

## **Chapter 4:**

# **Multi-Hazard Goals and Action Items**

The Brown County Hazard Mitigation Plan Core Group, elected and appointed officials, and community developed problem statements, goals and objectives in an incremental, step-by-step process. This section summarizes the process used to develop the Action Plan for the eight natural hazards identified in the mitigation plan including flooding, severe thunderstorms and lightning, tornadoes, severe winter weather, mudslides, drought and earthquakes.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Brown County Hazard Mitigation Plan is to provide a comprehensive view of natural hazards in Brown County and make recommendations designed to protect citizens, essential facilities, infrastructure and private property from natural hazards. This can be achieved by incorporating these ideas into existing and future land use planning documents, identifying at-risk infrastructure and increasing public education about natural hazards.

### **Goals**

The Core Group, elected/appointed officials and community brainstormed existing and repetitive problems occurring in Brown County and the mitigation plan goals were identified based on these sessions. The goals focus on a specific area serving as an umbrella over several problem statements related to that goal.

### **Action Items**

The Action Items identify the activities local organizations and communities can pursue to reduce hazard risks in Brown County. Action Items include both short and long-term actions.

## **Mitigation Plan Goals**

The plan goals determined by the Core Group, elected/appointed officials and community provide the foundation for the Action Item recommendations. From each mitigation goal, benefits of implementation have been included to reduce or prevent losses from natural hazards in Brown County.

### **Goal 1**

- Minimize the loss of life of the citizens of Brown County from the effects of natural hazards.

### **Goal 2**

- Protect critical facilities and minimize damage to public and private property.

### **Goal 3**

- Manage development to limit exposure to damage from natural hazards.

### **Goal 4**

- Manage debris along streams, waterways, roadways and ditches.

### **Goal 5**

- Reduce the number of repetitively damaged existing structures.

## **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Action Items**

The mitigation plan identifies action items developed through core group activities, research and data collection. Plan activities may require federal and state grant funding, or be implemented at the local level through partnerships and cooperation. As such, Action Items will be prioritized and implemented based on available funding. Each Action Item is separated into four components that include the following:

- Responsible Agency(ies). The Responsible Agency(ies) includes organizations willing to organize resources, identify funding sources (if necessary) and monitor activity implementation.
- Deadline. Each Action Item includes an estimate of the amount of time needed to implement the action.
- Cost. Many action items require minimal cost or staff time, however some projects may require funding that is unknown, or unavailable, at this time.
- Benefits. The Benefits component defines the advantages of implementing the action item.

Based on the goals identified, there are fifteen action items.

## **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Participation**

Located on page 32 is a spreadsheet of jurisdiction projects. Brown County and the Villages of Georgetown, Mt. Orab, Ripley, Aberdeen, Sardinia, Hamersville, Russellville, Fayetteville, Higginsport and St. Martin participated in the development of this plan through attendance at Core Group meetings, personal interviews and community forums.

## **Action Items**

### **Action Item 1**

#### **Improved Code Enforcement**

Enforce development standards

Limit development in high hazard areas

Enforce laws related to illegal dumping

Responsible Agency(ies):     Brown County Building Department  
   Brown County Planning Commission  
   Brown County Health Department  
   Solid Waste Authority  
   Ohio EPA/DNR  
   Coast Guard (Ohio River)  
   Local Zoning

Deadline:     Ongoing

Cost:   Staff Time

Benefits: A staff educated about the dynamics of hazard mitigation can facilitate preventative measures when reviewing plans and inspecting sites.

### **Action Item 2**

#### **Develop A Countywide Growth Plan**

Address farmland preservation/open space.

Establish a working committee (Planning Commission)

Responsible Agency(ies):     Brown County Commissioners  
   Brown County Planning Commission  
   Economic Development Office

Deadline:     1-2 Years

Cost:   Plan Development/Consultant (Seek grant funding)  
         GIS/land mapping programs

Benefits: Incorporating mitigation actions into plans and regulations will help avoid hazardous areas and new development will be better protected.

### **Action Item 3**

#### **Infrastructure Audits**

Evaluate at risk roads and/or bridges, dams, water treatment facilities and electrical power. This includes frequent flooding of low spots on the Old A & P Highway between Free Soil and Centerpoint Road.

Responsible Agency(ies): County Engineer  
Utility Services  
Village Officials

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Staff Time  
Road elevation  
Equipment (portable generators)

Benefits: Keeping critical roads and facilities operational during and after a natural disaster is vital to public health and safety.

