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SAFETY ELEMENT

EL CENTRO GENERAL PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Natural events such as flooding, landslides and earthquakes can endanger human life and property, while the use, storage and transport of hazardous materials and other human activities can impact community safety. Community safety regulations and programs can reduce the potential for loss of life, injuries and property damage associated with natural and man-made hazards. The Safety Element establishes goals, policies and a plan to assure that there is an adequate coordinated and expedient response to public safety concerns.

Purpose of the Safety Element

The purpose of the Safety Element is to identify and address those features or characteristics existing in or near El Centro that represent a potential hazard to the citizens, structures, and infrastructure in the community. The Safety Element establishes policies to minimize the danger to residents, workers and visitors while identifying actions needed to manage crises such as earthquakes, fires and floods. Additionally, the Safety Element contains specific policies and programs to regulate existing and proposed development in hazard-prone areas. Emergency preparedness and evacuation routes are also addressed.

Scope and Content of the Safety Element

The Safety Element satisfies the requirements of State planning law and is a mandated component of the General Plan. Government Code section 65302(g) sets forth a list of hazards that the Element must cover if they pertain to conditions in the City. These hazards are:

- Seismically induced conditions including ground shaking, surface rupture, ground failure, tsunami and seiche;
- Slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides;
- Subsidence and other geologic hazards;
- Flooding;
- Wildland and urban fires; and
- Evacuation routes, water supply requirements and design standards for new development as they relate to identified fire seismic and geologic hazards.

State law also permits communities to add safety issues to this list. Due to potential safety concerns with the use, storage and transport of hazardous materials in the City, hazardous materials are also discussed in this Element.

The Safety Element contains three sections: 1) this Introduction; 2) Issues, Goals and Policies; and 3) the Safety Plan. In the Issues, Goals and Policies section, major issues pertaining to hazardous conditions and safety are identified and related goals and policies are established.

The goals are statements of the City's desires and consist of broad statements of purpose and direction. The policies serve as guidelines for reducing risk associated with natural and human activity hazards. The policies also serve to direct and maximize community emergency preparedness. The Plan explains how the goals and policies will be achieved and implemented. Specific action programs for the Public Safety Element are contained in the General Plan Implementation Program contained in Appendix A of this General Plan.

Related Plans and Programs

There are a number of existing plans and programs that directly relate to the goals of the Safety Element. These plans and programs have been enacted through state and local legislation and are administered by agencies with powers to enforce state and local laws.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Guidelines

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was adopted by the State legislature in response to a public mandate for a thorough environmental analysis of projects that might adversely affect the environment. Public safety hazards are recognized as environmental impacts under CEQA. The provisions of the law and environmental review procedures are described in the CEQA Statutes and the CEQA Guidelines. Implementation of CEQA ensures that during the decision making stage of development, City officials and the general public will be able to assess the safety impacts associated with public and private development projects.

Seismic Hazards Mapping Act

Pursuant to the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, the State Geologist compiles maps identifying seismic hazard zones. Development in seismic hazard areas is subject to policies and criteria established by the State Mining and Geology Board. Additionally, approval of development on a site within a seismic hazard area requires the preparation of a geotechnical report and local agency consideration of the policies and criteria set forth by the State Mining and Geology Board (Public Resources Code Section 2690 et. seq.).

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act requires the State Geologist to identify earthquake fault zones along traces of both recently active and potentially active major faults. Cities and counties that contain such zones must inform the public regarding the location of these zones, which are usually one-quarter mile or less in width. Proposed development plans within these earthquake fault zones must be accompanied by a geotechnical report prepared by a qualified geologist describing the likelihood of surface rupture. No known fault zones or seismic zones intersect the Planning Area.

Landslide Hazard Identification Program

The Landslide Hazard Identification Program requires the State Geologist to prepare maps of landslide hazards within urbanizing areas. According to Public Resources Code Section 2687 (a), public agencies are encouraged to use these maps for land use planning and for decisions regarding building, grading and development permits.

City of El Centro Codes

The City has adopted the most recent Uniform Building Code, Uniform Mechanical Code, Uniform Fire Code and the National Electric Code, which contain structural requirements for existing and new buildings. The codes are designed to ensure structural integrity during seismic and other hazardous events, and prevent injury, loss of life and substantial property damage. To protect public safety, planned development in El Centro is subject to these structural codes.

