Chapter 2: Existing Mitigation Strategies

44 CFR Requirements met:

Requirement §201.6(b): In order to develop a more comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of natural disasters, the planning process shall include:

(1) An opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval;
(2) An opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process; and
(3) Review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information.

Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(ii): [The risk assessment] must also address National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) insured structures that have been repetitively damaged floods.

Requirement: §201.6(c)(3)(ii): [The mitigation strategy] must also address the jurisdiction’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and continued compliance with NFIP requirements, as appropriate.

2.1 About Hazard Mitigation Programs

Jurisdictions can do a number of things to prevent or mitigate the impacts of natural disasters. Such actions range from instituting regulatory measures (e.g., building and zoning codes) and establishing Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) and Emergency Operations Centers (EOC), to constructing large and small infrastructure projects like levees and safe rooms. Most jurisdictions have already made considerable investments in such mitigation measures. FEMA’s State and Local Mitigation Planning How-to Guide (FEMA 386-1, September 2002) places hazard mitigation measures in six categories: Public Information and Education, Prevention, Structural Projects, Property Protection, Emergency Services, and Natural Resource Protection.

There are several national hazard mitigation programs incorporating elements from several of these categories. They have been developed by FEMA and other agencies and are designed to help jurisdictions organize their mitigation activities to achieve tangible results in specific areas, such as flood protection and fire hazard abatement. This Chapter looks at Canadian County’s participation and progress in these national programs. The following sections will review the six categories individually.

The Planning Team reviewed relevant community studies, plans, reports, and technical documents in the inventory, evaluation and plan phases of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan development. Comprehensive Plans were used to determine jurisdictional growth patterns and identify areas of future development. Capital Improvements Plans were used to determine priorities of public infrastructure improvements, and timing of potential future development. These plans were used to identify areas of future growth and development so that hazardous areas could be identified, evaluated, planned for, and appropriate mitigation measures taken.
2.1.1 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

For decades, the national response to flood disasters was simply to provide disaster relief to flood victims. Funded by citizen tax dollars, this approach failed to reduce losses and didn't provide a way to cover the damage costs of all flood victims. To compound the problem, the public generally couldn't buy flood coverage from insurance companies, because private insurance companies see floods as too costly to insure.

In the face of mounting flood losses and escalating costs of disaster relief to U.S. taxpayers, Congress established the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The goals of the program are to reduce future flood damage through floodplain management, and to provide people with flood insurance. Community participation in the NFIP is voluntary.

Canadian County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. In addition, Calumet, El Reno, Mustang, Piedmont, Union City and Yukon (not participating in this plan) are NFIP participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2–1: Canadian County Flood Insurance Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flood Insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood Insurance Policies in Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Insurance in Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premiums in Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Losses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Flood Losses Paid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Repetitive Loss (RL)

A repetitive loss property is defined by FEMA as "a property for which two or more National Flood Insurance Program losses of at least $1,000 each have been paid within any 10-year period." Unincorporated Canadian County has two residential and one agricultural repetitive loss properties. See Appendix F for repetitive loss information for cities and towns.

Community Rating System (CRS)

The CRS is a part of the National Flood Insurance Program that helps coordinate all flood-related activities of a jurisdiction. It is a voluntary program that seeks to reduce flood losses, facilitate accurate insurance rating, and promote the awareness of flood insurance by creating incentives for a community to go beyond minimum floodplain management requirements. The incentives are in the form of insurance premium discounts.

Unincorporated areas of Canadian County do not have a CRS rating.

2.1.2 Firewise Community

The Firewise Community certification is a project of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. It recognizes communities that have gone through a process to reduce the dangers of wildfires along what is referred to as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). A specialist from Firewise Communities USA will work with the local community to assess wildfire dangers and create a plan that identifies agreed-upon achievable solutions to be implemented. Additional information on the Firewise Community program can be accessed at www.firewise.org/usa. For more details on the Firewise Program, see Chapter 5, Section 5.2.9.

Unincorporated areas of Canadian County are not certified as a Firewise Community.
2.1.3 Fire Hazard Mitigation

The Insurance Service Organization’s (ISO) Public Protection Classification (PPC) program provides important information about municipal fire-protection services, which is used by insurance companies to establish fire insurance premiums. The program also helps communities plan for, budget, and justify improvements in order to mitigate the effects of the fire hazard.

