

Highland County, VA

Risk-assessment baseline packet

County FIPS: 51091 **Release:** 2026-10 **Data as of:** 2026-09-30 **Storm Events data through:** 2026-06-30

Hazard Plain is an independent product built from public federal data. It is not a FEMA document and is not reviewed or endorsed by FEMA or any state agency.

Summary

Plan status as of 2026-09-30: Approved, expires 2031-06-01. Plan: PDC 06 Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan (FEMA plan 111195), approved 2026-06-02. Since the plan was approved on 2026-06-02: no new hazard declaration and 0 NOAA Storm Events records; details under "What changed since your last plan". Highest expected annual loss (FEMA National Risk Index, modeled total; see B1-a): Inland Flooding (\$1,411,369 a year), Drought (\$293,725) and Cold Wave (\$283,423). The tables that follow are organized by the items of FEMA's Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool, Element B (B1-a to B2-c); each heading says which item its tables support.

TERMS USED

EAL: expected annual loss: FEMA's modeled average yearly loss from a hazard.
NRI: FEMA's National Risk Index (version 1.20, December 2025).
NFIP: National Flood Insurance Program.
RL, SRL: repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss: flood-insured properties with repeated claims (definitions in B2-c).
FMA, HMGP: Flood Mitigation Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, FEMA mitigation grants.
PA: FEMA Public Assistance: disaster aid to governments and some nonprofits.
Zone-level: NOAA logged the event for a National Weather Service forecast zone, which may include parts of neighboring counties.
County-coded: NOAA logged the event to this county.
FIPS: the federal code for a place; 51091 is this area.
D0 to D4: U.S. Drought Monitor categories, from abnormally dry (D0) to exceptional drought (D4).
F/EF, EFU: Fujita and Enhanced Fujita tornado ratings; EFU is an unrated tornado.
kt, CONUS: knots (1 kt is about 1.15 mph); the contiguous United States.
CFR: Code of Federal Regulations.
A4-a, E1-a: other items of FEMA's Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool (sources, and changes since the last plan).
Dollars: nominal (as reported, labeled with the year), not adjusted for inflation.

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Plan clock

Status:	Approved, expires 2031-06-01	Plan:	PDC 06 Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan (FEMA plan 111195)
Approved:	2026-06-02	Days to expiry:	1,705

What changed since your last plan (approved 2026-06-02)

New federal declarations:	none	Storm Events records since approval:	0 records (data through 2026-06-30)
Repetitive loss now:	FMA RL 0, SRL 0 (44 CFR 77.2); any definition: 0	Repeat-flood change:	this release sets the baseline count.

Sources: 1, 2, 4, 6 (numbered list at the end)

Plan status for every jurisdiction listed in this county

Source: 1

Jurisdiction	Type	Status	Plan	Approved	Expires	Days to expiry <i>negative = days since expiry</i>	Update underway	Notes
Highland County	County	Approved, expires 2031-06-01	PDC 06 Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan (FEMA plan 111195)	2026-06-02	2031-06-01	1,705		
Monterey town	Town	Plan 111195 approved 2026-06-02, pending adoption here; not yet eligible	PDC 06 Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan (FEMA plan 111195), pending adoption here	2026-06-02 by FEMA; not yet adopted here	2031-06-01 once adopted		FEMA tracker shows a plan approvable pending adoption	Not yet eligible: adopt the approved plan.

Plan 111195 lists 23 other participants not on this page, 9 of them not covered by it yet (named in the Excel file).

State plan status and tribal plans in this state: see the state page.

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-a: hazard identification

Hazards NRI does not cover (local data needed)

- dam failure (incl. upstream dams)
- levee failure
- flash flood as its own subtype
- ice jams
- debris flows
- erosion (riverine and coastal)
- land subsidence and sinkholes
- expansive soils

The 18 National Risk Index hazards, ranked by expected annual loss (EAL)

Sources: 5, 6

Rank by EAL	Hazard	NRI risk rating	EAL rating	EAL buildings <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL agriculture <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Cost of expected deaths and injuries <i>FEMA's dollar value per year, not property damage</i>	EAL total (see note) <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Storm Events records, 1996 to 2026-06-30 <i>count</i>	Storm Events coverage note
1	Inland Flooding	Very Low	Very Low	\$1,368,525	\$15,066	\$27,779	\$1,411,369	28	
2	Drought	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	n/a	\$293,725	n/a	\$293,725	0	Declared 1 time; no Storm Events record of this type.
3	Cold Wave	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$69,385	\$81,951	\$132,087	\$283,423	86	Includes 37 Frost/Freeze records (outside NRI's Cold Wave definition; counted in this table and in B1-d, not in the B1-e descriptor).
4	Lightning	Very Low	Very Low	\$997	n/a	\$49,024	\$50,021	2	
5	Strong Wind	Very Low	Very Low	\$16,023	\$15,897	\$14,804	\$46,724	50	Includes 11 High Wind records (a NOAA non-thunderstorm wind type, outside NRI's Strong Wind definition).
6	Hurricane	Very Low	Very Low	\$19,177	\$14,170	\$408	\$33,756	0	Declared 4 times; no Storm Events record of this type.
7	Hail	Very Low	Very Low	\$9,635	\$575	\$7,376	\$17,586	25	
8	Landslide	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$1,792	n/a	\$12,824	\$14,616	0	Declared 1 time; no Storm Events record of this type.
9	Earthquake	Very Low	Very Low	\$10,739	n/a	\$2,226	\$12,965		Storm Events does not record earthquakes.
10	Winter Weather	Very Low	Very Low	\$7,534	\$8	\$1,858	\$9,400	203	
11	Tornado	Very Low	Very Low	\$5,210	\$281	\$1,629	\$7,120	0	Declared 1 time; no Storm Events record of this type.
12	Wildfire	Very Low	Very Low	\$3,114	\$89	\$1,008	\$4,211	0	No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).
13	Avalanche	Very Low	Very Low	\$0	n/a	\$1,666	\$1,666	0	No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).