Relationship to Other General Plan Elements

The Safety Element must be consistent with the other General Plan elements. All elements of the General Plan are interrelated to a degree, and certain goals and policies of each element may also address issues that are the primary subjects of other elements. The integration of overlapping issues throughout the General Plan elements provides a strong basis for implementation plans and programs, and achievement of community goals. As identified in Table S-1 provided in the following section, the Safety Element most closely relates to the Land Use and Circulation Elements.

Policies and plans in the Safety Element are designed to protect existing and planned land uses identified in the Land Use Element from public safety hazards. Potential hazards are identified in the Safety Element, and action programs are established to avoid or mitigate public safety impacts from planned development. Concurrently, the Land Use Element contains policies to ensure that environmental conditions, including hazards, are considered in all land use decisions.

The distribution of residential and other sensitive land uses on the Land Use Policy Map is designed to avoid areas where hazardous conditions have been identified.

ISSUES, GOALS, AND POLICIES

Certain natural conditions and human activities in El Centro create risks to individuals and properties within the community. Excessive risk from such hazards can be reduced or avoided through implementation of the Safety Element.

Six major issues are addressed within the Safety Element. These issues include: public safety hazards related to (1) seismicity; (2) flooding; (3) fire; (4) criminal activities; (5) transportation; as well as (6) disaster preparedness. Each issue and the related goals and policies are included in this section of the Element.

Seismicity

Due to its geographic location in a seismically active region, El Centro is subject to geotechnical hazards such as seismic activity and liquefaction. This risk can be reduced through appropriate land use planning, development engineering, and building construction practices. Existing structures, especially older buildings and any remaining unreinforced buildings in the town center may require retrofitting to be able to withstand seismic hazards.

Safety Goal 1: Educate the public about earthquake hazards and reduce loss of life, injuries, damage to property, and economic and social dislocations resulting from future earthquakes.

Policy 1.1: Reduce the risk of impacts from seismic hazards by applying proper development engineering, building construction, and retrofitting requirements.

Policy 1.2: Restrict land uses in areas determined to be subject to seismic hazards and require adequate environmental review and mitigation measures for development proposed within a geological hazard area.

Policy 1.3: Locate significant public facilities, such as dams, reservoirs, hospitals, emergency facilities, schools, utilities, transportation facilities, multi-story buildings, and correctional facilities in the seismically safest locations.

Policy 1.4: Identify all earthquake-prone (without steel) public buildings and buildings housing critical public functions, and require these buildings to be upgraded and structurally retrofitted.

Policy 1.5: Educate the public on the hazards related to seismic activity and methods to reduce the associated risks.

Flooding

Floodplains located in and around El Centro present a potential natural hazard to the City. Proper land use planning can limit the risk of exposure.

Safety Goal 2: Promote programs and actions that educate the public about flood hazards and reduce the risk of flood losses.

Policy 2.1: Identify and evaluate potentially hazardous flood risks in the community and educate the public about how best to minimize the safety hazards associated with these risks.

Policy 2.2: Maintain all drainage and flood control facilities so that they function correctly.

Policy 2.3: Improve drainage ways and flood control facilities to lessen recurrent flood problems and include necessary improvements in the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Policy 2.4: Review all new proposed development to ensure that it will not aggravate poor drainage conditions and will, to the extent possible, improve poor drainage conditions.

Policy 2.5: Require all proposed development projects to submit a hydrological analysis of a project's expected runoff that will enter the City's drainage system, as well as the cumulative impact of the project and surrounding development (existing and planned) on the drainage system and flood prone areas.

Policy 2.6: Avoid new development that would create runoff volumes or velocities that may cause the City's existing drainage system to exceed its design capacity until appropriate site design and mitigation steps are taken.

Policy 2.7: Continue to fund needed infrastructure improvements, identifying new funding sources as necessary.

Fire

Loss of life and damage to structures and open space due to fire constitutes a hazard to public safety. The purpose of addressing fire hazards in the Safety Element is to reduce exposure to fire risks. Risks can be reduced through proper land use planning, enforcement of the building standards, and through public education.