A uniform set of criteria, which incorporates nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association, is used to evaluate a community’s fire protection service and rate it on a scale from 1 to 10, where lower numbers indicate a better rating. The evaluation inventories and analyzes the following segments of fire protection resources:

- Fire Alarm and Communication Systems – including telephone systems and lines, staffing, and dispatching systems;
- The Fire Department – including equipment, staffing, training, and geographic distribution of fire companies;
- The water supply system – including condition and maintenance of hydrants, and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires.

There are seven different Fire Departments operating in Canadian County. Each Department has its own individual fire insurance rating. On average, the fire insurance ratings range from 5 to 8, as shown in the table below. Fire insurance ratings range from 1 to 10, where lower numbers indicate a better rating.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>ISO Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calumet</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Reno</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustang</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okarche</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1.4 StormReady Community

StormReady is a nationwide community preparedness program that uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather—from tornadoes to tsunamis. The program encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations. To be officially StormReady, a community must:

- establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public;
- create a system that monitors weather conditions locally;
- promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars;
- develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

Additional information can be found at [http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/](http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/).
Unincorporated areas of Canadian County are not StormReady certified.

2.1.5 Business Continuity Mitigation and Planning Programs

The shutdown or permanent loss of businesses can be particularly devastating to a community for a number of reasons.

1. Loss of a business can negatively affect the tax base and revenue for the County. In 1993, a tornado struck in the area of Catoosa, Oklahoma, destroying a number of residences and a major truck stop on the Interstate. The truck stop, and associated traffic and personnel it attracted, supported restaurants, clothing stores, motels, and multiple other businesses in the area. Overall, the loss of the one business cost the community almost 50% of its tax base until the truck stop was able to reopen.

2. Closing of a business may eliminate jobs, not only for the employees of that particular company, but also for vendors for and customers of the affected business. Following a severe tornado in Oklahoma City in 2003 that affected large parts of the community, including a General Motors plant, hundreds of workers were temporarily unemployed, putting a severe strain on the social service agencies for the area.

While a great deal of the mitigation information in this document is applicable to residential, public, and business properties; when available, this plan will include business-specific information and strategies. For further discussion on business vulnerability and the importance of Business Continuity Planning see Appendix B.
2.2 Public Information and Education

Public information and education strategies are an important part of any successful program to mitigate the loss of life and property from natural and man-made hazards. Examples of such strategies include outreach projects, hazard information distribution, and school age and adult education programs. This section examines the existing communications infrastructure in Canadian County, and the programs and activities that the County currently has in place to serve this purpose. See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for discussion of potential activities and programs within this category.

2.2.1 Public Information Infrastructure

Television, Radio and Cable TV
Central Oklahoma is a significant media market with all major networks represented. Local television stations have consistently supported disaster safety information dissemination.

Newspapers
Newspapers for Canadian County include the El Reno Tribune, published semi-weekly on Sunday and Wednesday, Mustang News published twice weekly, Mustang Times, and Yukon Review also published twice a week. In addition, many residents receive the Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City).

While Canadian County Emergency Management and other response organizations in the area have always maintained a proactive relationship with local newspapers and have held public relations campaigns with disaster safety information, there is opportunity for increasing this resource.

2-1-1 System
A community 2-1-1 system is to non-emergency assistance what 9-1-1 is for emergency response, a quick and easy way for people to access needed help by phone for information or social services. During times of severe weather, or while people are preparing for emergencies, they may use 2-1-1 to access information. Ensuring that disaster safety information is available to the 2-1-1 operators is an easy and effective way to make sure that information is disseminated to people who need it. For more information on 2-1-1 in Oklahoma, refer to the Oklahoma 2-1-1 Advisory Collaborative, www.211oklahoma.org.

Canadian County is served by the HeartLine 2-1-1 of Oklahoma system.