Rank by EAL	Hazard	NRI risk rating	EAL rating	EAL buildings <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL agriculture <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Cost of expected deaths and injuries <i>FEMA's dollar value per year, not property damage</i>	EAL total (see note) <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Storm Events records, 1996 to 2026-06-30 <i>count</i>	Storm Events coverage note
14	Ice Storm	Very Low	Very Low	\$1,093	n/a	\$197	\$1,290	3	
15	Heat Wave	Very Low	Very Low	under \$1	\$1	\$554	\$555	0	No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).

Total = buildings + agriculture + population equivalence; FEMA values each expected death (or 10 injuries) at \$13.7 million (2024 dollars).

NRI risk rating combines expected annual loss with social vulnerability and community resilience; EAL rating rates expected annual loss alone. Both compare this county with all U.S. counties.

Local data needed: state and local landslide and wildfire records (Storm Events records these hazards only in part).

Not applicable to this county per NRI, with no federal declaration and no Storm Events record since 1996: coastal flooding, tsunami and volcanic activity. That is the evidence for leaving them out of the plan.

The state hazard mitigation plan also lists hazards for this county; FEMA asks the plan to explain any hazard it leaves out.

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-b: hazard location

Affects the whole county (national data give no location within it): Cold Wave, Drought, Hail, Heat Wave, Ice Storm, Lightning, Strong Wind and Winter Weather.

Inland Flooding: The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is the required location source for flooding. See the FEMA Flood Map Service Center (<https://msc.fema.gov>) for this county.

NRI rating of the county's single census tract

Source: 5

Hazard	Census tract <i>NRI risk rating, score 0 to 100</i>
Avalanche	tract 9701 (Very Low, 53.3)
Earthquake	tract 9701 (Very Low, 35.1)
Hurricane	tract 9701 (Relatively Low, 65.0)
Landslide	tract 9701 (Relatively Moderate, 98.4)
Tornado	tract 9701 (Very Low, 19.8)
Wildfire	tract 9701 (Relatively Low, 79.2)

A tract number is the Census tract number (for example 9701 is Census Tract 9701). FEMA's Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool maps the National Risk Index for every tract: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/resilience-analysis-and-planning-tool>

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-c: hazard extent

Extent: scale, observed range and worst recorded event per hazard

Sources: 6, 7

Hazard	Scale	Records <i>count and years</i>	Observed range	Worst recorded event	Most damaging (when different)	How it applies to jurisdictions	Note
Avalanche	none (count and damage only)	0					
Cold/Wind Chill, Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	wind chill	49 records, 2010 to 2026 (49 zone-level)	1 day to 11 days (median 2 days); 39 with a recorded value	11 consecutive days, 2026-01-23 to 2026-02-02, zone-level		Countywide (zone-level records).	
Frost/Freeze (outside NRI's Cold Wave definition)	crop damage	37 records, 2011 to 2021 (37 zone-level)		No crop damage reported in 37 records.		Countywide (zone-level records).	
Drought	U.S. Drought Monitor scale (D0 to D4)	0					Storm Events enters a drought at D2 or worse east of the Rockies and D3 or worse from the Rockies west (NWS Instruction 10-1605); NRI drought counts D3 and D4 only.
Earthquake	Modified Mercalli (local data)	0					Storm Events does not record earthquakes; the USGS earthquake catalog is the source.
Hail	hail size (inches)	25 records, 1998 to 2023	0.75 in to 2.5 in (median 1 in); 25 with a recorded value	2.5 in hail, 2023-08-07		Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Monterey town (1 record).	
Excessive Heat, Heat	heat index (in event narratives)	0					
Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Tropical Depression	Saffir-Simpson	0					Storm Events files every zone of a storm's episode under the storm's type; flooding from the storm is filed as Flood or Flash Flood records.
Ice Storm	Sperry-Piltz ice scale (local data)	3 records, 2016 to 2025 (3 zone-level)		No damage reported in 3 records.		Countywide (zone-level records).	
Flash Flood, Flood, Lakeshore Flood	damage and flood days (flood depth: FIRM)	28 records, 1996 to 2025		Flash Flood, 1996-09-06, \$1,000,000 property; \$50,000 crops (1996 dollars), 1 direct death		Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Monterey town (5 records).	Flood depth: see the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map. Storm Events damage is often \$0 or blank for floods, major ones included; FEMA Public Assistance by declaration (B1-d) shows which floods cost the most.
Debris Flow	none (count and damage only)	0					

