



Virgin Town, Washington County, Utah

Integrated Preparedness Plan

Calendar Years 2025-2028

June 2024 Update

Integrated Preparedness Planning Team

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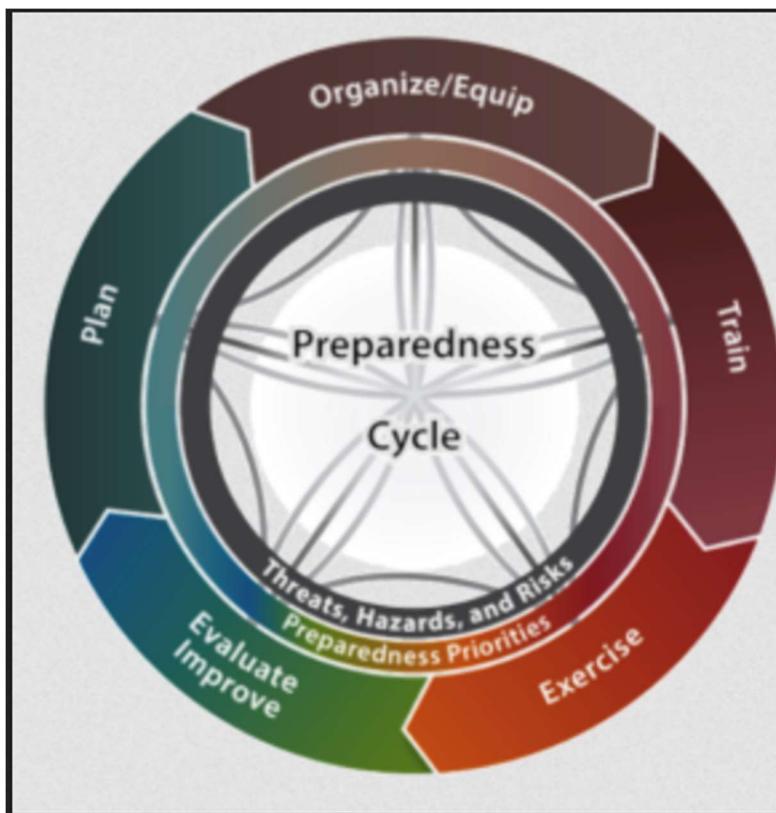
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Purpose

The Virgin Town Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) contains steps outlining preparedness priorities designed to build and sustain capabilities for the needs of our unique community, giving direction, accountability, and coordination. Goals and objectives are prioritized resting primarily on the Town and our County partners and include collaborative steps that recognize our shared responsibility to prepare, protect, support, and assist the whole community.

Virgin Town Emergency Management administers the IPP while coordinating with Washington County and the State of Utah. All Virgin Town government offices follow the IPP. Private sector and volunteer organizations operating within Virgin Town participated and contributed to the IPP.

This IPP examines Virgin Town's threats, hazards, and risks along with other internal and external factors that will influence the preparedness priorities for 2025-2028. The priorities, capabilities, and rationale are included in the IPP with multi-year calendars outlining all preparedness activities.

The Virgin Town IPP is designed to be a living document that will be refined, examined, and updated annually or as needed. This will improve our community's ability to prepare, respond, and recover.

Preparedness Activity Considerations

The Virgin Town IPP is a guide for the preparedness activities within the Town for responding to, recovering from, and successfully mitigating the threats, hazards, and risks that are most likely to occur in the area. The goals and priorities established within this IPP will provide goals and priorities to guide the Town in its efforts to build, improve and sustain capabilities in all areas.

Threats, Hazards, and Risks

Virgin Town utilizes the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process to identify the most likely hazards that may affect the Town. Although by no means are these the only possible threats that may occur within the Town. Virgin Town Emergency Management will conduct annual meetings with Town staff on the potential hazards and vulnerable areas of the Town. Modifications to the THIRA will be made based on continued risk assessments within and adjacent to the Town. A specific threat analysis will occur on a yearly basis. Some hazardous events occur almost annually others may not occur within a lifetime. Also, not every hazardous event may induce notable damage or loss of life. For this reason, hazards will be assessed by comparing the frequency of the event type versus the impact that may occur. The planning stage begins with events that are expected to challenge Town resources the most while accounting for those events that occur the often and may have a high impact on property and lives. This will be followed by events that would be more moderate in occurrence and impacts.

In 2024, Virgin Town conducted a THIRA to examine,

- Threats and hazards that may affect the Town?
- Impact of those events on the Town?
- What capabilities should our community have in place?
- What capabilities does the community need to acquire?

The threats, hazards and risks identified for Virgin Town as having the greatest impact and challenging Town resources are:

- Earthquake
- Prolonged power outage
- Extreme heat
- Flooding
- Hazardous Materials transportation event
- Wildland fire with urban interface
- Equipment failure
- Cybersecurity/domestic terrorist event against infrastructure

Each of the above has been rated as to likelihood and impact.

