profiled hurricanes (we don’t), we would describe the potential severity using the Saffir-Simpson scale for wind speed	No, unless it varies from the countywide severity or you include a hazard not profiled in the core plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous Incidents &amp; Probability of Occurrence</li> </ul>	A list and short descriptions of previous disaster declarations for the hazard in Thurston County. We will also include a general probability of occurrence using a framework developed by Tetra Tech	No, unless your annex profiles hazards not covered by the core plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerabilities and Impacts to...               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People</li> <li>○ Structures</li> <li>○ Systems</li> <li>○ Natural, cultural, and historic resources</li> <li>○ Activities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	At a countywide scale, we will discuss the people, structures, systems, resources, and activities vulnerable to the hazard, and HOW each group is vulnerable. This description will include discussions of how climate change affects vulnerabilities, what socially vulnerable populations are affected, and how each hazard may trigger or have relationships to other hazards.	Yes, you must include a discussion of how these groups (people, structures, etc.) are affected within your jurisdiction for each hazard. TRPC will provide a template and guidance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall risk rating               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Changes since last plan update</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	An overall countywide risk rating format like high, medium, or low (or something like this). Tetra Tech is expected to provide this. The plan must define our risk rating categories. We are required to describe/measure how and why our overall risk by hazard has changed since the last plan update, with consideration to changes in development, population density, and socially vulnerable folks at a countywide scale.	Yes, you must include a risk rating specific to your jurisdiction. TRPC will provide guidance.