Hazard	Scale	Records <i>count and years</i>	Observed range	Worst recorded event	Most damaging (when different)	How it applies to jurisdictions	Note
Lightning	annualized frequency (the measure FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Handbook names)	2 records, 1996 to 2000		Lightning, 2000-08-09, \$10,000 property; crops not reported (2000 dollars)		No event record names a jurisdiction in the plan.	Storm Events lists lightning with damage or casualties.
High Wind and Strong Wind (outside NRI's Strong Wind definition)	wind speed (kt and mph)	11 records, 2011 to 2025 (11 zone-level)	39 kt (45 mph) to 60 kt (69 mph) (median 52 kt (60 mph)); 11 with a recorded value	60 kt (69 mph) measured gust, High Wind, 2025-02-16; NWS zone VAZ503		Countywide (zone-level records).	
Thunderstorm Wind	wind speed (kt and mph)	45 records, 1974 to 2025	50 kt (58 mph) to 65 kt (75 mph) (median 52 kt (60 mph)); 34 with a recorded value	65 kt (75 mph) estimated gust, Thunderstorm Wind, 2020-04-08		Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Monterey town (8 records).	
Tornado	Enhanced Fujita (Fujita before Feb 2007)	1 record, 1959		no rating recorded tornado, 1959-04-28, 33 yd wide, \$2,500 property; crops not recorded (1959 dollars)		No event record names a jurisdiction in the plan.	Before 1996 a tornado is listed once, under the county where it began, with its whole path's rating and length; from 1996 on, each county lists its own segment. Length is not used to rank tornadoes (see Methods).
Wildfire	acres burned (local data)	0					
Winter Storm, Heavy Snow, Blizzard, Lake-Effect Snow, Winter Weather, Sleet	none in data (snowfall: local data)	203 records, 2010 to 2026 (203 zone-level)		No damage reported in 203 records.		Countywide (zone-level records).	

In event narratives only (local data needed): wind chill, temperature, heat index, ice thickness, acres burned and snow depth; any physical measure of avalanche, debris flow and lightning.

Storm Events records are more complete after 1996; before 1996 only Tornado (from 1950), Hail and Thunderstorm Wind (from 1955) exist. Zone-level records from zones that no NWS zone-county file places in this county (mostly before 2020) are not counted here (the Methods page explains the zone matching).

Dollars are nominal (as reported), labeled with the year; not adjusted for inflation.

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-d: previous occurrences

Federal declarations for this county: 22 declarations covering 18 separate hazard incidents counted in this packet (declarations for the same incident count once; non-natural and evacuation-only declarations are not counted).

Federal disaster declarations for this county

Sources: 1, 2, 3

Declared	Incident began	FEMA number	Type	Title	Mapped hazard	County Public Assistance <i>federal share obligated, nominal dollars</i>	Flags	Notes
2026-01-23	2026-01-22	EM-3631-VA	Emergency	Severe Winter Storm	Winter Weather	no Public Assistance recorded	in the 12 months before plan approval; within last 5 years	
2020-04-02	2020-01-20	DR-4512-VA	Major disaster	COVID-19 Pandemic	Non-natural, not counted	no Public Assistance recorded		
2020-03-13	2020-01-20	EM-3448-VA	Emergency	COVID-19	Non-natural, not counted	no Public Assistance recorded		same incident as DR-4512
2018-09-11	2018-09-13	EM-3403-VA	Emergency	Hurricane Florence	Hurricane	no Public Assistance recorded		
2016-03-07	2016-01-22	DR-4262-VA	Major disaster	Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm	Winter Weather	no Public Assistance recorded		
2012-11-26	2012-10-26	DR-4092-VA	Major disaster	Hurricane Sandy	Hurricane	\$1,031.92		
2012-10-29	2012-10-26	EM-3359-VA	Emergency	Hurricane Sandy	Hurricane	no Public Assistance recorded		same incident as DR-4092
2012-07-27	2012-06-29	DR-4072-VA	Major disaster	Severe Storms and Straight-Line Winds	Strong Wind	\$43,257.39		
2010-04-27	2010-02-05	DR-1905-VA	Major disaster	Severe Winter Storms and Snowstorms	Winter Weather	no Public Assistance recorded		
2010-02-16	2009-12-18	DR-1874-VA	Major disaster	Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm	Winter Weather	no Public Assistance recorded		
2006-07-13	2006-06-23	DR-1655-VA	Major disaster	Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding	Inland Flooding; Tornado	no Public Assistance recorded		
2005-09-12	2005-08-29	EM-3240-VA	Emergency	Hurricane Katrina Evacuation	Hurricane: evacuation support, not a local hazard event; not counted	no Public Assistance recorded		
2003-09-18	2003-09-18	DR-1491-VA	Major disaster	Hurricane Isabel	Hurricane	no Public Assistance recorded		
2003-03-27	2003-02-15	DR-1458-VA	Major disaster	Severe Winter Storm, Record/Near Record Snowfall, Heavy Rain, Flooding, and Mudslide	Inland Flooding; Landslide; Winter Weather	no Public Assistance recorded		
2000-02-28	2000-01-25	DR-1318-VA	Major disaster	Severe Winter Storms	Winter Weather	no Public Assistance recorded		