Safety Goal 3: Ensure that the Fire Department continues to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of El Centro by educating the public about fire hazards and reducing the risk associated with fire hazards.

Policy 3.1: Identify and evaluate potentially hazardous fire risks in the community and educate the public about the safety hazard associated with these risks.

Policy 3.2: Maintain fire prone areas to lessen recurrent fire problems and include necessary improvements in the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Policy 3.3: Avoid new development that would create major increases in fire risk that may cause the City's existing fire fighting capacity to be exceeded.

Policy 3.4: Maintain efficient, 24-hour fire protection by providing the Fire Department with adequate funding, facilities, equipment, and training, and identify new funding sources as necessary.

Criminal Activities

Residents, businesses, and visitors to El Centro are at times exposed to criminal activity. The risk of exposure to criminal activity can be reduced through proper planning, education methods and regulation of human activity.

Safety Goal 4: Ensure that the Police Department continues to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of El Centro by educating the public about criminal activities and reducing the incidence of crime.

Policy 4.1: Identify and evaluate potentially hazardous criminal activities in the community and educate the public about how to best minimize the safety hazard associated with these activities.

Policy 4.2: Continue to provide efficient, 24-hour police protection by providing the Police Department with adequate levels of funding, facilities, equipment, and training, and identify new funding sources as necessary.

Transportation Hazards

Public safety hazards related to transportation are universal to every community. However, the risk of exposure to these hazards can be reduced to acceptable levels through proper planning and regulation of human activity.

Safety Goal 5: Educate the public about transportation related hazards, including automobile, aircraft, and train hazards, and reduce the risk of these hazards.

Policy 5.1: Identify and evaluate potentially hazardous transportation risks in the community, and educate the public about how best to minimize the safety hazard associated with these risks.

Policy 5.2: Continue to use traffic control devices and other street design measures along arterials and collector streets to regulate, warn, and guide vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic.

Policy 5.3: Ensure public safety by providing alternative pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths (where appropriate) that connect residential, industrial, commercial, and recreational centers.

Policy 5.4: Work with the United State Navy, Imperial County Airport, and private airstrip operators to review and identify improvements to airport facilities and takeoff/landing patterns and procedures to reduce the risk associated with aircraft operations.

Policy 5.5: Continue to participate in the airport land use plan revisions for existing airport facilities and operations, future airports, and airport expansions.

Policy 5.6: Coordinate with Caltrans, Union Pacific, airport commission, and other regional planning agencies for improvements to major roadway, railroad, and airport facilities.

Disaster Preparedness

The potential for a major disaster exists in all communities. Proper preparation for disasters is an essential action to minimize the disruption, person injury, and property damage associated with such events. Preventative measures and preparatory responses before an emergency occurs will hasten recovery from these emergencies.

Safety Goal 6: Improve the ability of the City to respond effectively to natural and human-caused emergencies.

Policy 6.1: Support the development of local preparedness plans and multi-jurisdictional cooperation and communication for emergency situations, consistent with the Multihazard Functional Planning Guidance.

Policy 6.2: Educate residents and businesses about appropriate actions to take in order to safeguard life and property during and immediately after emergencies.

Policy 6.3: Support the construction and upgrading of medical facilities and the maintenance of staffing at appropriate levels to meet or exceed medical standards for cities of the size of El Centro.

Related Goals and Policies

The goals and policies found in the Safety Element are related to and support subjects included in other General Plan elements. Likewise, many goals and policies from other elements are supportive of the subjects included in the Safety Element. These supporting goals and policies are identified in Table S-1.

Table S-1
Related Goals and Policies by Element

General Plan Elements	Safety Issue Area					
	Seismicity	Flooding	Fire	Criminal Activities	Trans. Hazards	Disaster Preparedness
Land Use	1.1, 1.2,	1.1, 1.2	1.1, 1.12, 2.2	1.1, 1.12	1.1, 1.2, 1.3	1.1, 1.12
Economic Development						
Housing						
Circulation	1.7	1.7			1.7, 3.4, 4.2	
Public Facilities		1.4	5.1, 5.2, 5.3	4.1, 4.2		
Conservation/Open Space	6.1	6.1				
Safety						
Noise					2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8	

SAFETY PLAN

Like all communities, natural conditions and human activities occur in El Centro that effect the quality of life and safety of its residents. Reducing the risks associated with natural hazards and human activities, as well as being prepared for emergency situations, is essential for creating an attractive and healthy environment. Public health and private property is protected through proper prevention and emergency preparedness planning.