#### **Action Item 4**

##### **Retrofitting Incentives**

Establish a program of technical assistance and financial incentives to encourage property protection measures on private property such as drainage improvements, dam control and dry hydrants.

Responsible Agency(ies): Village Officials  
Local Fire Departments

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Equipment (installation of larger drainage culverts, dry hydrants)

Benefits: Better drainage control can protect against flooding of downstream areas. Dry hydrants can help prevent excessive loss of private property.

#### **Action Item 5**

##### **Repetitive Loss/High Risk Projects**

Identify repetitive loss structures and at-risk structures.

Responsible Agency(ies): Brown County EMA

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Undetermined

Benefits: A benefit/cost analysis would need to be completed for repetitive loss and high risk structures to be eligible for future FEMA funds.

**Action Item 6****Drainage Maintenance**

Implement a formal stream and ditch/drainage maintenance program.

Responsible Agency(ies):   County Engineer  
                                      Village Officials  
                                      OSU Extension Office  
                                      ODNR  
                                      Volunteer/Conservation Groups

Deadline:       Ongoing

Cost:   Staff Time

Benefits: Obstruction to ditches and channels results in flooding. By inspecting and maintaining drainage systems, potential flood problems can be identified and corrected before heavy rains.

**Action Item 7****Forestry Programs**

Implement a formal and regular tree trimming (and removal) program.

Responsible Agency(ies):   County Engineer  
                                      Village Officials  
                                      Utility Companies

Deadline:       Ongoing

Cost:   Staff Time

Benefits: An active forestry program will address problems caused by high winds, winter storms and flooding.

**Action Item 8****Flood Threat Recognition**

Identify the need for additional rain and stream gauges throughout the county.  
Establish a better monitoring system of the gauging network.

Responsible Agency(ies):   Brown County EMA  
                                      National Weather Service  
                                      Brown County Communications Center

Deadline:       Ongoing

Cost:   Staff Time  
          Equipment (Yard Sticks)

Benefits: Early recognition of impending flooding can save lives and prevent property damage.

**Action Item 9**

**Community Rating System/NFIP**

Review the criteria for Brown County communities to participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) and encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program(NFIP).

Responsible Agency(ies): Brown County EMA

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: A community's participation in the Community Rating System enables residents required to have flood insurance to take advantage of discounted rates.

**Action Item 10**

**Bank Stabilization Projects**

Identify areas susceptible to mudslides or slippage during periods of heavy rain and develop a strategy to stabilize those areas.

Responsible Agency(ies): County Engineer  
Village Officials

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Undetermined

Benefits: Stabilizing hillsides susceptible to mudslides will prevent damage to roads and allow emergency vehicles continuous access during emergencies.

**Action Item 11**

**Purchase Additional Tornado Sirens**

Identify areas in greatest need of tornado sirens and seek funding sources to purchase and maintain additional sirens.

Responsible Agency(ies): Brown County EMA  
Village Officials

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Undetermined

Benefits: Additional sirens will provide a larger warning area to help protect lives of Brown County residents.

#### **Action Item 12**

##### **Establish Reverse 911 Capabilities**

Identify the equipment and costs associated with establishing reverse 911 capabilities in Brown County.

Responsible Agency(ies):   Brown County EMA  
  Brown County Communications

Deadline:       Ongoing

Cost:   Undetermined

Benefits: Reverse 911 allows emergency communication directly to homeowners. This system also helps warn special needs populations, such as the hearing impaired.

#### **Action Item 13**

##### **Strengthen Public/Private Partnerships and Communications**

Identify the parties that can have an impact on hazard mitigation. Open lines of communication between involved parties to understand what hazard mitigation is and how they fit into the “big picture”.

Responsible Agency(ies):   Brown County EMA  
  Brown County Engineer  
  Village Officials  
  Utility Companies

Deadline:       Ongoing

Cost:   Staff Time

Benefits: Open lines of communication can prompt changes to occur that do not necessarily cost anything.

#### **Action Item 14**

##### **Develop and Implement Public Education Programs**

Implement programs to educate the public about hazard mitigation and make them stakeholders in protecting their own lives and property.

Responsible Agency(ies):   Brown County EMA

Deadline:       Ongoing

Cost:   Undetermined

Benefits: Better educating residents will protect lives and property during emergencies.

**Action Item 15**

**Establish a Mitigation Coordinating Committee**

The committee would meet regularly, be responsible for implementing these action items and report progress to the Board of Commissioners.

Responsible Agency(ies): Brown County EMA

Deadline: 1 Year

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: Those responsible for implementing the various recommendations have many other jobs to do. A monitoring system helps to ensure the actions recommended in the plan are carried out.