Declared	Incident began	FEMA number	Type	Title	Mapped hazard	County Public Assistance	Flags	Notes
						<i>federal share obligated, nominal dollars</i>		
1996-09-06	1996-09-05	DR-1135-VA	Major disaster	Hurricane Fran and Associated Severe Storm Cond	Hurricane	no Public Assistance recorded		
1996-01-27	1996-01-19	DR-1098-VA	Major disaster	Flooding, High Winds, and Wind Driven Rain	Inland Flooding (primary); also designated: Strong Wind	no Public Assistance recorded		
1996-01-13	1996-01-06	DR-1086-VA	Major disaster	Blizzard of 96 (Severe Snow Storm)	Winter Weather	no Public Assistance recorded		
1994-04-11	1994-03-01	DR-1021-VA	Major disaster	Severe Winter Ice Storm	Ice Storm; Winter Weather	no Public Assistance recorded		
1993-03-25	1993-03-13	EM-3112-VA	Emergency	Severe Winter Storm	Winter Weather	no Public Assistance recorded		
1985-11-09	1985-11-09	DR-755-VA	Major disaster	Severe Storms & Flooding	Inland Flooding	no Public Assistance recorded		
1977-07-23	1977-07-23	EM-3046-VA	Emergency	Drought	Drought	no Public Assistance recorded		

County Public Assistance: applicants the FEMA record places in this county, including any state agencies FEMA files there; statewide rows are listed on the state page; federal share obligated, nominal dollars.

Statewide declarations

Source: 2

Declared	Incident began	FEMA number	Type	Title	Mapped hazard
1963-03-21	1963-03-21	DR-149-VA	Major disaster	Floods	Inland Flooding
1962-03-09	1962-03-09	DR-123-VA	Major disaster	Severe Storms, High Tides & Flooding	Inland Flooding (primary); also designated: Coastal Flooding
1957-02-01	1957-02-01	DR-68-VA	Major disaster	Floods	Inland Flooding

FEMA recorded these with designated area Statewide and no county, so they are listed on every county page in the state and not counted with county rows. Local data needed: whether each one affected this county.

Previous occurrences by hazard, with explicit no-event rows

Sources: 2, 6, 7

Hazard	Storm Events records, all years on file <i>(years in the Period column)</i>	Since plan approval records	In the 12 months before plan approval records	Last 5 years records	Declared incidents, all years <i>separate disasters</i>	Declared since approval <i>separate disasters</i>	Period	Statement
Avalanche	0	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Cold Wave	86	0	7	22	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	Includes 37 Frost/Freeze records.
Drought	0	0	0	0	1	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No Storm Events records of this type; 1 federal declared incident (see declarations table)
Earthquake	0	0	0	0	0	0		Storm Events does not record earthquakes; the USGS earthquake catalog is the source.
Hail	25	0	0	2	0	0	1955 to 2026-06-30	

Hazard	Storm Events records, all years on file <i>(years in the Period column)</i>	Since plan approval <i>records</i>	In the 12 months before plan approval <i>records</i>	Last 5 years <i>records</i>	Declared incidents, all years <i>separate disasters</i>	Declared since approval <i>separate disasters</i>	Period	Statement
Heat Wave	0	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Hurricane	0	0	0	0	4	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No Storm Events records of this type; 4 federal declared incidents (see declarations table)
Ice Storm	3	0	0	2	1	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Inland Flooding	28	0	4	4	4	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Landslide	0	0	0	0	1	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No Storm Events records of this type; 1 federal declared incident (see declarations table)
Lightning	2	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Strong Wind	56	0	0	17	2	0	1955 to 2026-06-30	Includes 11 High Wind records.
Tornado	1	0	0	0	1	0	1950 to 2026-06-30	
Wildfire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Winter Weather	203	0	14	75	9	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	

