

A healthcare hazard vulnerability analysis (HVA) was conducted by Purdue University under contract from the Indiana State Department of Health of Howard County, Indiana. This HVA consisted of thirteen specific hazards along with a locally submitted hazard. A panel of local health experts was assembled to rank each hazard's probability, impact, preparedness resources, impact on healthcare infrastructure and services, and healthcare preparedness resources.

Table 3.22 Hazards Ranked by Overall Residual Risk of the District 6 Public Health Hazard Vulnerability Assessment Report dated September 2012 ranked the thirteen hazards by residual risk. This table ranks the hazards according to the greatest priority for planning.

High priority planning hazards are:

- Epidemic / Disease Outbreak
- Chemical Attack / Terrorism
- Pandemic
- Tornado
- Radiological / Nuclear Attack / Terrorism
- Earthquake
- Flooding

Lower priority planning hazards are:

- Hazardous Materials Incident
- Severe Winter Storm
- Food Supply Contamination / Outbreak
- Extreme Temperatures
- Severe Thunderstorms

Table 3.23 Hazards Ranked by Relative Risk of the same report ranked the hazards, including the local hazard, into four risk categories. It should be noted that this table does not reflect any preparedness efforts.

Very High Risk

- Epidemic / Disease Outbreak

High Risk

- Civil Unrest / Riot*

Medium Risk

- Extreme Temperatures
- Flooding
- Severe Thunderstorms
- Severe Winter Storm
- Pandemic
- Hazardous Material Incident
- Food Supply Contamination / Outbreak
- Chemical Attack / Terrorism

Low Risk

- Tornado
- Biological Attack / Terrorism
- Radiological / Nuclear Attack / Terrorism
- Earthquake

*local hazard

Clearly, an epidemic or disease outbreak presents the greatest risk to the residents of our county and plans must be developed to cope with that risk. To this extent, Howard County has developed the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which it keeps refining. The Howard County Health Department, in conjunction with our public health partners, is responsible for the Essential Support Function 8 – Public Health and Medical Services which is part of this plan.