



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako HRVA Electoral Area 'A' Committee

Summary - Understanding Community Resiliency Workshop

Date: Jan 12, 2022

Time: 9am – 12pm

Format: Zoom

Overview

On Wednesday, January 12th, 2022, participants from the HRVA Committee for Electoral Area 'A' came together on Zoom to review and discuss Community vulnerabilities in Electoral Area 'A'. This document provides a summary of what was discussed throughout the session. Thank you to everyone who took the time out of their work week to contribute to this session.

The Understanding Community Resiliency workshop objectives were as follows:

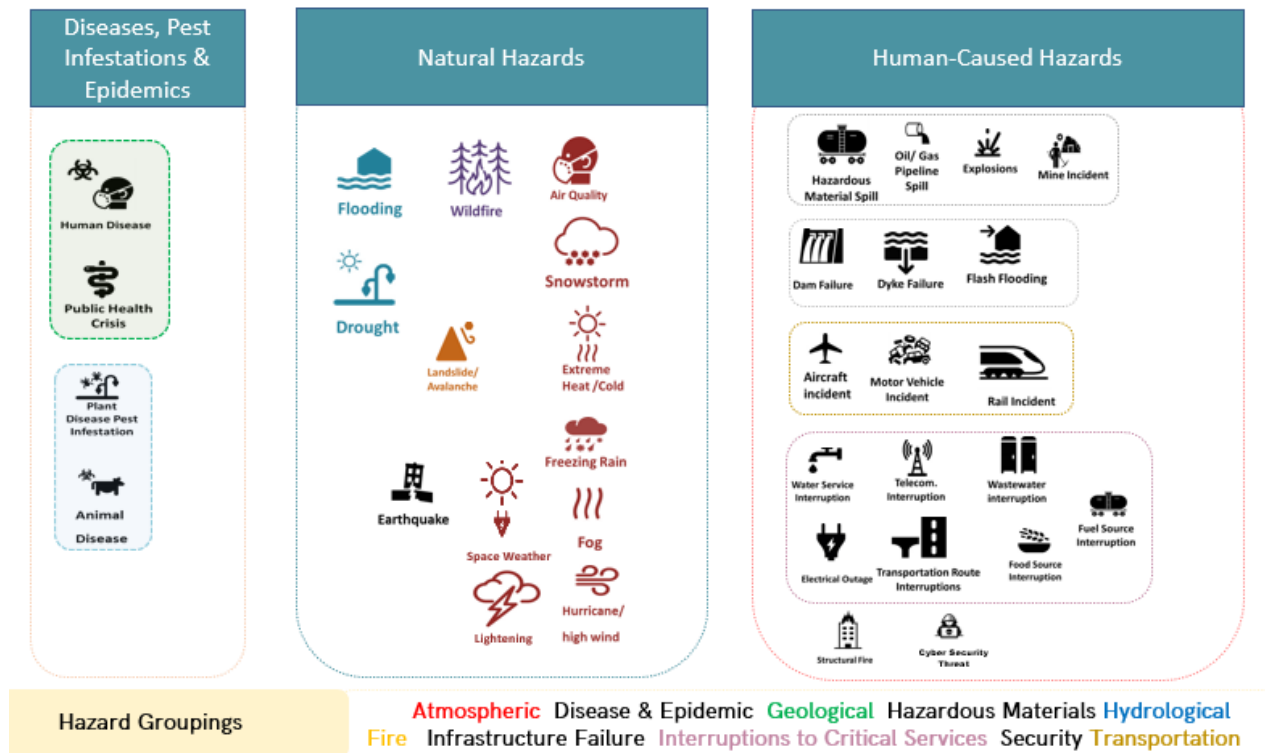
- Review list of 34 selected hazards;
- Review and identify additional vulnerabilities in Area 'A': Social, Economic, Environmental, Physical, and Underlying risk drivers;
- Review and discuss hazard scenarios to better understand vulnerabilities.
- Discuss the need for additional information before embarking on likelihood and consequence scoring of hazards.

Participants

Name	Organization
Laurence Turney	Village of Telkwa
Megan Glover	Village of Telkwa
Anthony Noonan	Witset
Megan Darcy	Agricultural Coordinator RDBN
Cpl. Dean Klubi	RCMP
Anastasia Ledwon	Bulkley Valley Search and Rescue
Migon Cochrane	BC Ambulance
Matt Herzog	ESSD Town of Smither /RDBN
Jeff Walsh	BC Wildfire Service
Don Ford	Long Time Resident ESS Volunteer
Eva McNulty	Resident Telkwa
Lindsay Newman	Vista Radio
Mark Fisher	RDBN
Deborah Jones-Middleton	RDBN
Chris Walker	RDBN
Liliana Dragowska	RDBN

9:00- 9:30 Welcome, Introductions, Outcomes and Review of Selected Hazards

The session began with a welcome from Director Fisher and a round table of introductions. This was followed by a short presentation from Liliana reviewing the objectives of the meetings, overview of the HRVA committee process, and reviewed the 37-hazard selected at the October 8th, 2021 HRVA Hazard Identification workshop.