The goals and policies of the previous section establish a broad agenda to safeguard community health from natural and human activity hazards and prepare for emergency situations. This section of the Safety Element identifies the City's approach for reducing potential hazards from natural conditions and human activities. Geologic conditions and seismic activity as well as flooding and fires are natural hazards in El Centro. Human activity hazards include: a) criminal activities; b) transportation hazards; and c) disaster preparedness.

Seismicity

The Imperial Valley is one of the most tectonically active regions in the United States. Branches of the San Andreas Fault form the eastern boundary of the basin (Salton Trough) and the western edge is defined by the San Jacinto-Coyote Creek and the Elsinore-Laguna Salada Faults. More small to moderate earthquakes have occurred in the area than along any other section of the San Andreas Fault System. During the current century, the area has experienced eleven earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 or greater on the Richter Scale with the strongest being a magnitude 7.1 temblor on the Imperial Fault in 1940. The deep, sediment-filled geologic structure of the Trough makes the area particularly susceptible to severe earthquake damage.

Since the Imperial Valley area is subject to frequent seismic events, there are concerns related to ground shaking, liquefaction, and landslides. The composition of geologic strata (bedrock and soil) determines what can be expected from an area as a result of ground shaking. It is therefore important to know the soil makeup in order to determine the appropriate design of structures proposed for an area. Since the City is generally flat, landslides are not considered a major hazard. However, bluff failure and mudslides may occur along slopes and embankments of the rivers and canals.

Existing Faults

Although there are no known faults or seismic zones intersecting the El Centro Planning Area, existing and future development may be impacted by seismic activity from the surrounding regional faults. Figure S-1 displays regional fault and seismic zones nearby the City.

The geologic strain pattern in the Imperial Valley region is clearly defined. The primary strain features are the northwest-trending high-angle faults developed along the San Andreas, San Jacinto, and Elsinore Zones. Movements along these faults are predominantly right lateral, with relative south-eastward displacements of the northeast blocks, and vertical movements are local or only apparent. The cities of Brawley, Imperial, El Centro, and Calexico have, within the last 35 years, received damage from the movements of major faults in the San Jacinto Fault Zone. These are the Imperial and Superstition Hills Faults.

In relation to the City of El Centro, the Imperial Fault is located approximately five miles to the east. It is a historically active fault associated with an earthquake of major proportions in 1940 and again in 1966, both of which have well documented reports indicating surface faulting. The May 18, 1940 Imperial Valley Earthquake exposed the exact line of the Imperial Fault, which is the only known section of the San Andreas system near the U.S./Mexico border.

Within a few miles to the north of El Centro, there are several faults which have been active historically; some of these are associated with the recorded 1951 earthquake involving the Superstition Hills fault, a well documented quake, showing surface faulting.

Epicenters

There are two historically active earthquake epicenters located within a 4-mile radius of the City of El Centro. One had an estimated magnitude of 6.3 on the Richter Scale in 1915. The other epicenter just southeast of the City has had 26 earthquakes recorded with a magnitude equal to or less than 7.1 on the Richter Scale since 1915. Within a 20-mile radius of the City, there are approximately 45 epicenters all with recorded earthquake magnitudes ranging between 4.0 and 5.9 on the Richter Scale. Several of these epicenters have had many recorded earthquakes.

The City of El Centro will continue to educate the residents about earthquake hazards, and thereby reduce the loss of life, injuries, damage to property, and economic and social dislocations resulting from future earthquakes. The City will locate significant public facilities, such as dams, reservoirs, hospitals, emergency facilities, schools, utilities, transportation facilities, multi-story buildings, and correctional facilities in the seismically safest locations. The City restricts land uses in areas determined to be subject to seismic hazards and adequate environmental review and mitigation measures for development proposed within a geological hazard area are required in the City. Additionally, the City will identify all earthquake-prone public buildings and buildings housing critical public functions, and require these buildings to be upgraded and structurally retrofitted. In order to reduce the risk of impacts from seismic hazards, proper development engineering, building construction, and retrofitting is required of proposed development and redevelopment.

