

5.3 HAZARD RANKING

After the hazards of concern were identified for Rockland County, the hazards were ranked to describe their probability of occurrence and their impact on population, property (general building stock including critical facilities) and the economy. Each participating town or village may have differing degrees of risk exposure and vulnerability compared to the County as a whole; therefore each jurisdiction ranked the degree of risk to each hazard as it pertains to their community using the same methodology as applied to the County-wide ranking. This assured consistency in the overall ranking of risk process. The hazard ranking for the County and each participating district can be found in their jurisdictional annex in Volume II of this plan.

5.3.1 Hazard Ranking Methodology

The methodology used to rank the hazards of concern for Rockland County is described below. Estimates of risk for the County were developed using methodologies promoted by FEMA’s hazard mitigation planning guidance and generated by FEMA’s HAZUS-MH risk assessment tool.

Probability of Occurrence

The probability of occurrence is an estimate of how often a hazard event occurs. A review of historic events assists with this determination. Each hazard of concern is rated in accordance with the numerical ratings and definitions in Table 5.3-1.

Table 5.3-1. Probability of Occurrence Ranking Factors

Rating	Probability Category	Definition
1	Rare	Hazard event is not likely to occur within 100 years (>1% chance of occurrence in any given year)
2	Occasional	Hazard event is likely to occur within 100 years (1% chance of occurrence in any given year)
3	Frequent	Hazard event is likely to occur within 25 years (4% chance of occurrence in any given year)

Impact

The impact of each hazard is considered in three categories: impact on population, impact on property (general building stock including critical facilities), and impact on the economy. Based on documented historic losses and a subjective assessment by the Planning Committee, an impact rating of high, medium, or low is assigned with a corresponding numeric value for each hazard of concern. In addition, a weighting factor is assigned to each impact category: three (3) for population, two (2) for property, and one (1) for economy. This gives the impact on population the greatest weight in evaluating the impact of a hazard.

Table 5.3-2 presents the numerical rating, weighted factor and description for each impact category

Table 5.3-2. Numerical Values and Definitions for Impacts on Population, Property and Economy

Category	Weighting Factor	Low Impact* (1)	Medium Impact (2)	High Impact (3)
Population	3	14% or less of your population is exposed to a hazard with potential for	15% to 29% of your population is exposed to a hazard with potential for	30% or more of your population is exposed to a hazard with potential

Category	Weighting Factor	Low Impact* (1)	Medium Impact (2)	High Impact (3)
		measurable life safety impact, due to its extent and location	measurable life safety impact, due to its extent and location	for measurable life safety impact, due to its extent and location
Property	2	Property exposure is 14% or less of the total replacement cost for your community	Property exposure is 15% to 29% of the total replacement cost for your community	Property exposure is 30% or more of the total replacement cost for your community
Economy	1	Loss estimate is 9% or less of the total replacement cost for your community	Loss estimate is 10% to 19% of the total replacement cost for your community	Loss estimate is 20% or more of the total replacement cost for your community

Note: A numerical value of zero is assigned if there is no impact.

*For the purposes of this exercise, "impacted" means exposed for population and property and loss for economy.

Risk Ranking Value

The risk ranking for each hazard is then calculated by multiplying the numerical value for probability of occurrence by the sum of the numerical values for impact. The equation is as follows: Weighting Factor (1, 2, or 3) X Impact Value (6 to 18) = Hazard Ranking Value. Based on the total for each hazard, a priority ranking is assigned to each hazard of concern (high, medium, or low).

5.3.2 Hazard Ranking Results

Using the process described above, the risk ranking for the identified hazards of concern was determined for Rockland County. Based on the combined risk values for probability of occurrence and impact to Rockland County, a priority ranking of "high", "medium" or "low" risk was assigned. The hazard ranking for the Rockland planning area is detailed in the subsequent tables that present the step-wise process for the ranking. The county-wide risk ranking includes the entire planning area and may not reflect the highest risk indicated for any of the participating jurisdictions. The resulting ranks of each municipality indicate the differing degrees of risk exposure, and vulnerability. The results support the appropriate selection and prioritization of initiatives to reduce the highest levels of risk for each municipality. Both the County and the participating jurisdictions have applied the same methodology to develop the county-wide risk and local rankings to ensure consistency in the overall ranking of risk.

This risk ranking exercise serves two purposes: 1) to describe the probability of occurrence for each hazard, and 2) to describe the impact each would have on the people, property and economy of Rockland County. Estimates of risk for Rockland County were developed using methodologies promoted by FEMA's hazard mitigation planning guidance and generated by FEMA's HAZUS-MH risk assessment tool.