Notable Storm Events records

Sources: 1, 6, 7

Date	Event type	Magnitude or extent	Damage <i>nominal dollars</i>	Deaths, injuries <i>direct only</i>	Location	Flags	Why listed
2026-01-23	Extreme Cold/ Wind Chill		damage not reported	0, 0	NWS zone VAZ504 (EASTERN HIGHLAND), zone-level	in the 12 months before plan approval; within last 5 years	B1-c worst recorded: Cold/Wind Chill, Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
2025-02-16	High Wind	60 kt (69 mph) measured gust	\$0 property; \$0 crops (zone total, 2025 dollars)	0, 0	NWS zone VAZ503 (WESTERN HIGHLAND), zone-level	within last 5 years	B1-c worst recorded: High Wind and Strong Wind
2023-08-07	Hail	2.5 in	damage not reported	0, 0	MC DOWELL	within last 5 years	B1-c worst recorded: Hail
2023-08-07	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kt (64 mph) estimated gust	\$25,000 property; crops not reported (2023 dollars)	0, 0	MILL GAP	within last 5 years	large reported damage
2023-08-07	Thunderstorm Wind	61 kt (70 mph) estimated gust	\$50,000 property; crops not reported (2023 dollars)	0, 0	BLUE GRASS	within last 5 years	large reported damage
2020-04-08	Thunderstorm Wind	65 kt (75 mph) estimated gust	\$100,000 property; crops not reported (2020 dollars)	0, 0	MONTEREY		B1-c worst recorded: Thunderstorm Wind
2003-09-18	Flash Flood		\$50,000 property; crops not reported (2003 dollars)	0, 0	COUNTYWIDE		large reported damage
2000-08-09	Lightning		\$10,000 property; crops not reported (2000 dollars)	0, 0	BLUE GRASS		B1-c worst recorded: Lightning
1998-06-16	Thunderstorm Wind	speed not recorded	\$15,000 property; \$25,000 crops (1998 dollars)	0, 0	COUNTYWIDE		large reported damage
1996-09-06	Flash Flood		\$1,000,000 property; \$50,000 crops (1996 dollars)	1, 0	COUNTYWIDE		deaths or injuries recorded
1996-05-16	Flash Flood		\$100,000 property; crops not reported (1996 dollars)	0, 0	COUNTYWIDE		large reported damage
1959-04-28	Tornado	no rating recorded, 33 yd wide	\$2,500 property; crops not recorded (1959 dollars)	0, 0	location not recorded		B1-c worst recorded: Tornado

The full list is in the Excel file, sheet "B1-d Storm Events history" (404 rows).

Location is the place NOAA recorded, as written in its data; it need not be a jurisdiction in this plan.

Local data needed: state-declared emergencies, from your state emergency management agency (federal data do not include them).

Tribal and special-area declarations in this state are listed on the state page.

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-e: probability of future events

Probability: FEMA annualized frequency and descriptor per hazard

Sources: 5, 6

Hazard	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled) <i>unit per row</i>	Unit	In plain terms	Descriptor	Descriptor basis	NRI events or days in its record period (hail, wind and tornado are area-weighted, so can be fractional)	NRI period	Location	Note
Avalanche	0.01	events per year	about 1 in 100 years	Possible	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	0	1994 to 2023 (30 years)	see B1-f	0.01 is NRI's minimum avalanche frequency for a county in an avalanche susceptibility zone; NRI records no avalanche here, so the descriptor reflects the floor, not local events.
Cold Wave	7.46	event-days per year	about 7.46 days per year	Likely	Storm Events event-days in 14 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (46.7%)	142	2005-11-12 to 2024-11-12 (19 years)	countywide	
Drought	3.88	event-days per year	about 3.88 days per year		Storm Events event-days in 0 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (0%)	98	2000 to 2025 (25.25 years; D3 and D4 only)	countywide	No Storm Events drought record, 1996 to 2025
Earthquake	0.000735	annual probability at a location	chance a given location in the county has at least minor-damage shaking in a year: 0.0735%			not shown	modeled	see B1-f	No descriptor (Storm Events does not record earthquakes).
Hail	1.74	events per year	about 1.74 per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	66.0 (modeled)	1986 to 2023 (38 years)	countywide	
Heat Wave	0.109	event-days per year	about 0.109 days per year		Storm Events event-days in 0 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (0%)	0.737	2005-11-12 to 2024-11-12 (19 years)	countywide	No Storm Events heat wave record, 1996 to 2025
Hurricane	0.0197	events per year	about 1 in 51 years	Possible	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	10	1851 to 2024 (Atlantic)	see B1-f	NRI counts hurricane and tropical storm tracks passing within storm-force wind range; federal declarations are in B1-d.
Ice Storm	0.3	event-days per year	about 0.3 days per year	Likely	Storm Events event-days in 3 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (10%)	21	1946-12-31 to 2014-02-12 (67 years)	countywide	
Inland Flooding	0.607	event-days per year	about 0.607 days per year	Likely	Storm Events event-days in 10 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (33.3%)	17	1996 to 2023 (28 years)	see B1-f	

Hazard	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled) <i>unit per row</i>	Unit	In plain terms	Descriptor	Descriptor basis	NRI events or days in its record period (hail, wind and tornado are area-weighted, so can be fractional)	NRI period	Location	Note
Landslide	1.02	events per year (modeled)	about 1.02 per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	modeled	see B1-f	
Lightning	39.8	days per year with a strike	about 39.8 days per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	1995 to 2023 (29 years; CONUS)	countywide	
Strong Wind	1.74	events per year	about 1.74 per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	67	1986 to 2023 (38 years)	countywide	
Tornado	0.0425	events per year	about 1 in 24 years	Possible	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	1950 to 2023 (EF2+); 1986 to 2023 (EF0-1)	see B1-f	
Wildfire	0.00121	annual probability at a location	chance a given location in the county burns in a year: 0.121%		Storm Events records in 0 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (0%)	not shown	modeled	see B1-f	No descriptor: no Storm Events record 1996 to 2025
Winter Weather	22.6	event-days per year	about 22.6 days per year	Likely	Storm Events event-days in 16 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (53.3%)	430	2005-11-12 to 2024-11-12 (19 years)	countywide	