2.2.2 Outreach Programs

- McReady Oklahoma is a program coordinated by the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. The program (developed in the Tulsa Area) allows local governments to work hand-in-hand with their local McDonald restaurants to distribute disaster safety information at all restaurant outlets during each March at the beginning of storm season. In addition to existing literature, McReady specific materials and kids’ activity sheets have been created. McDonald’s restaurants in Canadian County have participated in this program.
2.3 Preventive Measures

Preventive measures are defined as government administrative or regulatory actions or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. This section contains a summary of the current ordinances and codes that relate to land use, zoning, subdivision, and stormwater management in the Canadian County area. See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for discussion of potential activities and programs within this category.

2.3.1 Comprehensive Planning and Zoning

Canadian County does not have a planning commission. Therefore, a comprehensive plan for the unincorporated areas of Canadian County does not exist.

2.3.2 Floodplain and Stormwater Management

- There are no planning or zoning restrictions in the unincorporated areas of Canadian County, with the exception of the floodplain regulations adopted in December of 1999.
- Canadian County has been a member of the National Flood Insurance Program since September 1, 1987, number 4004851978.

Flood and stormwater management are discussed in Chapter 4.

2.3.3 Building Codes

Canadian County does not enforce a building code.

2.3.4 Capital Improvements Plan

Canadian County has developed a capital improvements plan that lists county road and building capital improvement needs, their costs, and priority.

2.3.5 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans

Five communities with approved hazard mitigation plans were incorporated into the Canadian County Multi-Jurisdiction Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Those communities are Calumet, El Reno, Mustang, Piedmont, and Union City

2.3.6 Capability Assessment

The State of Oklahoma has directed that "local governments [be assisted] in carrying out their responsibilities to alleviate the suffering and damage that result from major disasters and emergencies by:

1. Providing State assistance programs for public losses and needs sustained in disasters;
2. Encouraging the development of comprehensive disaster preparedness and assistance plans, programs, capabilities, and organizations by the State and local governments;
3. Achieving greater coordination and responsiveness of disaster preparedness and relief programs;
4. Encouraging individuals and local governments to obtain insurance coverage and thereby reduce their dependence on governmental assistance; and
5. Encouraging hazard mitigation measures, such as development of land-use and construction regulations, floodplain management, protection of wetlands, and environmental planning, to reduce losses from disasters" (Oklahoma Administrative Code, Title 145, Chapter 10, Subchapter 1, §145:10-1-3).
Boards of county commissioners, city councils and town boards of trustees may use general revenues, voter-approved general obligation bonds, and voter-approved sales taxes "carrying out their responsibilities" regarding hazard mitigation planning and action. In addition both county and municipal governments have the specific statutory authority to create public trusts for multiple purposes which have the authority to borrow money, issue revenue bonds, and/or accept grants, subject to dedicated sources of revenue. Both county and municipal governments have the statutory authority to create joint operational entities by “inter-local agreement” and jointly fund such entities. County government has the specific authority to accept petitions from citizens from within their jurisdictions to create, with the proper number of valid signatures, special assessment districts and special purpose corporations operated independently by the citizens within the established boundaries for multiple purposes.

State Oklahoma boards of education are obligated by the State that "(t)he [school] site and building(s) shall ensure that the health and safety of those served are properly safeguarded. Where required, the facility shall have utility systems, plumbing systems, electrical systems, mechanical systems, emergency systems, building interiors and building envelope designed, built, and maintained to recognized standards, codes and/or other legal requirements” and to institute “appropriate programs pertaining to hazardous materials, hazardous waste, asbestos, underground storage tanks, lead contamination, and other applicable life, health, and/or safety matters” (Oklahoma Administrative Code, Title 210, Chapter 35, Subchapter 3, Part 19, Standard X: School Facilities, §210:35-3-186 (h) and (j)). Boards of education may use appropriated State funds, federal funds, and/or grants from other lawful sources to fund this obligation. Boards of education have specific statutory authority to present propositions to the registered voters of their respective districts for the authority to issue general obligation bonds for such purposes that advance compliance with the State mandate. This would include, but not be limited to new construction or renovation of existing facilities and acquisition of materials and equipment to meet hazard mitigation goals and objectives set by the individual boards of education.

Specific Information for each community and school district can be found in Appendix F: Communities, and Appendix G: Schools.
2.4 Structural Projects

Structural projects are usually designed by engineers or architects, constructed by the public sector, and maintained and managed by governmental entities, and may include such projects as stormwater detention reservoirs, levees and floodwalls, channel modifications, drainage and storm sewer improvements, and community tornado safe-rooms. The following section includes measures that are already in place or are already included in current planning. See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for discussion of potential activities and programs within this category.