Table 5.3-3 shows the probability ranking assigned for likelihood of occurrence for each hazard.

Table 5.3-3. Probability of Occurrence Ranking for Hazards of Concern for Rockland County

Hazard of Concern	Probability	Numeric Value
Drought	Frequent	3
Earthquake	Occasional	2
Extreme Temperature	Frequent	3
Flood	Frequent	3
Landslide	Occasional	2
Severe Storm	Frequent	3
Winter Storm	Frequent	3
Wildfire	Frequent	3

Table 5.3-4 shows the impact evaluation results for each hazard of concern, including impact on property, structures, and the economy on the County level. It is noted that several hazards that have a high impact on the local jurisdictional level, may have a lower impact when analyzed county-wide. Jurisdictional ranking results are presented in each local annex in Section 9 of this plan. The weighting factor results and a total impact for each hazard also are summarized.

Table 5.3-4. Impact Ranking for Hazards of Concern for Rockland County

Hazard of Concern	Population			Property			Economy			Total Impact Rating (Population + Property + Economy)
	Impact	Numeric Value	Multiplied by Weighing Factor (3)	Impact	Numeric Value	Multiplied by Weighing Factor (2)	Impact	Numeric Value	Multiplied by Weighing Factor (1)	
Drought	M	2	6	H	3	6	M	2	2	13
Earthquake	H	3	9	M	2	4	L	1	1	14
Extreme Temperature	M	2	6	L	1	2	M	2	2	10
Flood	H	3	9	L	1	2	L	1	1	12
Landslide	L	1	3	L	1	2	L	1	1	6
Severe Storm	H	3	9	H	3	6	L	1	1	16
Winter Storm	H	3	9	H	3	6	M	2	2	17
Wildfire	H	3	9	H	3	6	H	3	3	18

Table 5.3-5 presents the total ranking value for each hazard.

Table 5.3-5. Total Risk Ranking Value for Hazards of Concern for Rockland County

Hazard of Concern	Probability	Impact	Total = (Probability x Impact)
Drought	3	13	39
Earthquake	2	14	28
Extreme Temperature	3	10	30
Flood	3	12	36
Landslide	2	6	12
Severe Storm	3	16	48
Winter Storm	3	17	51
Wildfire	3	18	54

Table 5.3-6 presents the hazard ranking category by jurisdiction assigned for each hazard of concern. The ranking categories are determined by an evaluation of the total risk ranking score into three categories, low, medium, and high whereby a total score of 14 and below is categorized as low, 15 to 30 is medium, and 31 and over is considered a high risk category.

These rankings have been used as one of the bases for identifying the jurisdictional hazard mitigation strategies included in Section 9 of this plan. The summary rankings for the County reflect the results of the vulnerability analysis for each hazard of concern and vary from the specific results of each jurisdiction. For example the severe storm hazard may be ranked high in one jurisdiction, but due to the exposure and impact county-wide, it is ranked as a medium hazard and is addressed in the county mitigation strategy accordingly.

Table 5.3-6. Summary of Overall Ranking of Natural Hazards by Jurisdiction

Rockland County Municipalities	Hazards of Concern							
	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperature	Flood	Landslide	Severe Storm	Severe Winter Storm	Wildfire
Airmont (V)	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	Medium
Chestnut Ridge (V)	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	Medium
Clarkstown (T)	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
Grand View-on-Hudson (V)	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
Haverstraw (T)	High	High	Medium	High	High	High	High	High
Haverstraw (V)	High	High	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
Hillburn (V)	High	High	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
Kaser (V)	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	Medium
Montebello (V)	High	High	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
New Hempstead (V)	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
New Square (V)	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	Medium
Nyack (V)	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High

Rockland County Municipalities	Hazards of Concern							
	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperature	Flood	Landslide	Severe Storm	Severe Winter Storm	Wildfire
Orangetown (T)	High	High	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
Piermont (V)	High	High	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
Pomona (V)	High	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High	High
Ramapo (T)	High	High	Medium	High	Low	High	High	Medium
Sloatsburg (V)	High	High	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
South Nyack (V)	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
Spring Valley (V)	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	Medium
Stony Point (T)	High	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High	High
Suffern (V)	High	High	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
Upper Nyack (V)	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
Wesley Hills (V)	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	High	High
West Haverstraw (V)	High	High	Medium	High	Medium	High	High	High