FEMA annualized frequency (modeled) is the National Risk Index v1.20 (December 2025) estimate of how often a hazard affects this county in a year; it is not recorded events divided by years, and its unit differs by hazard (events, event-days, or days with a lightning strike per year). For earthquake, wildfire, coastal flooding and tsunami the value is the chance (or number of events) at a location in the county, not across the county, so no "1 in N years" is given and the descriptor comes from Storm Events where it has a record (none for earthquake). The Methods page gives each hazard's method, from FEMA's National Risk Index Technical Documentation v1.20.

Where NRI gives event-days, the descriptor comes from the share of years with a Storm Events record; NRI's source records more events, so the two differ.

Descriptor scale used in this packet (defined per unit)

Sources: 5, 6

Unit	Descriptor	Definition
events per year	Highly likely	1 or more per year
events per year	Likely	about once in 1 to 10 years
events per year	Possible	about once in 10 to 100 years
events per year	Unlikely	less than once in 100 years
annual probability	Likely	10% to under 100% chance in a given year
annual probability	Possible	1% to under 10% chance in a given year
annual probability	Unlikely	under 1% chance in a given year
event-days (share of years)	Highly likely	event-days recorded in 90% or more of years
event-days (share of years)	Likely	event-days recorded in 10% to under 90% of years
event-days (share of years)	Possible	event-days recorded in some years but under 10% of years
lightning strike-days	Highly likely	cloud-to-ground strikes on 1 or more days per year

Intensity bands: historical frequency (Storm Events)

Source: 6

Hazard	Band	Years	Events <i>county-coded records</i>	Years in period	Events per year <i>events / years</i>
Hail	1.00-1.99 in	1996 to 2025	20	30	0.667
Hail	2.00 in+	1996 to 2025	2	30	0.0667
Thunderstorm Wind (counted as NRI Strong Wind)	50-64 kt	1996 to 2025	33	30	1.1
Thunderstorm Wind (counted as NRI Strong Wind)	65 kt+	1996 to 2025	1	30	0.0333
Thunderstorm Wind (counted as NRI Strong Wind)	unmeasured or below 50 kt	1996 to 2025	5	30	0.167
Tornado	EF0-1	1996 to 2025	0	30	0
Tornado	EF2-3	1996 to 2025	0	30	0
Tornado	EF4-5	1996 to 2025	0	30	0
Tornado	unrated (EFU)	1996 to 2025	0	30	0

The bands show how often events of each severity were recorded in this county, to profile how severe events have been (FEMA's probability item asks for the range of intensities).

Hail smaller than 1 inch is not counted: on 2010-01-05 the National Weather Service raised its severe-hail threshold from 3/4 inch to 1 inch, so smaller reports became less common after 2009 (NWS Service Change Notice 09-52). NRI hail frequency uses a 0.75 inch threshold.

Optional: future conditions. Not a required item in the 2025 FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide; some states ask for it. The federal Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation (CMRA) site gives county exposure to future climate conditions (<https://resilience.climate.gov/>).

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-f: hazards that vary across jurisdictions

NRI risk score of the county's single census tract

Source: 5

Hazard	Tract score	Rating
	NRI score, 0 to 100	
Avalanche	53.3	Very Low
Cold Wave	90.9	Relatively High
Drought	98.1	Relatively High
Earthquake	35.1	Very Low
Hail	69.3	Relatively Low
Heat Wave	2.1	Very Low
Hurricane	65.0	Relatively Low
Ice Storm	20.5	Very Low
Inland Flooding	90.9	Relatively High
Landslide	98.4	Relatively Moderate
Lightning	93.9	Relatively High
Strong Wind	80.6	Relatively Moderate
Tornado	19.8	Very Low
Wildfire	79.2	Relatively Low
Winter Weather	83.4	Relatively High

The score ranks a tract against all U.S. tracts (100 = highest). The rating is FEMA's category for the tract's risk value, computed differently, so the two can disagree.

Each jurisdiction (starting figures from federal data)

Sources: 1, 3, 4, 6

Jurisdiction	Type	Plan status	Repetitive loss	Public Assistance to this jurisdiction	Event records naming this place
			FMA RL and SRL (44 CFR 77.2); repeat-flood, any definition	FEMA records matched by applicant name; federal share obligated, nominal dollars	all years; since its plan
Highland County	County	Approved, expires 2031-06-01	FMA RL 0, SRL 0; any 0	\$43,516.70	0 total; 0 since its plan
Monterey town	Town	Plan 111195 approved 2026-06-02, pending adoption here; not yet eligible	FMA RL 0, SRL 0; any 0	no Public Assistance recorded	14 total; no approved plan

Repetitive-loss counts are for whole NFIP communities, which can extend beyond this county (see the note in B2-c).

