

[[For Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee review – March 6, 2013 meeting]]

## 10.3 CRITICAL FACILITIES

Critical and essential facilities and infrastructure are those that are critical to the health and welfare of the population. These become especially important after any hazard event. Critical and essential facilities are typically defined to include police and fire stations, hospitals, schools and emergency operations centers. Critical infrastructure can include the roads and bridges that provide ingress and egress and allow emergency vehicles access to those in need and the utilities that provide water, electricity and communication services to the community. Also included are Tier II facilities and railroads, which hold or carry significant amounts of hazardous materials with a potential to impact public health and welfare in a hazard event.

Recognizing that the standard generic definition of “critical facilities” lacked the depth to cover all facilities functionally important to the Humboldt Operational Area capabilities, the Steering Committee created the following definition of critical facilities specific to Humboldt County:

*A critical facility is infrastructure or a facility that is critical to the health and welfare of the population. These become especially important after any hazard/natural disaster event occurs. For the purposes of the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan, Critical Facilities include the following:*

- Essential Facilities:
  - **Medical and Shelter Facilities and Vulnerable Populations**—Facilities likely to be used as a sheltering or community assembly location, and structures likely to contain occupants who may not be sufficiently mobile to avoid death or injury during and after a hazard/natural disaster event, including but not limited to: hospitals, schools, skilled nursing facilities, board and care homes, pharmacies, clinics, fairgrounds, community centers, ambulance services, and veterinary hospitals.
  - **Emergency Response**—Facilities and emergency operations centers that are needed for response and recovery activities before, during, and after a hazard/natural disaster event, including but not limited to: police stations, fire stations, local, state and federal vehicle and equipment storage facilities, and emergency response staging sites.
  - **Utility Services**—Public and private utility facilities that are vital to maintaining or restoring normal services to impacted areas before, during, and after a hazard/natural disaster event, including but not limited to: primary and secondary transportation infrastructure, municipal water pumps and wells, water treatment plants, water storage, sewage treatment facilities, lift stations, water and sewer mainlines, substations, electric power generating infrastructure, gas transmission infrastructure, telecommunications, repeater stations, radio stations and towers, fuel storage facilities, aviation control towers, standby power-generating equipment, and grocery stores.
- Hazardous Facilities:
  - **Major Dams**
  - **Risk Management Plan Hazardous Material Sites (RMP Hazmat Sites)**—Hazmat sites are structures or facilities that produce, use, or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic and/or water-reactive materials. RMP Hazmat sites include but are not limited to facilities that use or store acutely hazardous materials as defined by California Code of Regulations Title 19, Division 2, Chapter 4.5, Section 2770.5.
  - **Additional Hazmat Sites**—Additional hazmat sites may include nuclear material storage sites, retail and wholesale fuel facilities, hazardous materials yards, and pulp mills.

