

Chapter 2: Risk Assessment

Identified Hazards

A content analysis was conducted on Hazard Mitigation Plans at the county level. These plans were approved and accepted by FEMA in the past 3 years. The following chart summarizes data gleaned from those documents.

It should be noted that these hazards were identified by individual county teams without regard to frequency of events. From a regional perspective, some hazards were not identified in counties that are at risk for a particular hazard. A generalized view for Region VII would include all hazards identified as having some potential across the Region. In Region VII some of the identified hazards that become disasters are outcomes of preliminary hazard events. Winter storms (snow, ice) and temporal storms (rain, wind, tornado, thunder/lightning or hail) can cascade into flooding, dam failure, landslides and utility failure. Precipitation events can also trigger technological/hazardous materials disasters if those two areas of concern are not well managed by people who use them.

The following hazards were identified in Region VII County Hazard Mitigation Plans that were updated in the past 3 years.

	Barbour	Braxton	Gilmer	Lewis	Randolph	Tucker	Upshur
Dam Failure	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Drought	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Earthquake	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Flooding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hailstorm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Hazardous Materials Incident	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Technological Hazards			✓	✓	✓		
Land Subsidence		✓	✓	✓			✓
Landslide		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Terrorism		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Thunderstorm/Lighting		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Urban Fire		✓	✓	✓			✓
Wind Storm/Tornado		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Winter Storm		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wildfires		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Epidemic					✓		
Infestation					✓		
Temperature-Extreme Heat		✓			✓		
Utility Failure		✓					✓

Gilmer County has taken earthquakes off their identified hazards list in the most recent approved update of that County HMP. Their reasoning was that the likelihood of a disaster causing earthquake event in Gilmer County was very remote.