Figure S-1
Existing Fault Lines

Flooding

El Centro's water supply comes from the Colorado River via the canals and facilities of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). A majority of the water received is used for irrigating the vast acreage of farmland in Imperial Valley and local drainage patterns within the valley have been altered through these agricultural activities. The IID maintains about 1,600 miles of irrigation drainage structures, which collect surface water runoff and subsurface drainage from some 32,200 miles of agricultural drains (tile) and channel the flow into the New and Alamo Rivers, which ultimately drain to the Salton Sea. The canals and laterals are often open and unprotected. The City will require developers to underground the canals and laterals as new development occurs adjacent to existing open drainage facilities, as allowed by the Imperial Irrigation District.

El Centro has limited flooding hazards, which are mainly associated with poor drainage design. As shown in Figure S-2, a small portion of land in the eastern part of the City has been identified as a 100-Year Flood Area and is subject to flooding. The City's goal is to continue to maintain all drainage and flood control facilities so that they function correctly. The City will avoid new development that would create runoff volumes or velocities that may cause the City's existing drainage system to exceed its design capacity until appropriate site design and mitigation steps are taken. Additionally, the City will continue to fund needed infrastructure improvements, identifying new funding sources as necessary. The City will also promote programs and actions that educate the public about flood hazards and reduce the risk of flood losses.

Fire

The City currently operates two fire stations: Fire Station No.1, located at 775 State Street and Fire Station No.2, located at 900 Dogwood. The department consists of 33 safety members and three administrative assistants. The department is led by a Chief and four Battalion Chiefs.

The department currently responds to over 38,000 emergency calls per year. During the year 2000, the department responded to approximately 325 fires in the City. The same year, the department responded to an average of 10.5 emergency calls per 24-hour shift. The standard response time is approximately 7 to 10 minutes for emergencies and 10 to 15 minutes for non emergencies. The volume of calls has made it difficult to respond to simultaneous calls and complete non-emergency duties including training, fire prevention inspections, public education, and fire station apparatus and equipment maintenance. The Fire Department has identified the need for a third station with a manned engine to deal with these issues.

The City of El Centro ensures that the Fire Department continues to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of El Centro by educating the public about fire hazards and reducing the risk associated with fire hazards. The City will also continue to review funding levels for the Fire Department to ensure an adequate level of service and facilities are provided.

Criminal Activities

Burglary, auto theft, and assault are the most frequent crimes in El Centro. The frequency of violent crimes such as homicide, rape and robbery is low. Protecting citizens and businesses from criminal activity is a priority in El Centro. Crime prevention techniques include substantive levels of police protection and educating the public about methods to reduce criminal activity.

The El Centro Police Department is located at 150 North 11th Street and comprises 47 officers, including: Chief of Police, one Captain, three Lieutenants, six Sergeants, and 36 Police Officers. The department also has an active Reserve Officer program, a Police Auxiliary (PAX) Team program, and an Explorer program. Currently there are 23 civilian employees assigned to Records, Communication, Evidence, Animal Control, Crime Prevention, Community Service Officer, Crime Analysis Unit, Computer Information Services, and Parking Enforcement. In August 1996, the Department expanded and now has a Community Oriented Police Office, Crime Prevention Specialist, Training Office, and Volunteer Services office located at the Community Center sub station. In addition, the department has two School Resource Officers. One officer is permanently assigned to High Schools (Central and Southwest) and the second officer is assigned to the Junior High Schools.

The Police Department's goal is to have 1.75 police officers per 1,000 population. Response to calls for service is prioritized based on urgency and need. Average response time for routine calls is currently 5 to 10 minutes, while for emergency calls the response time is about three to five minutes. An average of 4,068 calls is made per month to the City of El Centro Police Department, as of July 2001.

The City will ensure that the Police Department continues to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of El Centro by educating the public about criminal activities and reducing the incidence of crime.