2.4.1 Existing Structural Projects

There are no existing Structural Projects in the unincorporated areas of the County at this time. See Appendix F for existing projects in cities and towns.

2.4.2 Planned Structural Projects

Unincorporated Canadian County has no projects currently planned. See Appendix F for planned structural projects in cities and towns.
2.5 Property Protection

Property protection measures are used to modify buildings or property subject to damage from various hazardous events. The property owner normally implements property protection measures. However, in many cases technical and financial assistance can be provided by a government agency. Property protection measures typically include acquisition and relocation, flood-proofing, building elevation, barriers, retrofitting, safe rooms, hail resistant roofing, insurance, and the like. The following section includes examples of property protection measures which may have already been implemented within the County jurisdiction or which may be part of current projects. See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for discussion of potential activities and programs within this category.

Canadian County currently has no existing or planned Property Protection projects for its unincorporated areas. See Appendix F for planned Property Protection projects in cities and towns.
2.6 Emergency Services

In times of emergency, it is critical that a community have resources available to respond in an efficient manner to a hazard event. This section outlines the County's emergency management resources that are available for response. See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for discussion of potential activities and programs within this category.

2.6.1 National Incident Management System (NIMS)

In 2004, Homeland Security Presidential Directive #5 (HSPD-5) was issued stating that, in order to be eligible for certain Federal disaster mitigation funding, state, local, and tribal jurisdictions must incorporate the use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) into their protocols.

The NIMS incorporates a system currently used called Incident Command System (ICS), a management system developed by the fire service used to provide a common language, common management protocols, and scalable incident response chains-of-command that can be applied to any emergency response, whether it be a single family fire or a major hurricane.

The NIMS enhances the ICS by establishing a single, comprehensive system for incident management to help achieve greater cooperation among Departments and agencies at all levels of government.


According to Canadian County Emergency Management, the unincorporated areas of Canadian County, as a whole (along with Calumet, El Reno, Mustang, Okarche, Piedmont and Union City), is NIMS compliant and has incorporated NIMS/ICS into its Emergency Operations Plan and other protocols.

2.6.2 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

Canadian County Emergency Management has established emergency operations and procedures to be undertaken when appropriate circumstances warrant them. The Sheriff’s Department assists with storm spotting and the damage assessment is provided by the Emergency Manager. The County Emergency Operations does not have weather warning systems in place in the unincorporated areas of the County. Warning sirens are in place within incorporated areas and are presented in Figure 2-1. Without including the OKC sirens, a total of 28 sirens exist in urban areas inside the County limits. All can be electronically activated by various Civil Defense or Emergency Management Directors, fire fighters or other authorized personnel within the County.
2.6.3 Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

During major emergencies, Canadian County’s government will be moved to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Emergency Operations office, located in the Canadian County Courthouse, is responsible for the jurisdiction of unincorporated Canadian County only.

The Emergency Management Director has overall responsibility for the operation of the EOC. The EOC has three stages of operation:

- Normal Peacetime Readiness
- Increased Readiness, and
- Emergency Period.

Canadian County Emergency Management has a backup generator mounted on a trailer, equipped with tools, including saws and shovels. An emergency operations van is equipped to pull the generator trailer and includes communication devices such as radio equipment and cell phones.

Individual community EOCs may be activated in addition to or in place of the Canadian County EOC if that community is heavily involved, or if the location is more appropriate for response to an emergency.

2.6.4 Emergency Notification and Warning Systems

Emergency Alert System (EAS) Communication

While the Emergency Alert System (EAS) was designed to give the president a means by which to address the American people in the case of a national emergency, it has been used since 1963 by local emergency management personnel for relay of local emergency broadcasts. EAS, which is controlled by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), utilizes FM, AM, and TV broadcast stations, as well as cable and wireless cable providers to relay emergency messages. Following is a list of EAS broadcast stations in the Canadian County area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KTUZ FM</td>
<td>106.70</td>
<td>FM</td>
<td>Okarche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZUE</td>
<td>1460.00</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>El Reno</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

911 Emergency Communications and Dispatch

Canadian County has a joint 911 system and dispatch center.

