

4.5 Conclusions on Hazard Risk

PRIORITY RISK INDEX

As discussed in Section 4.3 Risk Assessment Methodology and Assumptions, the Priority Risk Index (PRI) was used to rate each hazard on a set of standardized criteria and determine an overall score for each hazard. The quantitative PRI result were then presented to the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee for qualitative input. The conclusions drawn from this process are summarized below by classifying hazards into three categories—high, moderate, or low risk—based on the assigned risk value⁷. For some hazards, PRI ratings vary by jurisdiction. In these cases, the overall PRI rating reflects the highest risk that applies to the region. General assumptions for high, moderate, and low risk hazards are described below, and hazard risk ratings are summarized in Table 4.116:

- **High Risk** – Widespread potential impact. This ranking carries a high threat to the general population and/or built environment. The potential for damage is widespread.
- **Moderate Risk** – Moderate potential impact. This ranking carries a moderate threat level to the general population and/or built environment. Here the potential damage is more isolated and less costly than a more widespread disaster.
- **Low Risk** – Minimal potential impact. The occurrence and potential cost of damage to life and property is negligible or nonexistent. This is not a priority hazard for mitigation projects.

TABLE 4.116 – SUMMARY OF HAZARD RISK CLASSIFICATION

High Risk (≥ 3.0)	Excessive Heat Flooding Severe Winter Weather Cyber Threat
Moderate Risk (2.0 – 2.9)	Dam & Levee Failure Drought Hurricane & Tropical Storm Tornadoes/Thunderstorm Wind/Hail Wildfire Infectious Disease Hazardous Substances Radiological Emergency Bioterrorism Civil Disturbance Communications Systems Disruption/Failure Energy/Power/Utility Failure Pipeline Failure Resource Shortage Transportation Incident Terrorism
Low Risk (< 2.0)	Earthquake Lightning Building/Structure Collapse

⁷ Qualitative input received from the HMPC resulted in Cyber Threat being moved to the High Risk ranking category.