

## Appendix C – Public Survey Results

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### Public Surveys

The TCRFC prepared public surveys that asked a wide range of questions concerning the opinions of the public regarding natural and man-caused hazards. This fourteen-question survey was made available on the Coalition website, [www.tcrfc.org](http://www.tcrfc.org), as well as the websites of many of the member communities<sup>1</sup>. It was distributed at all public meetings throughout the planning process, and planning team members made hard copies available for their citizens.

At least one survey was received from each participating jurisdiction, and a total of 293 surveys<sup>2</sup> were collected, the results of which are analyzed in this Appendix. The purpose of the surveys was twofold: 1) to solicit public input during the planning process and 2) to help communities identify any potential actions or problem areas. Of interest is the fact that the Internet received the same percentage of selections as newspapers when people were asked for their preferred method of notification (See Question 11 on page 8). Also, of those that chose to respond to the questions regarding steps local governments can take and options for reducing risk (Questions 12 and 13 respectively), the majority of responses indicate a need for public awareness and dissemination of critical information such as severe weather warnings.

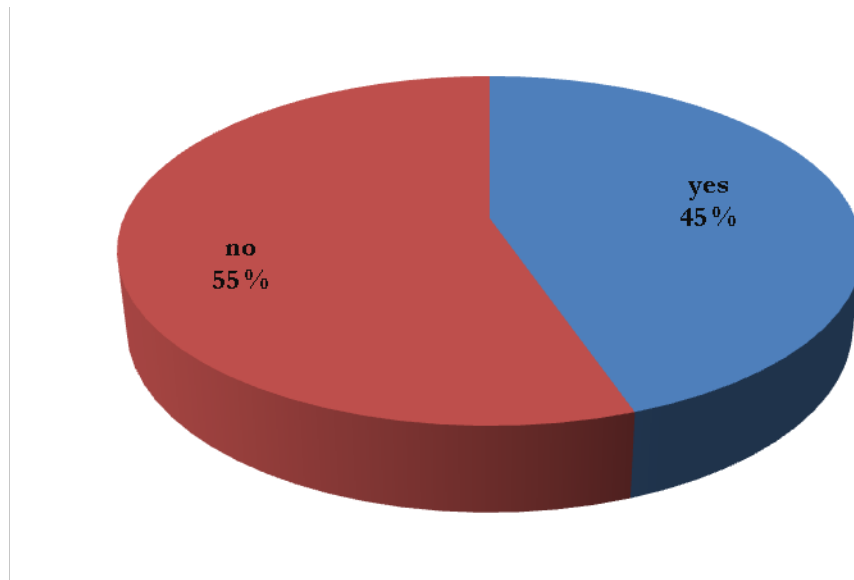
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<sup>1</sup> For a discussion on public involvement in the planning process, please see Section 2.

<sup>2</sup> Hard copies of all public surveys are available by request.

## Results

Question 1: Have you ever experienced or been impacted by a disaster?



Question 1a: If “Yes,” please explain:

### Flood

- Floods of 1984, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2004, 2007
- The June 2007 caused a break in the Marble Falls public water supply, so we had to be given canned water by emergency workers.
- Roads and fences washed out, had to be rescued by boat, heavy rains caused excessive damage to county roads,
- During the last flood all roads to location were flooded and impassible.

