

Element Three: The viability of an economy is directly related to its capacity for economic and disaster resilience. Counties, communities, and businesses that plan for both manmade and natural disasters are typically better equipped to respond when the unexpected occurs. Planning is described as mitigating potential damages and preparing for a response.

Goal: Increase awareness for disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies.

Objectives:

1. Educate public officials and other stakeholders through workshops, social media, presentations, and newsletters. The purpose is to invite more into the conversation.
2. SENDD staff will join with chambers, emergency management directors (EMD), businesses, economic developers, state agencies, University of Lincoln-Extension, and others to ensure others are informed on best mitigation practices. This might include business planning, risk management with ag-business, and continuity strategies.
3. Incorporate routine funding updates into SENDD events so the community members are made aware of state and federal opportunities, particularly for repetitive loss situations and hardening structures.
4. Inform communities on standards for reducing risks and impacts in their jurisdiction. For example planning and zoning to manage development in flood plains, or undergrounding utilities.
5. Generate a collection of plans for proposed future projects, so when state and federal funds are available, SENDD is prepared to assist communities in securing resources.

Goal: Similar to preparedness, communities must know on how to respond to and recover from a disaster. This can mean the difference between a swift recovery and long process.

Objectives:

1. Prepare a centralized inventory of available local, county, and state resources that might be used during a disaster. For example, portable emergency generators, pop-up mass sheltering trailers, temporary pet shelters, etc. This list will be shared with all EMDs, county officials, and first responders.
2. Disseminate information on best practices for disaster response. This might include debris planning, what residents should take with them in the event of evacuation, etc. SENDD will partner with EMDs, and county and local officials.