

Liberty County, MT

Risk-assessment baseline packet

County FIPS: 30051 Release: 2026-10 Data as of: 2026-09-30 Storm Events data through: 2026-06-30

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Summary

Plan status as of 2026-09-30: Approved, expires 2029-10-11. Plan: Central Montana Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024 (FEMA plan 109563), approved 2024-10-12.

Since the plan was approved on 2024-10-12: no new federal declaration.

NOAA Storm Events records since that date: 71 records (data through 2026-06-30).

Highest expected annual loss (FEMA National Risk Index, modeled total; see B1-a): Cold Wave (\$1,377,072 a year), Inland Flooding (\$1,231,243) and Drought (\$52,752).

Repetitive-loss flood properties now: FMA RL 0, SRL 0 (44 CFR 77.2); any definition: 0.

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; 30051 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 2029-10-11	Plan:	Central Montana Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024 (FEMA plan 109563)
Approved:	2024-10-12	Days to expiry:	1,107

What changed since your last plan (approved 2024-10-12)

New federal declarations:	none	Storm Events records since approval:	71 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>	Notes
Liberty County	County	Approved, expires 2029-10-11	Central Montana Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024 (FEMA plan 109563)	2024-10-12	2029-10-11	1,107	this jurisdiction approved 2024-10-15
Chester town	Town	Approved, expires 2029-10-11	Central Montana Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024 (FEMA plan 109563)	2024-10-12	2029-10-11	1,107	this jurisdiction approved 2024-12-13

Plan 109563 covers 41 other participants, 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>	Why this hazard can be left out <i>NRI Not Applicable, no declaration and no Storm Events record since 1996</i>	Storm Events coverage note
1	Cold Wave	Relatively Low	Relatively Moderate	\$5,473	\$702,722	\$668,876	\$1,377,072	19		
2	Inland Flooding	Very Low	Very Low	\$1,231,065	\$2	\$176	\$1,231,243	2		
3	Drought	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	n/a	\$52,752	n/a	\$52,752	0		No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).
4	Winter Weather	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$25,452	\$148	\$21,887	\$47,487	44		
5	Hail	Very Low	Very Low	\$13,258	\$18,698	\$876	\$32,831	39		
6	Strong Wind	Very Low	Very Low	\$4,554	\$5,085	\$7,578	\$17,218	307		Includes 223 High Wind and 2 Strong Wind records (NOAA non-thunderstorm wind types, outside NRI's Strong Wind definition).
7	Earthquake	Very Low	Very Low	\$12,542	n/a	\$1,681	\$14,223			Storm Events does not record earthquakes.
8	Heat Wave	Very Low	Very Low	\$5	\$3,781	\$7,313	\$11,099	0		No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).
9	Lightning	Very Low	Very Low	\$841	n/a	\$9,665	\$10,506	1		
10	Tornado	Very Low	Very Low	\$7,085	\$130	\$864	\$8,079	2		
11	Wildfire	Very Low	Very Low	\$4,762	\$11	\$115	\$4,888	0		Declared 1 time; no Storm Events record of this type.

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>	Why this hazard can be left out <i>NRI Not Applicable, no declaration and no Storm Events record since 1996</i>	Storm Events coverage note
12	Ice Storm	Very Low	Very Low	\$1,104	n/a	\$133	\$1,237	0		No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).
13	Landslide	Very Low	Very Low	\$11	n/a	\$5	\$16	0		Declared 1 time; no Storm Events record of this type.
14	Avalanche	Very Low	Very Low	\$0	n/a	\$2	\$2	1		
	Hurricane	Not Applicable	Not Applicable					0	NRI rates hurricane Not Applicable for this county, and no counted federal declaration for this county names it (EM-3253-MT names it but is not counted as a local occurrence; see B1-d).	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 wildfire and landslide 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 501 (Very Low, 2.2)
Earthquake	tract 501 (Very Low, 39.2)
Hurricane	no tract has a National Risk Index rating for this hazard
Landslide	tract 501 (Very Low, 69.1)
Tornado	tract 501 (Very Low, 23.4)
Wildfire	tract 501 (Relatively Low, 81.0)