Radio and Television Communications

Use of radio and television during emergencies is limited.

Additional Communications Resources

Reverse 911 System – Yukon and Cedar Lake have in place systems that allows targeted addresses and phone numbers to be called in the event of an emergency.

Paging Systems – Emergency Management Personnel are key personnel in an emergency event and are available for contact by paging devices when needed.

Ham Radio – Bandwidths covered by Canadian County Emergency Management radios include: 6-160 MHz, 450-460 MHz, 800 MHz and 2-meter and 6-meter bandwidths are utilized to communicate between Police, Fire, and outside regional sources. Several Canadian County Emergency Management personnel are Ham Radio Operators.
Weather Warning Systems

Weather alerts or warnings are received from the 911 Dispatch Center after being alerted by NAWAS. The dispatcher receiving the alert will immediately notify the local Emergency Management Director, who will direct the Police Department and Fire Department duty officers to sound the warning devices, if required. If the EM Director is not available, police or fire personnel are authorized to sound the warning devices.

Notifications of severe weather or other serious hazards are relayed to the public over alert sirens and on radio/TV and cable TV when override is available. In addition, mobile units may be deployed to warn people in areas not covered by fixed warning devices. Warnings may be received through the following channels:

- **Oklahoma Mesonet** - Statewide weather-gathering information system, with monitoring systems in each county, monitors and reports rainfall, wind speeds, heat index, windchill, temperature, wind vectors, etc.

- **National Warning System (NAWAS)** - The National Warning System is a protected, full-time voice communication system for disseminating storm and other emergency warnings to emergency responders, with major terminals at Oklahoma Highway Patrol HQ with alternate sites at the State Emergency Management EOC and the state National Guard EOC.

- **SkyWarn** – A national program designed to place personnel in the field to spot and track tornadoes. They are trained by National Weather Service and instructed in what to report. Teams are made up of government employees and private citizens. Reports are relayed to their coordinators in the nearest EOC.

- **Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (OLETS)** – A secure system of communications originating from the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety through local law enforcement agencies.

Outdoor warning systems (sirens) in Canadian County are operative in El Reno (9), Calumet (1), Mustang (4), Piedmont (2), Union City (5) and Yukon (7). The warning systems and siren locations are shown on the map in Figure 2-1.

The unincorporated areas of Canadian County including Richland and Cedar Lake do not have outdoor warning systems.

### 2.6.5 Fire Department Resources

Unincorporated Canadian County is protected by fire stations assembled throughout the County in 11 different districts. The unincorporated areas of the County are largely covered by four rural fire districts. They include: Geary, Cedar Lake, Okarche and Calumet Fire Districts. These four districts have a combined coverage area of 424 square miles, versus their incorporated areas of 16 square miles combined within the County. The Oklahoma City and Mustang Fire Departments are the only departments not responsible for areas in unincorporated Canadian County.

Because of the large amount of area to cover in the County, all fire departments extend a mutual aid agreement to assist each other when in need. The mutual aid agreements also extend across county lines in several departments. Cedar Lake has agreed to mutual aid with Caddo County and Grady County Rural Fire Districts and Yukon, Mustang and Piedmont all share an agreement with the Oklahoma City Fire District and other various districts in suburban Oklahoma City. The jurisdictional coverage of Canadian County fire departments is illustrated in Figure 2-2.
Figure 2-1

Canadian County

Warning Sirens

LEGEND

- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Turnpike
- Railroads
- Warning Sirens
- Not in Plan
- City Limits
- Water

0 2.5 5 Miles
Figure 2-2
Canadian County
Fire Districts
2.6.6 Law Enforcement Department and Resources

The Canadian County Emergency Operations Plan lists the emergency functions of law enforcement, located at the Canadian County Sheriff’s Headquarters at the County Courthouse in El Reno, as follows:

- coordinate all law enforcement in the county;
- disseminate warnings throughout the county;
- coordinate relocation traffic control;
- coordinate mutual aid agreements;
- support emergency public safety activities;
- provide for the security, protection, and relocation of inmates in the County Jail.

