



Auglaize County Hazard Mitigation Plan

DOCUMENTATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS – AUGLAIZE COUNTY

Including the cities, villages, and townships of Auglaize County

As per requirement 44 CFR Part 201.6(c)(1): [The plan must document] the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.

OVERVIEW

At the direction of the Auglaize County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), Auglaize County and its municipalities have developed a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in an effort to indicate probable hazard risks, profile future hazard events, estimate damage and losses as a result of future hazard events, and advocate mitigative projects to reduce the effects of the identified hazards on the communities within the county. The plan's aim is to create safer, more disaster-resistant communities.

The HSEMA compiled a Hazard Mitigation Core Planning Committee (HMC), known as project stakeholders, to be responsible for the development and implementation of the plan. The committee included primarily representatives from each of the cities, villages, and the emergency services organizations within the county (fire, police, etc.). Other organizations that were involved in the process included township representatives, county engineering staff, and R.D. Zande & Associates, Inc.

HMC members reported the actions of the project stakeholders back to the participating jurisdictions. As such, participating jurisdictions and the public were updated as to the status of the plan's preparation and the repercussions of not completing a plan. Further, with respect to the development of an action plan, three (3) HMC meeting were scheduled to discuss ways in which the county could lessen its susceptibility to the hazards identified in the Hazard Risk Assessment (HRA). All three (3) meeting were open to the public and provided an opportunity for neighboring communities, agencies, businesses, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations to be involved in the planning process. Letters were sent to all neighboring jurisdictions informing them of the plans status and providing them an opportunity to review the plan.

Feedback received from the HMC proved valuable in the development of the plan. Several comments were received that resulted in the reevaluation of the risks that should be included in



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the plan. It was found that in addition to the identified natural hazards, secondary hazards, such as the limited access to the remote areas and tourist attractions of the county, are a concern to county first responders. Further, all governmental jurisdictions in Auglaize County were polled

in an effort to gather local opinion on prominent hazards and high-priority mitigative actions. As a result, the plan has been tailored to Auglaize County's specific needs, and will prove to be a document county residents can feel ownership of and utilize to make educated decisions that will reduce their vulnerability to hazards. All of the governmental jurisdictions in Auglaize County were involved in the identification of the hazards to which Auglaize County is vulnerable, as well as the profiling of those hazards for their respective jurisdictions. Representatives from each of the governmental jurisdictions also attended HMC meetings and assisted in the generation of mitigation goals, objectives and strategies to lessen or prevent losses in their jurisdictions in the event of a natural disaster.

METHODOLOGY

The risk assessment phase of the mitigation plan was completed using a variety of research techniques. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) GeoHazards, NOAA, and other Internet sites were searched for historical hazard event records. R.D. Zande & Associates, Inc. conducted searches of existing reports and plans that were on file with the county HSEMA and the participating jurisdictions to assist in the determination of hazard-susceptibility areas. Interviews and other discussions were conducted with numerous local officials, including first responders, insurance agents, and other emergency services officials to ascertain the risks associated with particular hazards in specific areas of the county. Assets (structures, utilities etc.) were inventoried and loss estimates were calculated for each of the inventoried assets with respect to the hazards profiled.

Following the completion of the risk assessment, the HMC used information such as hazard profiles and loss estimates to formulate mitigation goals, objectives, and strategies. For this phase of the project, the HMC and members of the general public met to discuss baseline strategies. Members of the HMC and the general public were notified of the meetings via memoranda and telephone correspondence from the Auglaize County HSEMA. The ideas generated at the meetings were used as the starting point for further planning steps.

In an effort to obtain greater public comment, questionnaires were distributed to members of the



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Auglaize County EMA. These questionnaires allowed members of the public to participate in the process without requiring speaking in front of a crowd. The questionnaires also were a convenient form of participation in terms of work schedules, etc.

FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE PLAN

Governmental units in Auglaize County worked cooperatively to complete this hazard mitigation plan through the HMC and with the help of the Auglaize County HSEMA. To show each entity's dedication to completing this project, all entities adopted formal resolutions to implement the plan in their jurisdiction. Copies of the adopting documents were included in the plan. Below is a listing of the members of the HMC and a list of participating or contributing agencies, as well as the planning schedule that was followed during the formation of the plan.

Auglaize County Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Joe Lenhart
Auglaize County Administrator

Michael B. Sullivan
Director Facility Services, JTDMH

Bob Warren
ACCA

Nicholas Van Schoyk
St. Marys Chamber of Commerce

Heather Buck
Watershed Coordinator

Tim Eberle
Precision Strip, Minster

The Honorable Donald Wittwer
Mayor, City of Wapakoneta

Don Luedeke
CERT Member

Dennis Mallory
Director, EMA

Don Harrod
Administrator, Village of Minster

Troy Anderson
Deputy Director, EMA

Ken Cline
Chief, St. Marys Fire Department

Robert Spencer
Trustee, Wayne Township

Kevin Luedeke
CERT Member

Charles Haggard
Trustee, Wayne Township

Cheri Drinkwine
Administrative Assistant, EMA

The Honorable Theodore L. Vorhees
Mayor, Village of Buckland



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Agencies Participating or Contributing to the Plan

Auglaize County Board of Commissioners	Auglaize County Township Trustees
Auglaize County Administrator	St. Marys Chamber of Commerce
Auglaize County Engineer	Auglaize County Historical Society
Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	City and Village Mayors
Auglaize County American Red Cross	Auglaize County Auditor
Auglaize County Department of Health	Auglaize County Tax Maps
Auglaize Soil and Water Conservation District	Fire Chiefs Associations
Grand Lake Watershed Project	Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Auglaize County Farm Service Agency	Army Corps of Engineers
	School District Personnel

Following is a listing of select meeting dates where each jurisdiction covered by the plan participated in the development. Several of the communities had representatives on the planning committee.

COVERED JURISDICTIONS & PARTICIPATION DATES		
Jurisdiction	Individual Meetings	Committee Meetings
Village of Buckland		4/19/2004, 5/17/2004, 6/21/2004
Village of Cridersville	4/5/2005	
Village of Minster	5/17/2005, 9/6/2005	4/19/2004, 5/17/2004, 6/21/2004
Village of New Bremen	5/24/2005, 7/12/2005	
Village of New Knoxville	4/12/2005, 10/11/2005	
Village of Uniopolis	3/11/2006	
Village of Waynesfield	3/27/2006	
City of St. Marys	8/22/2005, 8/23/2005	
City of Wapakoneta	7/18/2005, 4/17/2006	4/19/2004, 5/17/2004, 6/21/2004



MITIGATION PLANNING SCHEDULE