A tract number is the Census tract number (for example 501 is Census Tract 501). 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)	1 record, 2021 (1 zone-level)		No damage reported in 1 record.		Countywide (zone-level records).	Physical measure: in event narratives only (local data needed).
Cold/Wind Chill, Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	wind chill	19 records, 2014 to 2026 (19 zone-level)	1 day to 5 days (median 1 day); 18 with a recorded value	5 consecutive days, 2022-12-19 to 2022-12-23, zone-level		Countywide (zone-level records).	Wind chill: in event narratives only (local data needed).
Frost/Freeze (outside NRI's Cold Wave definition)	crop damage	0					Temperature: in event narratives only (local data needed).

Hazard	Scale	Records <i>count and years</i>	Observed range	Worst recorded event	Most damaging (when different)	How it applies to jurisdictions	Note
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)	53 records, 1956 to 2026	0.75 in to 3 in (median 1 in); 53 with a recorded value	3 in hail, 1957-08-10	Hail, 1994-07-10, \$50,000 property; \$50,000 crops (1994 dollars)	Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Chester town (19 records).	
Excessive Heat, Heat	heat index (in event narratives)	0					Heat index: in event narratives only (local data needed).
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)	0					Ice thickness: in event narratives only (local data needed).
Flash Flood, Flood, Lakeshore Flood	damage and flood days (flood depth: FIRM)	2 records, 2018 to 2023		Flood, 2023-04-07, \$50,000 property; \$0 crops (2023 dollars)		Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Chester town (1 record).	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					Physical measure: in event narratives only (local data needed).

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)	1 record, 2003		No damage or casualties reported in 1 record.		Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Chester town (1 record).	Storm Events lists lightning with damage or casualties; physical measure in event narratives only (local data needed).
High Wind and Strong Wind (outside NRI's Strong Wind definition)	wind speed (kt and mph)	225 records, 1997 to 2026 (225 zone-level)	35 kt (40 mph) to 100 kt (115 mph) (median 54 kt (62 mph)); 225 with a recorded value	100 kt (115 mph) measured, High Wind, 2002-02-21; NWS zone MTZ045	High Wind, 1999-10-31, \$300,000 property; crops not reported, reported for the zone (1999 dollars)	Countywide (zone-level records).	
Thunderstorm Wind	wind speed (kt and mph)	89 records, 1980 to 2026	50 kt (58 mph) to 75 kt (86 mph) (median 54 kt (62 mph)); 83 with a recorded value	75 kt (86 mph) measured gust, Thunderstorm Wind, 2005-06-17	Thunderstorm Wind, 1993-05-16, \$500,000 property; crops not recorded (1993 dollars)	Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Chester town (27 records).	
Tornado	Enhanced Fujita (Fujita before Feb 2007)	4 records, 1977 to 1999	F/EF0 to F/EF1 (median F/EF0); 3 with a recorded value	F1 tornado, 1980-05-25, 33 yd wide, \$250,000 property; crops not recorded (1980 dollars)		Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Chester town (1 record).	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					Acres burned: in event narratives only (local data needed).
Winter Storm, Heavy Snow, Blizzard, Lake-Effect Snow, Winter Weather, Sleet	none in data (snowfall: local data)	44 records, 1997 to 2025 (44 zone-level)		No damage reported in 44 records.		Countywide (zone-level records).	Snow depth: in event narratives only (local data needed).

