



# PREPARING FOR EXTREME WEATHER IN MANSFIELD

In August 2018, the Town of Mansfield invited town officials to participate in a Community Resilience Building Workshop to discuss Mansfield’s preparedness for climate change and determine areas where the town can improve. The increase in extreme weather events (such as heat waves and winter storms) caused by climate change was identified as a major threat to the town’s residents and infrastructure. As such events become more common, it is increasingly important that municipalities prepare in order to protect both people and places. At the 2018 workshop, town officials identified the town’s strengths and weaknesses. In 2019, Town staff and volunteers surveyed residents to get their input.

**Climate Hazards:** *Due to climate change, the following extreme weather events are increasing.*



Severe winter storms/  
“Nor’easters”



Heavy rainfall



Heat waves



Drought

## Resources at Risk:

*Town officials identified that the following impacts of extreme weather events are cause for concern.*



Harm to people



Lack of food and water



Spread of infectious diseases



Power outages



Blocked roads and driveways



Harm to pets and farm animals



Property damage



Flooding



Limited access to healthcare



Lack of shelter

KEY



Resident concern



Resident priority

**Priorities:** In order to improve Mansfield's resilience in the face of climate change, some of the priorities town officials agreed to address are listed below.

-  Enhance existing communications outreach (CodeRed), particularly *during* extreme weather events
-  Increase resilience of local food production and delivery
  - Strengthen linkages between the farming community, residents and the town
  - Strengthen connections between residents through Human Services and faith-based communities, particularly the most vulnerable
  - Partner with UConn to ensure that emergency response services account for off-campus students
  - Increase transportation access to and from Senior Center and other town facilities
-  Upgrade Emergency Operations Center
  - Strengthen Medical Reserve Corps volunteer recruitment and retention
  - Continue to pursue open space acquisition to support Mansfield's ecological resilience
-  Maintain and upgrade existing generator resources as needed
-  Expand shelter locations

**Strengths:** These are some of Mansfield's strengths in responding to extreme weather events.

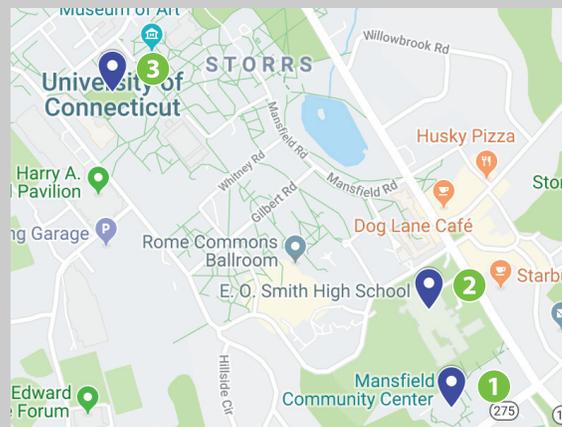
- Highly experienced staff with access to resources for short duration events
- Supportive social services for elderly, youth and families
- Networking assistance from faith-based organizations
- Well-equipped, safe and centrally located Emergency Operations Center

**Weaknesses:** These are some of Mansfield's weaknesses when facing Nor'easters, flooding, winter storms with ice, wind and snow, drought and heat waves.

-  Vulnerability to power outages; significant reliance on individual wells and septic systems
-  Lack of refrigeration for perishable foods during longer duration events
-  Lack of tree clearing equipment
-  Route 31 and Thornbush Road are vulnerable to flooding
- Limited public transportation

### How can you prepare for extreme weather?

-  Sign up for CodeRed emergency notifications at <http://www.mansfieldct.gov/codered>
-  Create an emergency plan and prepare an emergency kit for your home and car
-  Know where emergency shelters are located



### Emergency shelters

- 1** *Mansfield Community Center*  
10 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268
- 2** *E.O. Smith High School*  
1235 Storrs Rd, Storrs, CT 06268)
- 3** *UConn Campus*

### Emergency Management contact information

Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building  
4 South Eagleville Road, Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268  
OEM@MansfieldCT.org  
860.429.3328

### Climate Resources

- Connecticut Climate Preparedness Plan <https://bit.ly/2NvqfjN>
- DEEP Climate Change page <https://bit.ly/2KT9WeN>