### Tornado

- Tornados of 1997, 1999
- In Lavaca County, in City of Burnet

### Drought

- Drought affected crops

### Hurricane

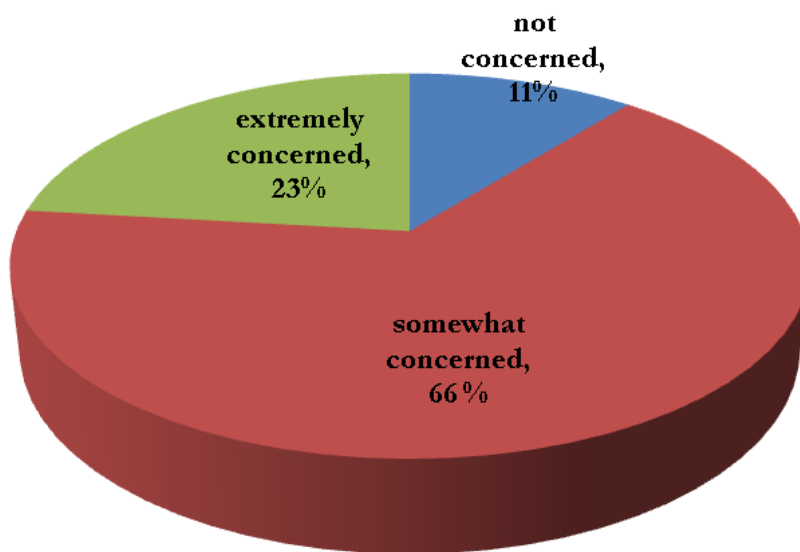
- Several hurricanes affected crops when farming for a living
- Hurricane Carla and flooding along the Guadalupe River
- Tropical storm damage

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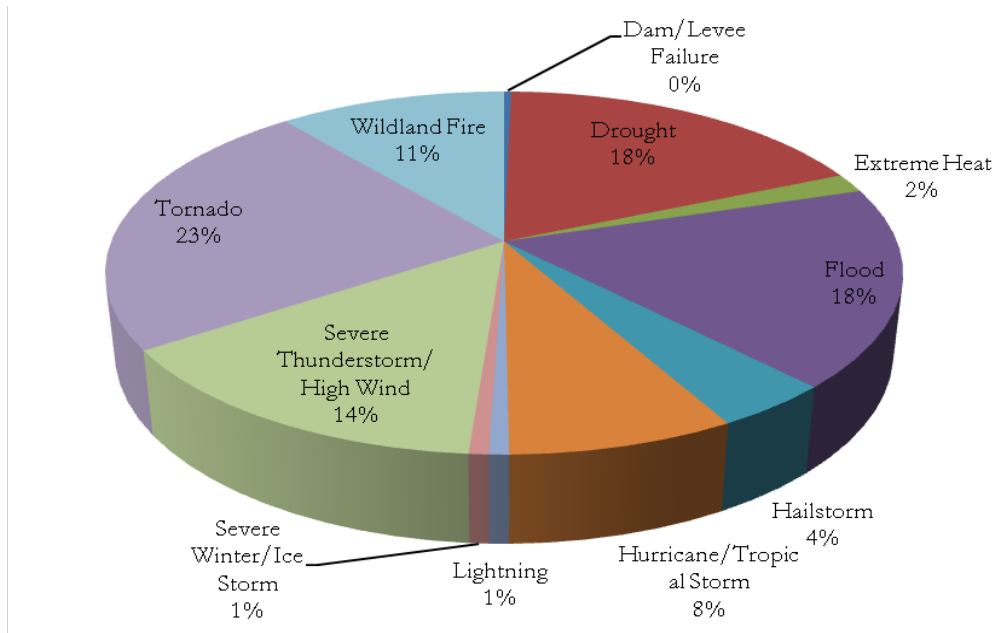
- Refugees displaced from their homes cause overcrowding
- Storms
- Severe thunderstorm and high wind
  - Hail damage
  - Ice storm in 2005 confined to home for 2-3 days
- Fire
- 300 acre wildfire
  - A fire in the city burned nearly the entire block.

Question 2: How concerned are you about the possibility of our community being impacted by a disaster?

