

# **Champaign County Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2024

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Champaign County Emergency Management Agency



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Champaign County is dedicated to creating and maintaining a safe, secure environment for everyone in this rural Ohio county. Situated around the City of Urbana, northeast of Dayton and west of Marysville, Champaign County is home to many farm families and small industries that employ local residents. The Champaign County Emergency Management Agency is dedicated to helping the county develop sustainable solutions to natural disaster threats through a progressive program of hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness.

The Champaign County Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed through community-wide participation in the assessment of risks and hazards, creation of solution-driven mitigation strategies, and planning for implementation and sustainment of loss reduction efforts. Through a series of meetings and work sessions described in this plan, the county, municipalities, and townships came together to assess the current risks and identify sustainable solutions to reduce those vulnerabilities. As a part of this action plan, they considered various regional, county, and local plan documents that provide guidance to developers, regulators, and residents as they implement community growth initiatives. They considered conservation of the environment as well as economic development and community growth. A wide array of professionals and officials were included in these meetings to look not only at Champaign County today, but to consider future developments that might affect them in the future.

This plan is intended to be a tool in comprehensive community development planning, construction of new facilities, and growth of residential areas, as well as a thought-provoking essay in the general evolution of local governance. It discusses the impact of natural hazards on not only buildings and infrastructure, but also on the various populations of the county, especially the underserved and disabled. It discusses assistance available after significant incidents, especially for special populations. It documents the history of disasters in Champaign County and takes into account the unique characteristics of the county's footprint. The plan documents past casualties and identifies mitigation strategies that will effectively protect and preserve the county's many natural and man-made assets.

The Champaign County Hazard Mitigation Plan process followed the guidance established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in April of 2023. The community was involved in the process as input and feedback was sought from all county residents and workers according to that guidance. This is evidenced by documentation later in this plan.

As one of many ways to make Champaign County resilient to catastrophic incidents, this plan provides a comprehensive review of mitigation needs, including its unique vulnerabilities to hazards. The mitigation strategies and planning process helped community leaders plan to implement projects and develop policies that make Champaign County resistant to long-term devastation and facilitate rapid recovery when disasters do occur. It is intended to help give every resident in Champaign County an opportunity to survive the disasters that strike, and enable everyone to have a chance to rebuild their lives.