County Public Assistance in B1-d also includes applicants filed under the county that are not jurisdictions in this plan (for example state agencies, special districts and nonprofits), so the jurisdiction rows add up to less.

Supports FEMA checklist items B2-a and B2-b: vulnerability and potential impacts

Local data needed

The table below gives county-level starting figures; the plan describes impacts for each jurisdiction and its own assets.

- Critical facilities and lifelines per hazard
- A problem statement per jurisdiction per hazard
- Changes in development in hazard-prone areas since the last approval, or a statement of none (E1-a)
- Future assets

County-level starter: exposure, expected annual loss and damage since the plan

Sources: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

Hazard	Building exposure <i>modeled dollars</i>	Agriculture exposure <i>modeled dollars</i>	Population exposed <i>people</i>	EAL buildings <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL agriculture <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Cost of expected deaths and injuries <i>FEMA's dollar value per year, not property damage</i>	EAL as % of exposure <i>buildings; agriculture where noted</i>	Storm Events damage since 2026-06-02 <i>county-coded records, property plus crops, nominal dollars</i>	Zone-level damage since plan <i>property plus crops, reported for the zone</i>	Public Assistance since plan <i>nominal dollars; see note</i>	Note
Avalanche	\$0	n/a	under 1	\$0	n/a	\$1,666					building exposure is 0 in NRI
Cold Wave	\$762,527,288	\$33,625,299	2,232	\$69,385	\$81,951	\$132,087	0.0091%				
Drought	n/a	\$1,009,200	n/a	n/a	\$293,725	n/a	29.1% (agriculture)				NRI has no building exposure for this hazard; agriculture shown
Earthquake	\$1,292,387,814	n/a	2,232	\$10,739	n/a	\$2,226	0.000831%				
Hail	\$762,527,288	\$33,625,299	2,232	\$9,635	\$575	\$7,376	0.00126%				
Heat Wave	\$603,786,059	\$20,533,999	1,741	under \$1	\$1	\$554	under 0.0001%				
Hurricane	\$762,527,288	\$33,607,552	2,232	\$19,177	\$14,170	\$408	0.00251%				
Ice Storm	\$762,527,288	n/a	2,232	\$1,093	n/a	\$197	0.000143%				
Inland Flooding	\$761,597,287	\$2,534,569	88	\$1,368,525	\$15,066	\$27,779	n/a (see note)				NRI counts the full building value of any census block with some flood loss; this is not the value of buildings in the floodplain. Use local FIRM overlays for B2-a/B2-b.
Landslide	\$86,638,290	n/a	288	\$1,792	n/a	\$12,824	0.00207%				
Lightning	\$762,527,288	n/a	2,232	\$997	n/a	\$49,024	0.000131%				
Strong Wind	\$762,527,288	\$33,625,299	2,232	\$16,023	\$15,897	\$14,804	0.0021%				
Tornado	\$762,527,288	\$33,625,299	2,232	\$5,210	\$281	\$1,629	0.000683%				

Hazard	Building exposure <i>modeled dollars</i>	Agriculture exposure <i>modeled dollars</i>	Population exposed <i>people</i>	EAL buildings <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL agriculture <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Cost of expected deaths and injuries <i>FEMA's dollar value per year, not property damage</i>	EAL as % of exposure <i>buildings; agriculture where noted</i>	Storm Events damage since 2026-06-02 <i>county-coded records, property plus crops, nominal dollars</i>	Zone-level damage since plan <i>property plus crops, reported for the zone</i>	Public Assistance since plan <i>nominal dollars; see note</i>	Note
Wildfire	\$28,839,501	\$10,222,391	554	\$3,114	\$89	\$1,008	0.0108%				
Winter Weather	\$762,527,288	\$33,625,299	2,232	\$7,534	\$8	\$1,858	0.000988%				

Totals since 2026-06-02 (Storm Events through 2026-06-30): 0 county-coded records, 0 with a damage value recorded (including \$0), \$0; 0 zone-level records, 0 with a damage value recorded (including \$0), \$0 reported for the zone; Public Assistance: no counted declaration since the plan.

FEMA does not split Public Assistance by hazard. A declaration mapped to several hazards is listed under each of them with its full amount, so the per-hazard column does not add up to the total; the unit total counts each declaration once.

NRI computes earthquake exposure on its own basis, so it exceeds the county building value in B2-a.

Supports FEMA checklist item B2-a: vulnerability (county context)

County context

Source: 5

Measure	Value
Population	2,232
Building value (total, not at risk)	\$762,527,288
Agriculture value (total, not at risk)	\$33,625,299
NRI risk rating (all hazards)	Very Low
Expected annual loss, buildings and agriculture, all hazards	\$1,934,987
Expected annual loss, population equivalence, all hazards (NRI values each statistical life at \$13.7M; a modeled value of expected deaths and injuries, not property damage)	\$253,440
Social vulnerability rating	Relatively Moderate
Community resilience rating	Relatively High
NRI version	December 2025

FEMA's all-hazard expected annual loss adds buildings, agriculture and population equivalence; this table gives the property part and the population-equivalence part as separate rows.