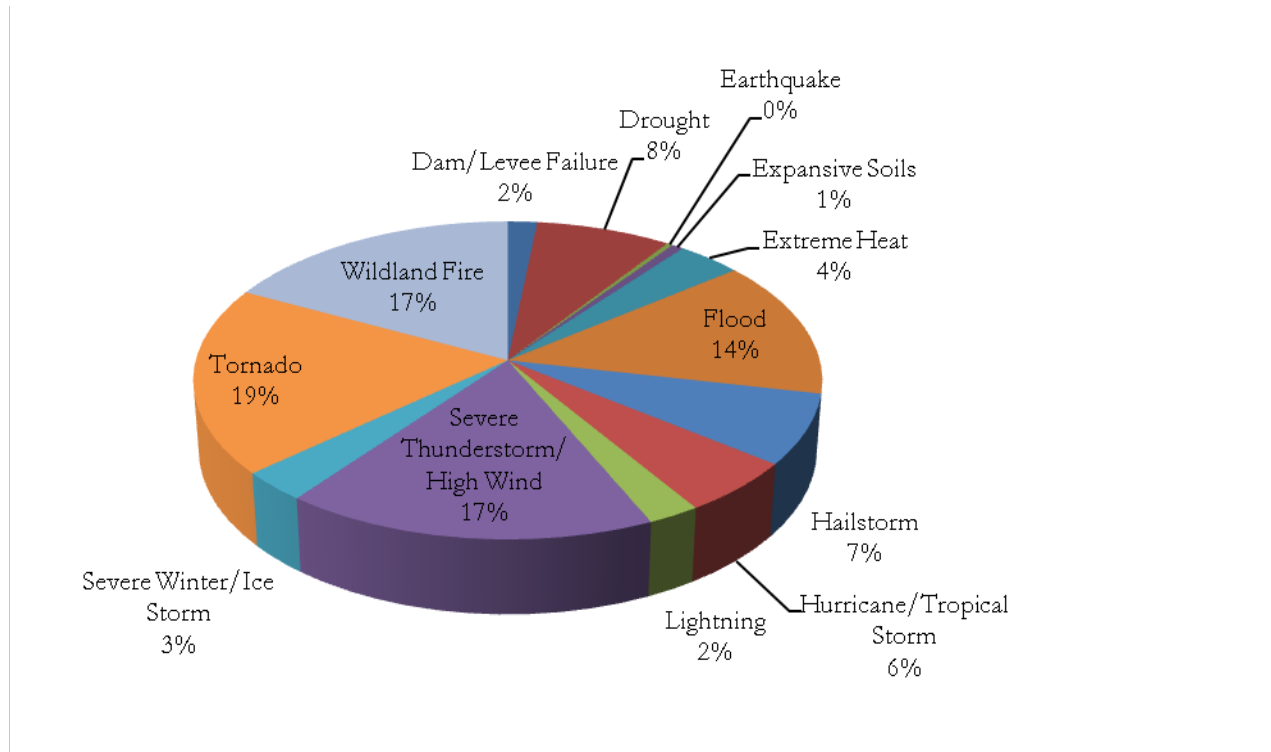


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Question 3: Please select the one hazard you think is the highest threat to your neighborhood:



Question 4: Please select the one hazard you think is the second highest threat to your neighborhood:



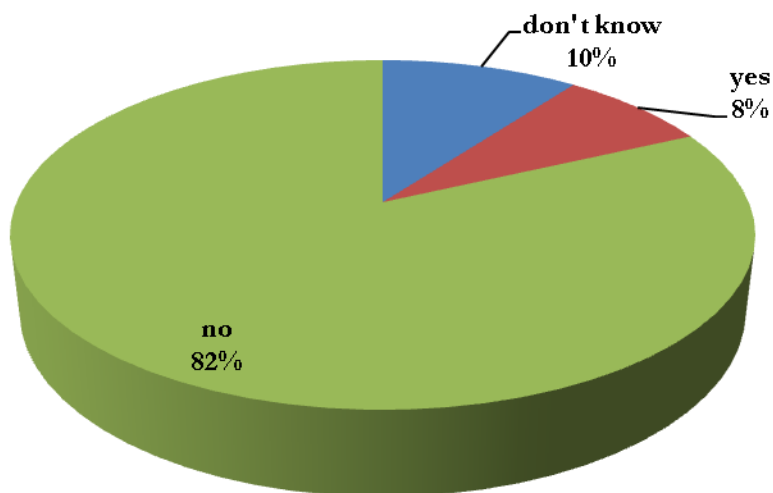
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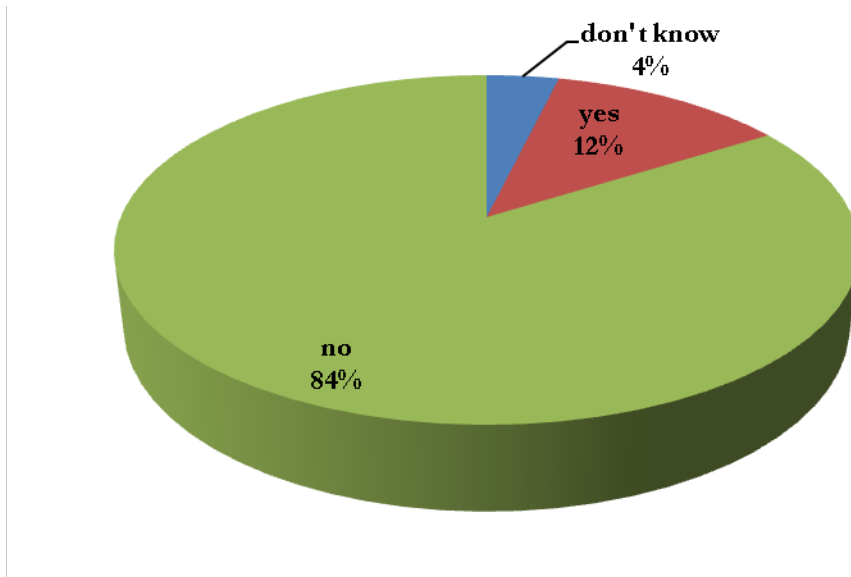
Question 5: Is there another hazard not listed above that you think is a wide-scale threat to your neighborhood?

- Avian flu
- Chemical spill
- Slow response time for emergency response to fire
- Hazardous materials on railways and roadways
- Ice storm
- Meth Labs
- Pollution
- Road blockage
- Runoff from higher ground
- Shortage of water supply
- Sink hole due to salt dome penetration
- Terrorism

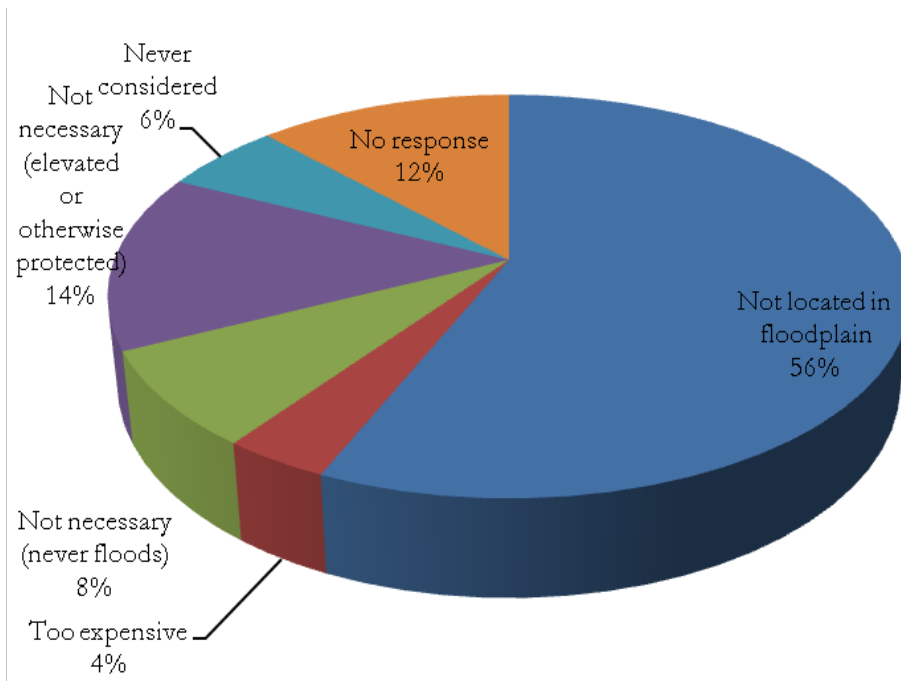
Question 6: Is your home located in a floodplain?



