

Smith-Williams Community Center

Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

High Risk: Having a higher probability of occurrence, with loss of life and property damage.

- Hurricanes: According to the National Hurricane Center, from 1886 to 2005, Leon County has had five (5) Category Two or stronger hurricanes pass within 60 miles of the county.
- Tropical Storms: According to National Hurricane Center from 1886 to 2005, Leon County has had forty-one (41) tropical storms pass within 60 miles of the county.
- Floods: Leon County has experienced numerous flooding events between 1994 and 2005, with at least one to two annually from extreme rainfall amounts ranging between 5 to 9 inches recorded. Leon County typically experiences what is termed "nuisance flooding." Within the city limits the area of Franklin Boulevard at East Tennessee Street and Apalachee Parkway is the most flood prone area with regards to nuisance flooding. The most flood prone area in the southern portion of the County is the Oak Ridge Road/Liberty Ridge area, which is the terminus of the Munson Slough drainage basin.
- Tornadoes: Leon County has experienced sixteen (16) reported events from 1945-2006. On November 11, 1995, an F-1 tornado damaged the Civic Center and the South Ride Road area as it moved through Central Leon County.
- Thunderstorms: Between 1971 and 2005 it is estimated that Leon County received one hundred and forty two (142) severe thunderstorms, defined as containing damaging winds of 58 miles per hour or greater, and/or hail of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch or greater.

Medium Risk: Having a medium probability of occurrence, with a low probability to loss of life, or property.

- Extreme Temperatures: The average annual temperature is 68 degrees, the average winter temperature (December, January and February) is 53 degrees with sub-freezing temperature occurring about twenty (20) times a year, and the average summer temperature (June, July and August) is 82 degrees. The hottest recorded temperatures were 104 degrees on June 30, 1933, and 103 degrees on July 19, 2000. The coldest temperatures were -2 degrees on February 13, 1899, and 6 degrees on January 21, 1985. Based on National Meteorological data, Leon County (like other areas in the hemisphere) is exhibiting more frequent extreme temperatures which may affect populations at risk.
- Drought: Leon County's last drought occurred over the period from 2000 to 2002. Leon County's rainfall deficit was more than ten (10) inches below normal. The average annual rainfall for the County is a little over sixty-three (63.21) inches. During the period of May through June of 2000, the County had over three hundred (300) water wells either go dry, or had to have the well deepened.

- Major Structural Fire: While Leon County has relatively few buildings over 15 stories in height high, we have had a total of fifteen (15) major structure fires, including large apartment complexes, churches, restaurant, and maintenance facilities.
- Brush Fires, Wildfires, and Forest Fires: Leon County has been fortunate over the years not to have had any major brush fires, though our County consists of large plantations and national forest.
- Sinkholes: Leon County is known for its sinkholes. Lake Jackson, Blue Sink, and Leon Sinks are a few of the more notable sinkholes. During the most recent flood on March 3, 2002, three (3) small sinkholes opened up in the southern part of the County, as well as in the Upper Lake Lafayette and Booth Tract (central and eastern Leon County).
- Hazardous Material Incidents, Transportation Incidents: While Leon County has had numerous hazardous materials incidents, they have been minor in nature. Since 1992, the County has had over one hundred and ninety (190) incidents, releasing over 108,000 pounds of hazardous material with two (2) fatalities, ten (10) injuries and two hundred and eighty-five (285) persons evacuated. The County has had numerous natural gas lines cut with no explosions, one (1) mercury release, numerous small gasoline spills and one railcar incident releasing a small quantity of concentrated fertilizer.
- Dam Failure: Leon County has one (1) major dam located on the southern end of Lake Talquin, the C.H. Corn Hydro Electric Plant, which is better known as the Lake Talquin Dam, and was breached in 1957. As of 2005, it is estimated that Leon County has over two hundred (200) smaller retention ponds surrounded by earthen dams. Over the years there have been several breaches, causing minor damage to homes and personal property.
- Civil Disturbance: Leon County experienced civil unrest during the 1960-70's. The areas expected to experience civil unrest are the malls, university campuses, capitol complex, at football games and other special events. The County annually experiences peaceful marches, as well as protests focused at the Governor and Legislature.
- Power Failures: Leon County is serviced by two (2) electrical companies, the City of Tallahassee and Talquin Electric. Over the years, Leon County has experienced several power outages due to severe weather. Other causes are falling trees or limbs and auto accidents, knocking down major transmission poles. The most recent outage in 1994 was due to a limb touching a major transmission line. This incident caused the loss of power for several hours to approximately 30% of the population.
- Aviation Disasters: Leon County has experienced numerous small aircraft accidents due to weather conditions. Since 1994 there have been five (5) airplane crashes, with four (4) deaths. In 2002, a Federal Express airplane crashed on approach to landing at the Tallahassee Regional Airport; the plane experienced extensive damage, but the crew walked away from the plane without any injuries.
- Terrorism (Weapons of Mass Destruction): In the wake of September 11, 2001, Leon County has responded to over two hundred (200) potential anthrax threats. While none have been determined to be actual terrorist events, the threat still exists.

- Disease and Pandemic Outbreaks: The 1968 Hong Kong Flu was the last influenza epidemic the world has encountered. It killed over 34,000 people in the United States. Over the last century the span between global influenza outbreaks has ranged from 11 to 39 years. It is expected that another global influenza pandemic will occur within the next 20 years. The US Department of Health and Human Services estimates the clinical disease attack rate will likely be 30% or higher in the overall population during the next pandemic. Illness rates will be highest among school-aged children (about 40%) and decline with age. Among working adults, an average of 20% will become ill during a community outbreak.

Low Risk: Having a low probability of occurrence, with a very low probability to loss of life or property damage.

- Radiological Incident: There have been no known radiological releases in Leon County.
- Incidents involving low level radiological materials during transportation have occurred. The Federal Express airplane accident had medical-grade radiological materials on board during the accident.
- Earthquakes: Leon County has not experienced an earthquake; however, we have experienced the tremors as recently as the 2009. No damages were reported.
- Natural Gas Line Rupture: Leon County has not had a major gas line rupture; however, we experience numerous smaller gas lines being cut during construction activities. There have been no major incidents or deaths involved.
- Exotic Pests and Diseases: Leon County has not experienced any exotic pests; however, we have had one (1) case of West Nile Virus in humans, thirty-eight (38) cases in animals, and one hundred and fifteen (115) cases in birds in 2001.
- Critical Infrastructure Disruption: Leon County has not experienced unexpected long-term disruptions other than during tropical storm events.
- Special Events: Leon County has festive celebrations, college football games, and legislature and dignitary visits.