Social vulnerability: higher means people are more likely to be harmed and slower to recover. Community resilience: lower means the community is less able to recover. High social vulnerability and low resilience both raise the NRI risk rating.

Supports FEMA checklist item B2-c: repetitive loss properties

Repetitive loss in this county, both definitions

Sources: 1, 4

Definition	Properties	Severe repetitive loss	Properties
Repetitive loss, FMA definition (44 CFR 77.2)	0	Severe repetitive loss, FMA definition (44 CFR 77.2)	0
Repetitive loss, NFIP insurance definition	0	Severe repetitive loss, NFIP insurance definition	0

The state NFIP coordinator's list, the source FEMA's Handbook names, often uses the NFIP insurance definition (second row).

Repeat-flood properties: county and state-level rows

Sources: 1, 4

Scope	RL, FMA <i>properties</i>	SRL, FMA <i>properties</i>	RL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	SRL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	Any category <i>properties</i>	Mitigated <i>properties</i>	Currently insured <i>properties</i>
County total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide, no county in FEMA's file	0	0	4	0	4	0	0

The statewide row counts properties FEMA's file gives with no county in this state; they are listed for reference and are not in this county's counts.

Repeat-flood properties by jurisdiction in the plan (NFIP community)

Sources: 1, 4

Jurisdiction	NFIP community ID	RL, FMA <i>properties</i>	SRL, FMA <i>properties</i>	RL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	SRL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	Any category <i>properties</i>	Mitigated <i>properties</i>	Currently insured <i>properties</i>
Highland County	510311	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monterey town	510379	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Counts by occupancy group for each jurisdiction are in the Excel file, sheet "B2-c Jurisdictions".

Jurisdiction rows are whole NFIP communities and need not add up to the county total: a community that extends into another county is counted in full on each jurisdiction row, while the county table counts only its part in this county.

County repeat-flood properties by occupancy group: 0 in every occupancy group.

Sources: 1, 4

FMA RL and FMA SRL are the Flood Mitigation Assistance definitions (44 CFR 77.2), the ones the FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide cites. NFIP repetitive loss (the FEMA insurance definition) is 2 or more claims over \$1,000 in 10 years, and a property can leave that group once it is mitigated. Also shown: NFIP severe repetitive loss, any category, mitigated and currently insured. The Methods page gives the OpenFEMA field details.

Counts are aggregates of FEMA's public NFIP Multiple Loss Properties file (FEMA's data date 2026-08-02; file version 2026-08-04). No property is identified. County assignment is FEMA's geocode.

In this county 0 properties are FMA repetitive loss but not NFIP repetitive loss, and 0 properties are NFIP repetitive loss but not FMA repetitive loss.

Exact counts; no count suppression.

Sources

Tables cite these sources by number. The full list, for the plan's bibliography (FEMA review item A4-a):

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 2. FEMA, OpenFEMA DisasterDeclarationsSummaries v2, version 2026-09-29T162832Z, pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v2/DisasterDeclarationsSummaries> (API)
 3. FEMA, OpenFEMA PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries v1, version 2026-09-29T150754Z, pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries> (API)
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 5. FEMA, FEMA National Risk Index 1.20.0 (December 2025), county and census tract tables, version 1.20.0, pulled 2026-09-30, https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_Counties.zip (download, 25 MB), https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_CensusTracts.zip (download, 635 MB)
 6. NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>
 7. NOAA National Weather Service, NWS county-public forecast zones correlation file, version bp03mr20 to bp16ap26 (11 files; newest bp16ap26), pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.weather.gov/gis/ZoneCounty>
 8. U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2024 Gazetteer, 2020 place by county, CT county-to-cousub crosswalk, version 2024-gazetteer, pulled 2026-09-30, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gazetteer/2024_Gaz_counties_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_cousubs_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_place_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_unsd_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_elsd_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_scsd_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/codes2020/national_place_by_county2020.txt, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ct_change/ct_cou_to_cousub_crosswalk.xlsx (used to match place names and codes; no table prints its values)
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What this packet is and what the plan adds

This packet is the federal data for the plan's risk assessment (the summary on page 1 says how it is organized); the plan and FEMA's review decide whether each item is met.

The plan adds what only the community has: local data on assets, critical facilities, development and each jurisdiction's impacts; local hazard history, including state-declared emergencies; the mitigation strategy; and adoption.

How the federal data are built: National Risk Index values are FEMA's model, not counts of events. Storm Events is more complete from 1996; zone-level records are placed by forecast zone, not by location in the county. Public Assistance for a jurisdiction is matched by applicant name. The Methods page gives every rule and the known edge cases.

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Cite this: Hazard Plain (2026). Highland County, VA: risk-assessment baseline packet, release 2026-10 (data as of 2026-09-30; County FIPS 51091). Automated baseline. <https://hazardplain.org/va/51091/> Built from FEMA OpenFEMA, the FEMA National Risk Index and NOAA NCEI Storm Events; source versions in the packet's Sources list.

Corrections: to report an error, name the packet, the table and what your records show. Contact: contact@hazardplain.org