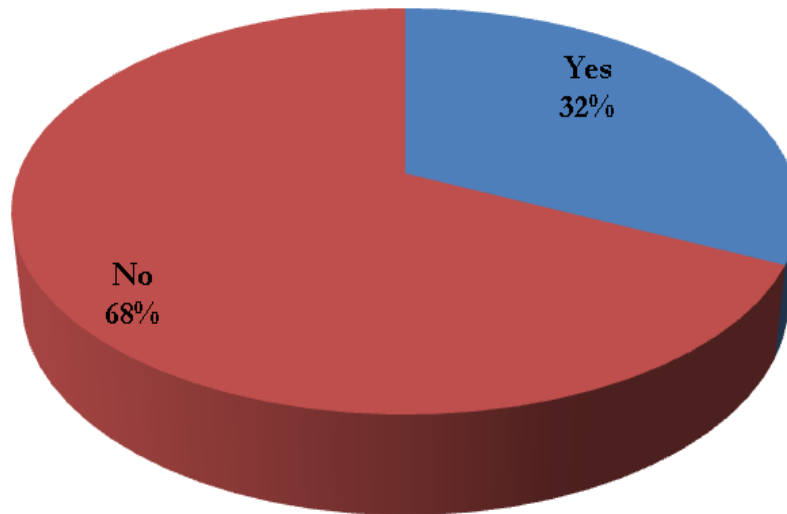
Question 7: Do you have flood insurance?



Question 8: If "No," why not?



Question 9: Have you taken any actions to make your home or neighborhood more resistant to hazards?

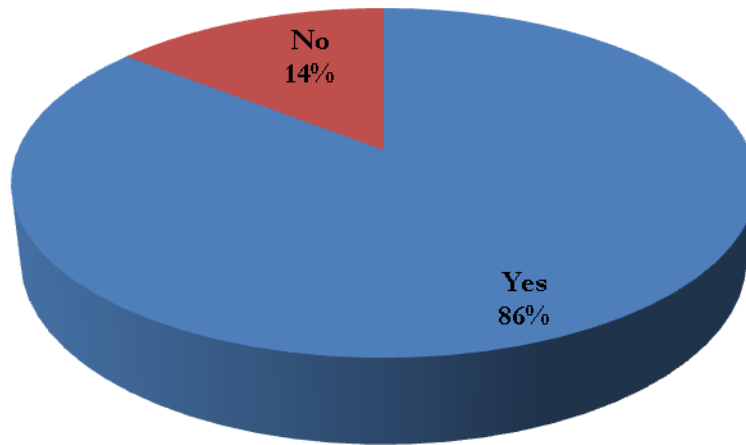


Question 9b: If “Yes,” please explain:

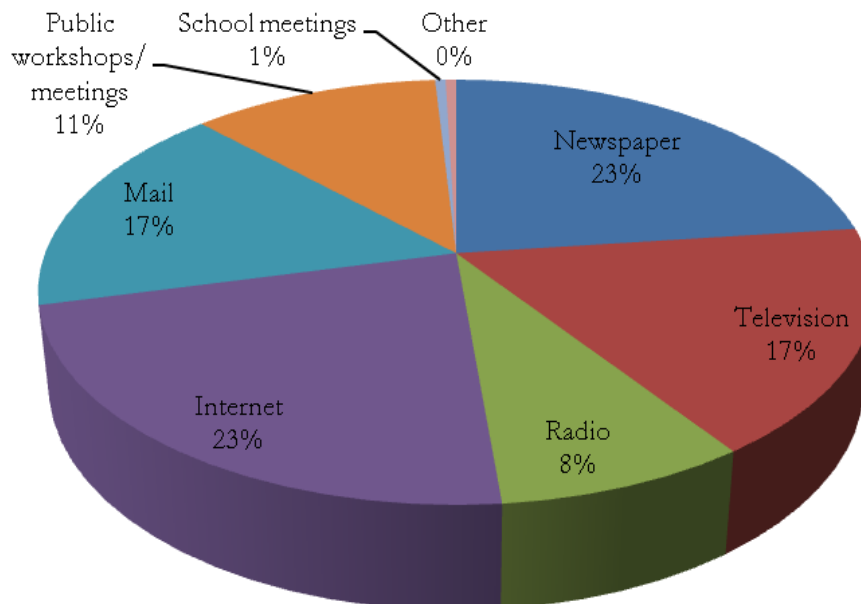
- Constructed home 1 foot above the BFE and home is anchored down.
- Built on higher elevation - mobile home hurricane standard tie downs
- Try to keep trees trimmed and yard clean
- House is concrete and steel so fire resistant and wind resistant (up to 160 mph). Have an in residence tornado shelter; maintain & design landscaping to discourage fire near home
- Cutting trees out around house; building retaining walls for soil erosion control
- Created green space around house; removed fire fuel sources (weeds, grass and dead brush); removed fencing to allow the free flow of water around the house during rain event
- Wrote letter of concern regarding high weeds and grass (fire hazard) to councilman requesting existing deed restriction be enforced eliminating the hazard .
- improved drainage channel for runoff after heavy rains
- Storm cellar, double -braced rafters; anchored sill plates; pier and beam
- clean out bar ditch; installed new driveway culverts; install 12" drain from highland to lake canal; sod hill to lake front; built retaining walls
- Have tornado shelter built in home.
- Steel roof; basement sump pump.

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Question 10: Are you interested in making your home or neighborhood more resistant to hazards?



Question 11: What is the most effective way for you to receive information about how to make your home and neighborhood more resistant to hazards?



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Question 12: In your opinion, what are some steps your local government could take to reduce or eliminate the risk of future hazard damages in your neighborhood?

- Mow the ditches more frequently to improve water drainage. Most of the times, the grass is a minimum of 2 ft. tall. Ditches are only mowed twice a year, not nearly enough.
- Clean out rivers and sloughs of trees and debris to create a more effective run off of rising waters.
- Send out flyers for public workshops and meetings for steps to take during emergency situations
- Improve communication.
- Replace old power poles and transformers and demolish old buildings and structures that are abandoned.
- The City has taken numerous steps to reduce flooding. Emergency Management Operations have received the proper training and is active in providing the best service to the citizens.
- Better alert system; faster PEC service for outages
- Encourage people to use fire resistant building materials; encourage folks to follow the Texas Parks & Wildlife fire-scaping design principles
- Have public awareness programs for community and encourage participation in them. The City should identify the possible hazards and find solutions to prevent losses as much as possible (i.e. a drainage system, curbed and guttered roads, clear out creek beds
- Make weather radios available to the public at an affordable price
- Drought and not enough water for proposed development. Start incentives for conservation; especially in urban areas; Xeriscape landscaping; rainfall harvesting cisterns; water storage in off channel reservoirs, especially in areas of heavy rainfall
- Route hazardous materials around the City instead of through town; better warning for tornados
- We need to preserve or restore the function of the natural systems.
- Use available water resource (water going over waterfall) from mill pond. Pump it into a reservoir that could be used for recreation as well as water to fish, fight fires and other needed resources.

Question 13: Are there any other issues regarding the reduction of risk and loss associated with hazards or disasters in the community that you think are important?

- public information and safety information for the public
- stop pumping waste water, etc. into salt dome
- building codes and drainage
- buy floodplain property for parkland
- Town meetings would be a good thing
- Make a plan for local radio stations to be manned and on air during tornado warnings, fires, etc. with accurate information, lately not done in 2008, electricity was off so battery radio was all that came in
- Allowing Lake Buchanan to rise to its intended level when rains are available so that when there is no rain, have additional water for the lower basin. We are more often in a time of drought than too much water. Lake Buchanan was built for water storage
- Junk piles and "dumps" especially in the county pose a potential hazard and breeding of rodents that can carry disease.
- Prevent building structures in flood plain

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Question 14: A number of community-wide activities can reduce our risk from hazards. In general, these activities fall into one of the following six broad categories. Please tell us how important you think each one is for your community to consider pursuing.