- Earthquake, low to moderate chance/ possible severe impact
- Prolonged power outage, high likelihood/ moderate to high impact
- Extreme heat prevalent with climate change, high impact
- Flooding, moderate chance/ low to high impact
- Hazardous materials event, low chance/moderate impact.
- Wildland fire, high likelihood/high impact
- Equipment failure, low to moderate chance/ high impact
- Cybersecurity/ domestic terrorist, low chance/ high impact

Accreditation Standards and Regulations

Virgin Town has decided to use this IPP cycle to prepare for the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

Supported Training

- IS-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System
- IS-200 Basic Incident Command for Initial Response
- IS-300 ICS for Expanding Incidents
- IS-400 Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff
- IS-700 Introduction to the National Management System
- IS-800 National Response Framework
- IS-2200 Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions
- G-2300 Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions
- G-205 Recovery from Disaster, the Local Government Role

Capability Assessments, Corrective Actions

Utilizing the results of the 2024 THIRA results, Virgin Town performed a capabilities assessment to determine current capabilities against THIRA targets. Results from the SPR identified key gaps for the following.

- Public Health, Emergency Medical Services
- Mass Care Services (sheltering)
- Cybersecurity
- Hazardous Materials accident

During the 2024 culinary water restriction, Kolob Terrace Wildland Fire, and the 4.5 magnitude earthquake the following capabilities were found inadequate.

- Public information and warning
- Mass Care Services (sheltering)
- Operational Communications
- Evacuation Plan

Preparedness Priorities

Based on the above-mentioned hazards, Virgin Town has determined that the following priorities will be the focus for the 2025-2028 preparedness cycle.

Virgin Town CY2025-2028 Preparedness Priorities
Public Information and Warning - Develop a means to communicate with the Town citizens and businesses with an expedited message delivery
Mass Casualty -Validate Washington County's ability to respond to a mass casualty event
Hazmat - Work with Hurricane Valley F.D. to respond and recover from a hazmat spill
Mass Care - Develop a working relationship with the American Red Cross for sheltering
Cyber Security/Domestic Terrorist - Install security measures on soft targets

Priority: Public Information and Warning

Virgin Town, while rare, experiences a variety of emergencies. Some with little notice. Therefore, the warning of the public is critical in effective all-hazard planning.

Planning:

- Continue to develop social media, email, and Everbridge notification communication strategies.
- Continue to work with Washington County Emergency Services to develop communication strategies.
- In addition, obtain radio communications that can reach Washington County EOC in case cell service is disrupted.
- Research programs for house-to-house verification and possibly purchase.

Supported Training:

- MGT-318 Public Information in All Hazards Incident
- PER-343 Social Media Engagement Strategies
- IS-42 social media in Emergency Management
- Familiarization of systems and equipment
- G557 Rapid Needs Assessment

Priority Mass Casualty/Mass Care - Validate Virgin Town's ability to manage, shelter or evacuate 15% of the population.

Wildland fires, earthquakes, and floods may create major mass care incidents with scope and severity not immediately known.

Corresponding Capabilities:

- Public information and warning
- Mass Care Service
- On scene security and protection
- Critical transportation

Planning Factors:

- Virgin Town updated mitigation plan.
- Virgin Town Emergency Operations Plan.
- Mutual Aide agreements
- Red Cross shelter agreement

Supported Training:

- IS-0368 Including People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs
- IS-366.a Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters
- Red Cross shelter management training
- Evacuation procedures training
- G386 Mass Fatalities

Priority: Hazmat - Validate Hurricane Valley FD's capability

Predicting when a hazardous material incident is an unknown. It is known that gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, and sewage from septic systems are hauled on SR-9 through Virgin Town on a regular basis. These are hauled in sufficient amounts to be harmful or injurious to humans, animals, property, and the economy.

Corresponding Capabilities:

- Public Information and Warning
- Operational Coordination
- Public Health and Emergency Medical

Priority: Cyber Security/Domestic Terrorism

With over 5 million people passing through the town a year, it creates a growing threat. Virgin Town is committed to developing protection and raising awareness for its infrastructure systems.

Corresponding Capabilities:

- Situational awareness
- Cybersecurity
- Intelligence and information sharing
- Infrastructure Systems
- Community resilience

Organization and Equipment Factors:

- Continual cyber assessment of resources
- Remote monitoring of remote infrastructure

Supported Training Courses:

- AWR-136 Essentials of Community Cybersecurity
- AWR-366-W Developing a Cybersecurity Annex for Incidents

Priority: Wildland Fire, Power Outages, Extreme Heat

Virgin Town is surrounded by BLM property that utilizes dispersed camping in areas of heavy sage brush and cheat grass. Visitors using this land like to have campfires either for cooking or enjoyment. This creates a high fire danger that could easily spread to the urban interface. In addition, Rocky Mountain Power has declared that they will deenergize their lines if they determine that their equipment is in danger, possibly leading to extended power outages for an unknown time.

Planning:

- Virgin Town updated Mitigation Plan.
- Virgin Town Emergency Operations Plan.
- Mutual Aide agreements
- Red Cross shelter agreement
- Emergency Generators
- Coordination meetings with Rocky Mountain Power

Supported Training:

- IS-0368 Including People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs
- Red Cross shelter management training
- Evacuation procedures training
- IS-320 Wildfire Mitigation Basics

Corresponding Capabilities:

- Public information and warning
- Mass Care Service
- On scene security and protection
- Critical transportation

Program Reporting:

Monitoring for improvement of this IPP will be done on a 3-year basis. Capabilities and effectiveness will be examined against any threats, hazards, and risks that our community may face.

The Emergency Management Director will oversee this IPP for corrective action and will compile and record areas for improvement and best practices.

- Identify the following.
 - What changes need to be made to procedures and plans?
 - What organizational changes need to be made?
 - What equipment and resources are required?
 - What training is needed?
- All corrective actions are to be tracked and reported to the Town Council on a quarterly basis.