Transportation Hazards

The City is linked to other cities in Imperial Valley and to other parts of California by a freeway and a number of highways. Interstate 8 provides for east-west travel along the southern portion of the City with off/on ramps at Imperial Avenue, 4th Street, and Dogwood Avenue. Local highways include: State Highway 111, a north-south route from the Mexican border in Calexico to Brawley, Calipatria and Niland; State Highway 86, a north-south route connecting service from Interstate 8 in El Centro to Interstate 10 in Indio, via the western shore of the Salton Sea; and, State Highway 80, an east-west route paralleling Interstate 8, known as the Evan Hewes Highway west of

the City, which enters El Centro on Adams, turns south on 4th Street and then east on East Main.

The preponderance of ground transportation systems is an asset to local economic development but poses several potential hazards including automobile accidents, rail accidents and pedestrian and bicycling accidents. The risk of accidents can be reduced by properly maintaining the transportation system infrastructure and correcting deficiencies. The City will continue to use traffic control devices and other street design measures along arterials and collector streets to regulate, warn, and guide vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic. The City will also coordinate with Caltrans, rail operators, the airport commission, and other regional planning agencies for improvements to major roadway, railroad, and airport facilities. Additionally, the City will educate the public about transportation related hazards, including automobile, aircraft, and train hazards, and reduce the risk of these hazards.

Airports

Imperial County Airport - The Imperial County Airport (Boley Field) is located within the City of Imperial's to the north of El Centro. The airport includes aviation facilities and provides scheduled passenger service to Los Angeles, Phoenix and other points in Arizona and California.

Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro – NAF El Centro occupies about 2,300 acres of land near the edge of the Imperial Valley, seven miles west of El Centro. The base primarily serves as a training facility for navel air squadrons.

Douthitt Strip Airport – Douthitt Strip Airport is a private use airport, located at the easternmost portion of Olive Avenue.

The Imperial County Airport Land Use Commission has established a set of land use compatibility criteria for lands surrounding the County's airports. As shown in Figure LU-5, in the Land Use Element of this General Plan, portions of northern El Centro are located within the D zone, representing negligible risk from airport activity, whereas other areas are in the extended approach and departure zone (B2) and are subjected to significant risk and noise exposure. A small strip of land south of Threshill Road is located within the Approach/Departure Zone (B1) subjecting development in this area to substantial risk and noise as a result of aircraft activity. The City will work with the United States Navy, Imperial County Airport, and private airstrip operators to review and identify improvements to airport facilities and takeoff/landing patterns and procedures to reduce the risk associated with aircraft operations. The City will also continue to participate in the airport land use plan revisions for existing airport facilities and operations, future airports, and airport expansions.

Figure S-2
Flood Hazards

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Railroads

Two rail lines serve the City of El Centro. The Union Pacific Railroad main line enters the eastern border near Winterhaven and then bears northwest and leaves Imperial County just east of the Salton Sea. This is the main Union Pacific Line, which primarily serves the Los Angeles area. There is a major branch line from this main line at Niland that provides rail service to Calipatria, Brawley, Imperial, El Centro, Calexico, and Mexico. This line is used extensively for agricultural shipments. Minor spurs provide service to Westmoreland and the area north of Holtville. The Holten Interurban Railroad provides service from Holtville to El Centro. A San Diego and Arizona route links El Centro to San Diego.

Disaster Preparedness

Local emergency preparedness plans serve as extensions of the California Emergency Plan and the Emergency Resource Management Plan. The purpose of the City's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Multihazard Functional Plan (MHFP) is to respond to emergency situation with a coordinated system of emergency service providers and facilities.

The City of El Centro SEMS Multihazard Functional Plan (MHFP) addresses the City of El Centro's planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and national security emergencies. The plan does not address normal day-to-day emergencies or the well-established and routine procedures used in coping with such emergencies. Instead, the operational concepts reflected in this plan focus on potential large-scale disasters that can generate unique situations requiring unusual emergency responses. The threats identified in the plan include: major earthquake, hazardous materials incident, flooding, transportation, civil unrest, and national security emergency.

The City plans to improve the ability of the City to respond effectively to natural and human caused emergencies by educating residents and businesses regarding appropriate actions to safeguard life and property during and immediately after emergencies. A public educated in emergency preparedness is more likely to know how to prevent injury and property damage during and after emergency episodes and also know how to find help. In addition, the City supports the construction and upgrading of medical facilities and staffing at appropriate levels to meet or exceed medical standards for cities the size of El Centro.