Storm Events records are more complete after 1996; before 1996 only Tornado (from 1950), Hail and Thunderstorm Wind (from 1955) exist. Zone-level records whose zone 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: 10 declarations covering 7 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>	Notes
2020-03-31	2020-01-20	DR-4508-MT	Major disaster	COVID-19 Pandemic	Non-natural, not counted	no Public Assistance recorded	
2020-03-13	2020-01-20	EM-3476-MT	Emergency	COVID-19	Non-natural, not counted	no Public Assistance recorded	same incident as DR-4508
2018-08-30	2018-04-12	DR-4388-MT	Major disaster	Flooding	Inland Flooding	\$469,272.34	
2016-05-24	2016-04-15	DR-4271-MT	Major disaster	Severe Winter Storm and Straight-Line Winds	Strong Wind; Winter Weather	no Public Assistance recorded	
2011-06-17	2011-04-04	DR-1996-MT	Major disaster	Severe Storms and Flooding	Inland Flooding	\$82,097.70	
2005-09-13	2005-08-29	EM-3253-MT	Emergency	Hurricane Katrina Evacuation	Hurricane: evacuation support, not a local hazard event; not counted	no Public Assistance recorded	
2002-07-03	2002-06-08	DR-1424-MT	Major disaster	Severe Storms and Flooding	Inland Flooding	\$34,684.81	
2000-08-30	2000-07-13	DR-1340-MT	Major disaster	Wildfires	Wildfire	PA not declared for this county	
1996-05-16	1996-03-01	DR-1113-MT	Major disaster	Severe Storms, Flooding, Ice Jams, Soil Saturation	Inland Flooding	no Public Assistance recorded	
1986-03-15	1986-02-24	DR-761-MT	Major disaster	Heavy Rains, Landslides & Flooding	Inland Flooding (primary); also designated: Landslide	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
1964-12-18	1964-12-18	DR-182-MT	Major disaster	Severe Winter Storm	Winter Weather
1964-06-09	1964-06-09	DR-172-MT	Major disaster	Heavy Rains & Flooding	Inland Flooding
1953-06-06	1953-06-06	DR-5-MT	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.

11 Fire Management declarations (1973-08-16 to 1996-09-06) FEMA filed as Statewide with no county; each names one local fire. Listed on the state page.

Public Assistance not placed in any Montana county: 2 rows, \$679,475.72; listed on the Montana state page.

Source: 3

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 <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
Avalanche	1	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Cold Wave	19	8	1	14	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Drought	0	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Earthquake	0	0	0	0	0	0		Storm Events does not record earthquakes; the USGS earthquake catalog is the source.
Hail	53	1	0	5	0	0	1955 to 2026-06-30	
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	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Ice Storm	0	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Inland Flooding	2	0	0	1	5	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	1	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Strong Wind	314	59	30	138	1	0	1955 to 2026-06-30	Includes 223 High Wind and 2 Strong Wind records.
Tornado	4	0	0	0	0	0	1950 to 2026-06-30	
Wildfire	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)
Winter Weather	44	3	3	10	1	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
2023-04-07	Flood		\$50,000 property; \$0 crops (2023 dollars)	0, 0	LOTHAIR	within last 5 years	B1-c worst recorded: Flash Flood, Flood, Lakeshore Flood
2022-12-19	Extreme Cold/ Wind Chill		\$0 property; \$0 crops, reported for the zone (2022 dollars)	0, 0	NWS zone MTZ304 (EASTERN TOOLE AND LIBERTY), zone-level	within last 5 years	B1-c worst recorded: Cold/Wind Chill, Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
2005-06-17	Thunderstorm Wind	75 kt (86 mph) measured gust	damage not reported	0, 0	LOTHAIR		B1-c worst recorded: Thunderstorm Wind
2002-02-21	High Wind	100 kt (115 mph) measured	damage not reported	0, 0	NWS zone MTZ045 (LIBERTY), zone-level		B1-c worst recorded: High Wind and Strong Wind
1999-10-31	High Wind	66 kt (76 mph), measurement type not recorded	\$300,000 property; crops not reported, reported for the zone (1999 dollars)	0, 0	Storm Events area EASTERN GLACIER / EASTERN PONDERA / TOOLE / LIBERTY (legacy zone code MTZ010), zone-level		B1-c most damaging: High Wind and Strong Wind
1994-07-10	Thunderstorm Wind	speed not recorded	\$50,000 property; \$50,000 crops (1994 dollars)	0, 0	Chester		large reported damage
1994-07-10	Hail	1 in	\$50,000 property; \$50,000 crops (1994 dollars)	0, 0	Chester		B1-c most damaging: Hail
1993-05-16	Thunderstorm Wind	speed not recorded	\$500,000 property; crops not recorded (1993 dollars)	0, 0	Near Joplin		B1-c most damaging: Thunderstorm Wind
1993-05-16	Thunderstorm Wind	65 kt (75 mph), measurement type not recorded	\$5,000 property; crops not recorded (1993 dollars)	0, 0	Chester		large reported damage
1980-05-25	Tornado	F1, 33 yd wide	\$250,000 property; crops not recorded (1980 dollars)	0, 0	location not recorded		B1-c worst recorded: Tornado
1977-05-24	Tornado	no rating recorded, 33 yd wide	\$25,000 property; crops not recorded (1977 dollars)	0, 0	location not recorded		large reported damage
1957-08-10	Hail	3 in	damage not recorded (pre-1996 record)	0, 0	location not recorded		B1-c worst recorded: Hail