9:30 – 10:30 Presentation and Discussion on Vulnerabilities in Area 'A'

In this section Liliana presented the key findings from the Area A Understanding Community Vulnerabilities background paper and began to explore with participants four grouping of vulnerabilities that may be considered in this project. The information presented and discussed was a starting point in the collection of known vulnerabilities within the region. The intention is that the HRVA process will help to strengthen our collective community knowledge of our vulnerabilities to enable future conversations that will focus on resiliency strategies. Both vulnerability and resiliency are important, and closely related, concepts for evaluating a community's ability to cope with the impacts of a hazard event. It is important to differentiate between the two:

- Vulnerability looks at the factors that increase a community's susceptibility to damage from a hazard;
- Resiliency is a measure of a community's ability to resist or recover from damage (SOPAC, 2002).

Participants were asked if there is any missing information or insight members might have on specific factors that they perceive have the potential to contribute to vulnerabilities within Electoral Area A. The notes below summarize the discussion and additions under each topic presented and will ultimately assist HRVA committee members in subjectively scoring the likelihood and consequence of each hazard in our area:

Area 'A' First Response Agencies:

- Add EMBC to the graphic – Tasking agency in the event of emergencies
- BC Wildfire Service – the local region there are two bases one in Telkwa and the Second in Hazelton. Telkwa has a 20 person crew, two officers and access to provincial resources and this is similar in Hazelton.
- RCMP victim services
- Interest in RDBN providing a list of secondary or support services listing as part of the HRVA. These would include:
 - BC Hydro, other utilities like PNG.
 - Infrastructure response, MOTI, Road maintenance contractors – Dawson.
 - Canadian Air Search and Rescue – has an office in Smithers – they do damage assessment from the air or search by air.
 - Canadian Rangers – currently must be tasked and are a federal resource, this maybe changing.

Social Factors and Vulnerabilities

- Add NSDP and Child Development Centre
- Add Chamber of Commerce as a social and business support agency – maybe under economic vulnerabilities.

Economic Factors and Vulnerabilities

- Add information on known major employers in the region.
- Identified threat of industry and businesses particularly in the rural area with unknown hazardous materials and risks.
- If there is an event at one of the larger employers, are our first responders set up for this? Smithers has pre-incident plans, but not in the rural areas outside the municipal boundary. Telkwa has assumed that rural area farms have a wide variety of substances that could be challenging, this is a part of Telkwa's approach, but the fire department has no way of knowing what they might walk into on a property-by-property basis.

Environmental Factors and Vulnerabilities

- Ministry of FLROW Fish Habitat Work;
- Inventory of Lakes and water available for fire fighting purposes. FLNROW responsibility.
- Air Quality is a major environmental vulnerability.

Physical Critical infrastructure factors

- Safe and accessible water supply becomes a risk for many residents

Climate Change as an Underlying Risk Driver

- Our communities have less resiliency to the big fluctuations and swings in temperature and precipitation, this makes it more difficult to plan and respond for emergency events.
- Resource limitation during emergency events is felt and amplified given BC has been in a number of states of emergency in the last year – Opioid, COVID, Floods and fire.

Additional Underlying Risk Drivers

- Additional responsibilities be assigned to local authorities that don't have adequate resources to deal with additional emergencies and responsibilities.
- Risk is balancing knowledge and planning activities vs action and implementation.
- Public panic – behaviour patterns are a risk for example panic buying and clearing shelves and creating supply chain issues. There is a need for canned messages and

the idea of introducing engagement and feed back loops with emergency authorities during emergency events.

10:30 – 11:45 Review and Discuss Hazard Scenarios in Breakout Groups

Participants were broken out into three groups to complete 9 hazard scenario worksheets. These scenario worksheets were designed to help guide the committee through an alternative discussion process that would help to highlight and articulate additional vulnerabilities within the Electoral Area.

Reference documents used included [RDBN Hazard Identification Backgrounder](#) and [Understanding Community Resiliency Backgrounder](#).

Hazard Scenarios have been updated and included in the Final version of the Understanding Community Resiliency Backgrounder document available by following this link or on the RDBN's HRVA website under Electoral Area 'A' updates.

11:45 – 12 noon Wrap Up and Next Steps

To wrap up the session committee members had a brief discussion on what stood out for them in the scenarios and discussion. This was followed by some final remarks and reminders of next steps in the process:

- Liliana to send a summary of this meeting along with a request for committee member to reflect and respond to Liliana if they feel there is a need for additional information before embarking on likelihood and consequence scoring of hazards?
- Liliana to draft and send out Hazard Likelihood and Consequence Scoring instructions, followed by committee members completing the Likelihood and Consequence Scoring surveys.