

**Natural Disaster Resiliency
City of Wichita Kansas
Housing and Community Services Department**

The City of Wichita's Housing and Community Services Department developed a Continuation of Operations Plan and updates it periodically. Staffers consulted with Emergency Management personnel during the development process. Wichita is protected from major flooding by the M.S. Mitch Mitchell Floodway in the western part of the City. The floodway protects everything west of Hillside Avenue in the center of town.

The City is most vulnerable to wind storms including tornados and hail. In May, 2013, a hail storm damaged roofs and siding of nearly 200 Wichita Housing Authority single-family public housing units. In the immediate aftermath of the storm crews secured damaged roofs with tarps until insurance negotiations were finalized and a contractor was procured.

The 2014 Sedgwick County Kansas Homeland Security Region G Hazard Mitigation Plan states the following: For hazards related to weather patterns, climate change should be considered as it may cause significant changes in patterns and event frequency.

Rising average temperatures produce a more variable climate system which may result in an increase in the frequency and severity of some extreme weather events, including:

- Longer and hotter heat waves
- An increased risk of wildfires
- Higher wind speeds
- Greater rainfall intensity
- Increased tornado activity

Kansas in general and Wichita specifically typically has hot summers and fairly mild winters. Ice storms are not uncommon. According to the National Weather Service Wichita averaged 14.9 inches of snow annually from 1981-2010. The months of December, January and February averaged between three and four inches of snow. The most damaging hazards are wind storms, tornados, and hail.