The full list is in the Excel file, sheet "B1-d Storm Events history" (438 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	10.3	event-days per year	about 10.3 days per year	Likely (from Storm Events: 8 of 30 years)	event-days in 8 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (26.7%)	196	2005-11-12 to 2024-11-12 (19 years)	countywide	
Drought	63.7	event-days per year	about 63.7 days per year		event-days in 0 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (0%)	1,610	2000 to 2025 (25.25 years; D3 and D4 only)	countywide	No Storm Events drought record, 1996 to 2025
Earthquake	0.000836	annual probability at a location	chance a given location in the county has at least minor-damage shaking in a year: 0.0836%			not shown	modeled	see B1-f	No descriptor (Storm Events does not record earthquakes).
Hail	0.616	events per year	about 0.62 per year	Likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	23.5 (modeled)	1986 to 2023 (38 years)	countywide	
Heat Wave	1.16	event-days per year	about 1.16 days per year		event-days in 0 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (0%)	20	2005-11-12 to 2024-11-12 (19 years)	countywide	No Storm Events heat wave record, 1996 to 2025
Hurricane		events per year					1851 to 2024 (Atlantic)	see B1-f	Not Applicable in NRI for this county; no descriptor.
Ice Storm	0.0149	event-days per year	about 0.0149 days per year		event-days in 0 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (0%)	0	1946-12-31 to 2014-02-12 (67 years)	countywide	No Storm Events ice storm record, 1996 to 2025
Inland Flooding	0.0714	event-days per year	about 0.0714 days per year	Possible (from Storm Events: 2 of 30 years)	event-days in 2 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (6.67%)	2	1996 to 2023 (28 years)	see B1-f	
Landslide	0.252	events per year (modeled)	about 1 in 4 years	Likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	modeled	see B1-f	
Lightning	20.8	days per year with a strike	about 20.8 days per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	1995 to 2023 (29 years; CONUS)	countywide	

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
Strong Wind	0.62	events per year	about 0.62 per year	Likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	24	1986 to 2023 (38 years)	countywide	
Tornado	0.0468	events per year	about 1 in 21 years	Possible	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	1950 to 2023 (EF2+); 1986 to 2023 (EF0-1)	see B1-f	
Wildfire	0.000134	annual probability at a location	chance a given location in the county burns in a year: 0.0134%		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	20.7	event-days per year	about 20.7 days per year	Likely (from Storm Events: 23 of 30 years)	event-days in 23 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (76.7%)	393	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	19	30	0.633
Hail	2.00 in+	1996 to 2025	3	30	0.1
Thunderstorm Wind (counted as NRI Strong Wind)	50-64 kt	1996 to 2025	68	30	2.27
Thunderstorm Wind (counted as NRI Strong Wind)	65 kt+	1996 to 2025	7	30	0.233
Thunderstorm Wind (counted as NRI Strong Wind)	unmeasured or below 50 kt	1996 to 2025	0	30	0
Tornado	EF0-1	1996 to 2025	2	30	0.0667
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 <i>NRI score, 0 to 100</i>	Rating
Avalanche	2.2	Very Low
Cold Wave	99.7	Very High
Drought	94.7	Relatively Moderate
Earthquake	39.2	Very Low
Hail	80.7	Relatively Moderate
Heat Wave	20.3	Relatively Low
Hurricane		Not Applicable
Ice Storm	22.0	Very Low
Inland Flooding	90.5	Relatively High
Landslide	69.1	Very Low
Lightning	55.3	Relatively Moderate
Strong Wind	58.2	Relatively Moderate

