



Monmouth County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update *Plan Facts*

Monmouth County has recently received grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to update its 2009 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.



WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?

Natural hazards have the potential to cause property damage, loss of life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety.

Hazard mitigation measures are the things you do today to be more protected in the future. They are measures taken before a disaster happens to reduce the impact that future disasters will have on people and property in the community. Mitigation reduces the risk of loss and creates a more disaster-resistant and sustainable community. Hazard mitigation measures are essential to breaking the typical disaster cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Monmouth County was initially prepared to meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). Passed by the President in October of 2000, this Act mandates that all states and local governments must have hazard mitigation plans in place in order to be eligible to apply for certain types of federal disaster mitigation project funding (under such programs as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, for example). At that time, Monmouth County and 52 of its 53 jurisdictions successfully participated in the process; the County and all 52 jurisdictions ultimately adopted the plan and were therefore recognized by FEMA as complying with DMA 2000.

After a plan is initially approved by FEMA, each of its participating jurisdictions must work to implement the hazard mitigation actions that they outlined in their respective mitigation strategies, and participate in a process to update the plan every five years. This marks the first of the plan's formal updates since its inception. Monmouth County has once again obtained FEMA grant funding to cover the cost of this first plan update, and has opted to continue its 'multi-jurisdictional' approach, inviting all of the municipalities within the County to continue to participate in this important endeavor to become more sustainable and disaster-resistant. Participation will again involve attending meetings, providing feedback, and reaching out to the public and other key stakeholders in the community.

Hazards of all types have the potential to cause property loss, loss of life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety. While an important aspect of emergency management

deals with disaster recovery (those actions that a community must take to repair damages and make itself whole in the wake of a natural or man-made disaster) an equally important aspect of emergency management involves hazard mitigation. Hazard mitigation measures are efforts taken before a disaster happens to lessen the impact that future disasters of that type will have on people and property in the community. They are things you do today to be more protected in the future. Hazard mitigation actions taken in advance of a hazard event are essential to breaking the typical disaster cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. With careful selection, hazard mitigation actions can be long-term, cost-effective means of reducing the risk of loss and help create a more disaster-resistant and sustainable community.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan is a well-organized and well-documented evaluation of the hazards that a jurisdiction is susceptible to, and the extent to which these events will occur. Hazard Mitigation Plans identify an area’s vulnerability to the effects of the natural hazards typically present in a certain area, as well as the goals, objectives, and actions required for minimizing future loss of life and property damage as a result of hazard events. The primary purpose of mitigation planning is to systematically identify policies, actions, and tools that can be used to implement those actions. Hazard mitigation plans are developed before a disaster strikes. They identify community policies, actions, and tools for long-term implementation to reduce risk and potential for future losses. Adopted, implemented and maintained on an ongoing basis, these plans will gradually, but steadily, lessen the impacts

associated with hazard events throughout Monmouth County.

A project kickoff meeting of the County and participating jurisdictions was held on July 31, 2012. Elected and appointed government officials, business leaders, volunteers of non-profit organizations, citizens, and other stakeholders are participating in the multi-jurisdictional plan update process as part of the Monmouth County Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (the “Planning Committee”).

While natural disasters cannot be prevented from occurring, the continued implementation of a hazard mitigation plan over the long-term will gradually, but steadily, lessen the impacts associated with natural hazard events in Monmouth County.

TIMELINE

The mitigation plan update process began in June 2012. A draft of the updated plan is targeted for release at the end of November 2013.

OUR WEBSITE

A Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning Page is on the County’s Office of Emergency Management web site. We encourage you to check back for additional information and updates at the following website, OEM link.

www.monmouthsheriff.org

Occasional status updates are also posted on the Sherriff’s Office Facebook page.

FOR MORE INFO

For questions or other feedback, or to find out how you can become involved in the process, please contact:

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