The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program provides support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. Our community is already experiencing the effects of climate change, which raises the importance of this planning process.

**Climate Change Impacts**
- **Increased Temperatures**
- **Increased Precipitation**
- **More Extreme Weather**

**Overview**

**The Town of Bernardston’s Top Priority Hazards**

The Hazard Mitigation Committee identified and assessed relevant hazards for the Town of Bernardston. The Committee considered how different hazards have impacted the community, and how these impacts will become more severe due to climate change. Below is a snapshot of the Town’s primary hazards, and examples of specific concerns related to high priority hazards.

**Flooding**

Bernardston’s maps for the 100 and 500 year floodplain are critically out of date. Therefore, emergency personnel don’t have accurate information about what areas in Town may be at risk of flooding. New maps need to be developed based on present and forecasted conditions.

**Wildfire**

The vast majority of Bernardston is forested, which makes it difficult for the Town and landowners to have a sense for the potential risk of forest fires. To better understand the potential risks and how this could increase with climate change, a GIS-based forest fire risk assessment is needed.

**Extreme Temperatures**

Changing climate has resulted in an annual decrease in days below freezing, a trend that will progress over the next century. Fewer days below freezing and deep frosts occurring later in the season are some of the contributing factors for larger tick and mosquito populations and longer seasons for both. This increases risk to Bernardston residents from insect borne diseases.

Your feedback is critical to Bernardston’s MVP Planning process!

We would like your input on the following questions:

- What hazards have impacted your community in the past?
- What infrastructure/facilities are exposed to current and future hazards?
- What are the strengths and vulnerabilities of your community?
- What natural resources are important to your community?

Photos courtesy of the Greenfield Recorder.