Hazard	Tract score	Rating
	NRI score, 0 to 100	
Tornado	23.4	Very Low
Wildfire	81.0	Relatively Low
Winter Weather	98.9	Very 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
Liberty County	County	Approved, expires 2029-10-11	FMA RL 0, SRL 0; any 0	\$527,774.59	0 total; 0 since its plan
Chester town	Town	Approved, expires 2029-10-11	FMA RL 0, SRL 0; any 0	\$58,280.26	49 total; 0 since its plan

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

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 2024-10-12 <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	\$2					building exposure is 0 in NRI
Cold Wave	\$1,224,499,602	\$113,808,255	1,955	\$5,473	\$702,722	\$668,876	0.000447%		\$0		
Drought	n/a	\$53,054,452	n/a	n/a	\$52,752	n/a	0.0994% (agriculture)				NRI has no building exposure for this hazard; agriculture shown

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 2024-10-12 <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
Earthquake	\$2,204,068,987	n/a	1,959	\$12,542	n/a	\$1,681	0.000569%				
Hail	\$1,224,499,602	\$113,808,255	1,955	\$13,258	\$18,698	\$876	0.00108%	\$0			
Heat Wave	\$1,224,499,602	\$113,808,255	1,955	\$5	\$3,781	\$7,313	under 0.0001%				
Hurricane											Not Applicable in NRI for this county
Ice Storm	\$1,224,499,602	n/a	1,955	\$1,104	n/a	\$133	under 0.0001%				
Inland Flooding	\$1,222,360,609	\$1,677	178	\$1,231,065	\$2	\$176	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	\$4,785,037	n/a	5	\$11	n/a	\$5	0.000239%				
Lightning	\$1,224,499,602	n/a	1,955	\$841	n/a	\$9,665	under 0.0001%				
Strong Wind	\$1,224,499,602	\$113,808,255	1,955	\$4,554	\$5,085	\$7,578	0.000372%	\$0	\$0		
Tornado	\$1,224,499,602	\$113,808,255	1,955	\$7,085	\$130	\$864	0.000579%				
Wildfire	\$243,383,886	\$27,426,869	424	\$4,762	\$11	\$115	0.00196%				
Winter Weather	\$1,224,499,602	\$113,808,255	1,955	\$25,452	\$148	\$21,887	0.00208%		\$0		

Totals since 2024-10-12 (Storm Events through 2026-06-30): 18 county-coded records, 18 with a damage value recorded (including \$0), \$0; 53 zone-level records, 53 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	1,955
Building value (total, not at risk)	\$1,224,499,602
Agriculture value (total, not at risk)	\$113,808,255
NRI risk rating (all hazards)	Very Low
Expected annual loss, buildings and agriculture, all hazards	\$2,089,482
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)	\$719,173
Social vulnerability rating	Relatively High
Community resilience rating	Very Low
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 total and NFIP communities

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

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>
Liberty County	300156	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chester town	300041	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):

1. FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-29T134039Z, pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API)
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)
4. FEMA, OpenFEMA NfipMultipleLossProperties v1, version 2026-08-04T164045Z, pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/NfipMultipleLossProperties> (API)
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_Gazetteer/2024_Gaz_cousubs_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gazetteer/2024_Gaz_place_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gazetteer/2024_Gaz_unsd_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gazetteer/2024_Gaz_elsd_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_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)

What this packet is and what the plan adds

This packet is the federal data for the plan's risk assessment, organized by the items of FEMA's Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool, Element B. Each section heading names the item its tables support; the plan and FEMA's review decide whether the 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). Liberty County, MT: risk-assessment baseline packet, release 2026-10 (data as of 2026-09-30; County FIPS 30051). Automated baseline. <https://hazardplain.org/mt/30051/> 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

Hazard Plain release 2026-10. As of 2026-09-30; Storm Events data through 2026-06-30. Automated baseline.