2.6.7 Health Care Facilities and Shelters

Medical and Care Facilities

If a disaster strikes a hospital or other medical facility, the County has a number of resources that may be deployed. Several agreements with other local and county resources to assist with supplies and/or beds as needed are also part of the plan.

The Canadian County Health & Medical Coordinator is responsible for coordinating all medical service activities within the county during the response. The Medical Coordinator will operate in accordance with the Canadian County Emergency Operations Plan, Annex H.

The Coordinator is responsible for:

- developing agreements and cooperation between all appropriate agencies and facilities;
- planning and coordinating emergency medical services – including care of sick and injured, sorting and evacuation of mass casualties, patient transfer between facilities, and providing medical, transportation and other related support to handicapped and elderly;
- planning and supervising inspection of food and water supplies, insect and rodent control and other disease-prevention measures, immunization programs when required, and environmental health services as needed;
- assignment of doctors and nurses to larger shelters;
- coordinating with pharmacist and pharmaceutical distributors on the protection, movement and distribution of critical medical supplies;
- developing a system to assemble medical personnel and equipment needed.

Canadian County hospitals include Integris Canadian Valley Regional Hospital in Yukon, with 75 beds, and Park View (Mercy) Hospital in El Reno with 48 beds.

The Canadian County Health Department has two locations:

100 S. Rock Island
El Reno, OK 73036
405-262-0042

1023 E. Vandament
Yukon, OK 73099
405-354-4872
2.6.8 Other City, County, State, and Federal Response

County Treasurer is responsible for County fiscal duties.

State Medical Examiner’s Office, when committed:
- Collects, identifies and coordinates interment of deceased disaster victims
- Coordinates funeral home support activities

County Health Departments, when committed:
- Investigate sanitation conditions and establishing safe standards for crisis location, emergency shelter or disaster relief operations
- Coordinate medical support and epidemic control
- Inspect food and water supplies
- Provide public health education

Oklahoma Department of Human Services, when committed:
- Provides provisions and funds for emergency aid
- Coordinates with the Red Cross and other volunteer agencies

Oklahoma National Guard, when committed:
- Assists in radiological protection
- Assists in law enforcement and traffic control
- Assists in search and rescue operations
- Provides military engineer support and assistance in debris clearance
- Provides logistical support with supply, transportation, maintenance and food service
- Provides communication support

Other State and Federal agencies, when committed, assist with:
- Public welfare
- Resources
- Law enforcement
- Health and medical support and supplies
- Debris clearance
- Public information and education

2.6.9 Volunteer Support Organizations

- *The Heart of Oklahoma Chapter of the American Red Cross* in Norman provides emergency assistance, including fixed/mobile feeding stations, shelter, cleaning supplies, comfort kits, first aid, blood and blood products, food, clothing, emergency transportation, rent, home repairs, household items, counseling services and some medical expenses.

- *Salvation Army* can implement mass and mobile feeding, temporary shelter, counseling, missing person services, medical assistance, and distribution of donated food, clothing, and household items.

- *Oklahoma Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (OkVOAD)* may notify and assist with contacting various volunteer organizations to assist the local effort. OkVOAD may be
contacted through the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. (For more information on member organizations of OkVOAD, see [http://www.okvoad.org](http://www.okvoad.org).

- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** Program. After a major disaster, local emergency teams quickly become overwhelmed. CERT is designed to have trained groups of citizens in every neighborhood and business ready to assist first responders (police, firefighters and EMS) during an emergency. CERT teams are also available to be used in mitigation activities, including public awareness and other non-structural community mitigation measures. Additional information on CERT is included in Appendix B. For more information on the CERT program visit [www.citizencorps.gov/cert](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert).

- The **Amateur Radio Emergency Service**, ARES, has a number of ham radio operators in the Canadian County area who assist with storm spotting and emergency communications.
2.7 Natural Resource Protection

Natural resource protection activities are generally aimed at preserving and restoring the natural and beneficial uses of natural areas. In doing so, these activities enable the beneficial functions of floodplains and drainage ways to be better realized. This section reviews the natural resource protection activities that have already been implemented in the community or are already in the planning stages. See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for discussion of potential activities and programs within this category.

At this time, the unincorporated areas of Canadian County have no projects which specifically address Natural Resource Protection.