



2019 Gallia County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Gallia County, Ohio

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SECTION 1:

Introduction

Authority

This plan is an update of the **Gallia County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan** that was developed in 2004, updated in 2013 and adopted for implementation by the Gallia County Commissioners and all incorporated jurisdictions within the County. This updated plan complies with all requirements set forth by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation of 2000. In addition, it complies with all of FEMA's Final Rule 44 CFR Part 201, which outlines criteria for approval of hazard mitigation plans.

Purpose

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) define Hazard Mitigation as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards such as flooding, storms, high winds, earthquakes, etc. Mitigation efforts undertaken by communities will help to minimize damages to buildings and infrastructure, such as water supplies, sewers, and utility transmission lines, as well as natural, cultural and historic resources.

Gallia County is at risk of damage from a variety of natural hazards: flooding, winter storms, severe storms, landslides, tornadoes, mine subsidence, earthquakes and droughts. The objective of the Gallia County Hazard Mitigation Plan is to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property and the surrounding environment from natural hazards. This objective can be achieved by identifying potential hazards in the county and establishing procedures that will mitigate the effects of hazards. This plan provides a framework for planning against hazards in the county and participating jurisdictions.

The primary objective of this Plan is to protect Gallia's citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the surrounding environment from natural hazards.

The Gallia County Hazard Mitigation Plan includes all unincorporated areas and incorporated areas within the county. This Plan includes Gallia County unincorporated, Villages of Centerville, Cheshire, Crown City, Rio Grande, and Vinton, and the City of Gallipolis.

Scope

The focus of the 2019 Gallia County Mitigation Plan Update is on those hazards determined to be "high" or "moderate" risks to Gallia County, as determined through a detailed hazard risk assessment. All potential hazards warranted some analysis and assessment. Other hazards that pose a "low" or "negligible" risk will continue to be evaluated during future updates to the Plan, but they may not be fully addressed until they are determined to be of high or moderate risk. This enables Gallia County and the participating jurisdictions to prioritize mitigation actions based on those hazards which are understood to present the greatest risk to lives and property.

The geographic scope (i.e., the planning area) for the Plan includes Gallia County and incorporated jurisdictions. Table 1.1 indicates the participating jurisdictions.

Table 1.1: Participating Communities in Gallia County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Communities	
Village of Centerville	Village of Vinton
Village of Crown City	City of Gallipolis
Village of Cheshire	Gallia County
Village of Rio Grande	

Summary of Plan Contents

This plan is designed to be as reader-friendly and functional as possible. While significant background information is included on the processes and studies used (i.e., risk assessment, capability assessment), this information is separated from the more meaningful planning outcomes or actions (i.e., mitigation strategy, mitigation action plan). In the beginning of each section is a list of the 44 CFR 201.6 requirements that are met.

Section 2, **Planning Process**, describes the process used to prepare the Plan. It identifies members of the planning team and how the public and other stakeholders were involved. It also includes a summary for each of the key meetings along with any associated outcomes.

The **County Profile**, located in Section 3, provides a general overview of Gallia County, including geographic, demographic, and economic characteristics. In addition, this section discusses building characteristics and land use patterns. This baseline information provides a snapshot of the planning area and helps local officials recognize those social, environmental, and economic factors that ultimately play a role in determining the city’s vulnerability to hazards.

Historical information is provided to assess hazards impactful to the County and for the development of mitigation actions to reduce risk and improve long-term resilience.

The **Risk Assessment** is presented in Section 4. This section serves to identify, analyze, and assess hazards that threaten Gallia County. The risk assessment also attempts to define hazard risks that may uniquely or exclusively affect specific areas of the county.

The Risk Assessment begins by identifying hazards that threaten Gallia County. Next, it establishes detailed profiles for each hazard, building on available historical data from the previous plan, past hazard occurrences, spatial extent, and probability of future occurrence. This section culminates in a hazard risk ranking based on conclusions regarding the frequency of occurrence, spatial extent, and potential impact highlighted in each of the hazard profiles (known as the Priority Risk Index).

The vulnerability assessment uses available hazard data to evaluate vulnerability. FEMA’s HAZUS®MH loss estimation methodology evaluates flood and earthquake risk. In essence, the information generated through the risk assessment serves a critical function as the county seeks to determine the most appropriate mitigation actions to pursue and implement. The risk assessment enables the county

to prioritize and focus its efforts on those hazards of greatest concern and those structures or planning areas facing the greatest risk.

The **Mitigation Strategy**, found in Section 5, consists of broad goal statements (refined for the 2019 plan update) as well as an analysis of hazard mitigation techniques for Gallia County to consider in reducing hazard vulnerabilities. The strategy provides the foundation for a detailed **Mitigation Action Plan**, which links specific mitigation actions for each jurisdiction, department, or community partner. This process locally-assigns implementation mechanisms and target completion dates. Together, these sections are designed to make the plan both strategic, through the identification of long-term goals, and functional, through the identification of immediate and short-term actions that will guide day-to-day decision-making and project implementation.

The plan emphasizes using program and policy alternatives to make Gallia County less vulnerable to natural hazards while improving the economic, social, and environmental health of the community.

With this plan, Gallia County is embarking on an innovative planning process to consider future hazard risks and projection in the risk assessment and mitigation strategies. The concept of multi-objective planning was emphasized throughout the planning process, particularly in identifying ways to link, where possible, hazard mitigation policies and programs with complimentary community goals related to disaster recovery, housing, economic development, recreational opportunities, transportation improvements, environmental quality, land development, and public health and safety.

The **Capability Assessment**, found in Section 5, provides an inventory and analysis of existing plans, ordinances, and relevant documents. The purpose of this assessment is to identify any existing gaps, opportunities, or conflicts in programs or activities that may hinder hazard mitigation efforts and to identify those activities that should be built upon in establishing a successful and sustainable local hazard mitigation program. Specific capabilities addressed in this section include planning and regulatory capability, staff and organizational (administrative) capability, technical capability, fiscal capability, and political capability. Information was obtained through the use of a Capability Assessment Survey.

The Community Profile, Risk Assessment, and Capability Assessment collectively serve as a basis for determining the goals for the Gallia County Hazard Mitigation Plan, each contributing to the development, adoption, and implementation of a meaningful and manageable Mitigation Strategy that is based on accurate background information.

Plan Maintenance, found in Section 6, includes the measures that the Gallia County will take to ensure the Plan's continuous long-term implementation. The procedures also include the manner in which the Plan will be regularly evaluated and updated to remain a current and meaningful planning document.

Lastly, the **Appendices** provide documentation including: Appendix A: Adoption Resolution; Appendix B: Meeting Notes/Sign-in; Appendix C: Correspondence; Appendix D: Community Hazard Maps; Appendix E: Review Tool (Federal Review Tool).