The Disaster Risk Assessment is reviewed annually to account for changes that may alter the assessment of risk year-over-year and to identify new emerging risks.

What are the highest risks and threats in Calgary?

There are currently 16 hazards and threats assessed as High Risk that represent the most significant risk to Calgary and highest disaster management priority.

Natural	Extreme Cold Flood (Bow River) Flood (Elbow River) Heavy Rainfall	Hydrological Drought Pandemic Tornado Winter Storm
Technological	Critical Infrastructure Failure Dam Breach (Bow River)	Dam Breach (Elbow River) Rail Incident
Human-induced	Active Assailant Mass Attack	Mass Gathering Incident Protest or Demonstration (Illegal)

What has changed since last year?

There are now 16 High Risks and 66 total risks. Water Contamination (Wildfires) was downgraded from High to Medium based on a reassessment of the potential economic impact. Stormwater Contamination (Outfalls) and Stormwater Contamination (Spill on Causeways) were removed as they are now accounted for under other risks. Refer to Appendix 1 for a complete summary.

Overall Risk Summary: 2023 vs 2024



What else are we monitoring?

Medium Risks that are currently trending upwards are monitored as they have the potential to become more severe in the future and may require pre-emptive risk treatment strategies to manage their risk.

medulin rusks – Trending Opwards							
	Basement Seepage Flooding	Slope Failure/Landslide					
	Extreme Heat	Stormwater Backup Flooding					
Natural	Extreme Solar Storm	Water Contamination (Wildfires)					
	Major Solar Storm	Wildland/Urban Interface Fire					
	Poor Air Quality	Windstorm					
Technological	Sanitary Failure (Lift Station) Supply Chain Interruption	Water Contamination (Distribution)					
Human-induced	Cyber Attack (technology as Instrument) Cyber Attack (technology as target)	Data Fraud/Theft					

Medium Risks – Trending Upwards

Analysis of the 16 High Risks

The following charts summarize the impact scores for the 16 High Risks across the five impact dimensions: People (death, injury, or illness); Economy (economic activity, asset value, important industry, and supply chain); Natural Environment (ecosystems, species, and environmental values of interest); Social Environment (social fabric, community services, quality of life, and cultural assets); and City Services (city government and service delivery).



Natural Hazards - Impact Scoring



Human and Technological Hazards - Impact Scoring

Hazard and Threat Correlation Matrix

The worst catastrophes are combinations of events where a primary trigger event causes secondary cascading effects - resulting in the consequences being worse than if they had happened independently. The potential for one hazard or threat to trigger or exacerbate the effects of another is captured in this matrix. The darker areas (3 and 4) are the most critical as they have the highest potential to induce cascading events. The scoring is based on historical events, expert feedback, and an analysis of plausible future scenarios.

Analysis

The correlation matrix illustrates the significant impact local hazards have on critical infrastructure and its importance to effective risk reduction. Critical infrastructure is the backbone of modern urban centres. Effective disaster response and recovery must be centred on building resilience into these systems, facilities, and services.

Secondary Cascading Impacts

		Active P	ssaliant of Fallu	ie Daule	each an Br	each toon) trans	Cold Flood	30N Flood (F	town Heavy	tainfall Hydrol	olcal ought Mass At	lact Mass C	atheing pander	NC protest	(Hegal) ne	dent romade	Minter	storm
	Active Assailant	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	
	CI Failure	0	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	
	Dam Breach (Bow)	0	3	4	1	0	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	1	3	1	0	
	Dam Breach (Elbow)	0	3	1	4	0	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	1	3	1	0	
	Extreme Cold	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	Flood (Bow)	0	3	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	
	Flood (Elbow)	0	3	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	
Primary	Heavy Rainfall	0	3	3	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	
Event	Hyrdological Drought	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Mass Attack	1	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	
	Mass Gathering	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	
	Pandemic	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	
	Protest (Illegal)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	
	Rail Incident	1	3	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	1	0	
	Tornado	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	1	0	
	Winter Storm	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	1	

	Cascading potential: an event of this type can potentially trigger other sub-category hazards/threats within the same category (i.e. human-induced, natural, technological).
	Strong potential: an event of this type can potentially directly trigger an event of the second type
!	Weak potential: there is some potential for an event to contribute to the causal mechanisms the would trigger the occurrence of an event of the second type.
	Indirect potential: no mechanism to cause an event of the second type but the impact of the second event would be worse due to resources already deployed and abilities to respond reduce

elated and if they occurred coinc lo potential: the two event types are unco nsequences would be broadly the same as if they occurred independently

Source: based on work from the University of Cambridge

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Appendix 1: Risk Assessment Results

Assessed risk for all 66 hazards and threats analyzed in the current Disaster Risk Assessment.

High Risk	Active Assailant	Hydrological Drought						
	Critical Infrastructure Failure	Mass Attack						
	Dam Breach (Bow River)	Mass Gathering Incident						
	Dam Breach (Elbow River)	Pandemic						
	Extreme Cold	Protest or Demonstration (Illegal)						
	Flood (Bow River)	Rail Incident						
	Flood (Elbow River)	Tornado						
	Heavy Rainfall	Winter Storm						
Medium Risk	Basement Seepage Flooding	Road Accident						
	Bomb Threat incident	Sanitary Forcemain Failure (Lift Station)						
	Bridge Failure/Interruption	Security Incident at City Facility						
	Cyber Attack (Data Fraud/Theft)	Slope Failure/Landslide						
	Cyber Attack (Technology as Instrument)	Stormwater Backup Flooding						
	Cyber Attack (Technology as Target)	Structure Fire						
	Electric Power Blackout	Supply Chain Interruption						
	Extreme Heat	Telecommunications Failure						
	Extreme Solar Storm	Thunderstorm						
	Hailstorm	Transit Rail Incident						
	Hazmat Incident	Water Contamination (Distribution)						
	Industrial Accident	Water Contamination (Downstream of Reservoirs)						
	Lightning Storm	Water Distribution (Infrastructure Failure)						
	Loss of Major Transportation Corridor	Water Contamination (Wildfires)						
	Major Solar Storm	Wildland / Urban Interface Fire						
	Poor Air Quality	Windstorm						
	Riot							
Low Risk	Aircraft Incident	Ice Accumulation						
	Earthquake (Magnitude 4.0+)	Labour Action						
	Flood (Ice Jam)	Moderate Pandemic						
	Fog	Pipeline Incident (AER lines)						
	Forcemain Failure (Purple Pipe)	Pipeline Incident (TNPL to YYC)						
	Forcemain Failure (Sludge)	Sanitary Failure (Water Body)						
	Gas Main Break	Water Contamination (Spills)						
	Hostage Incident	Water Contamination (Spills Upstream Glenmore)						
Very Low Risk	Pump Station Failure (Bonnybrook)							