

Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



Adopted Plan Cover, 2010

Background

Natural hazards are a part of life throughout Atlantic County. All of our hazards have the potential to cause property loss, loss of life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety. An important part of emergency management involves **hazard mitigation** –

which is, essentially, actions and projects undertaken to *protect* things before they get damaged. A **hazard mitigation plan** describes the hazards that can occur in a community, and then presents actions and projects that will be done to reduce key risks.

Purpose and Need

The **Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Atlantic County** was adopted in 2010 to meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (or “DMA 2000”). Its development was led by the County under a FEMA planning grant that covered the costs of its preparation. Though it wasn't required, Atlantic County opted to use what FEMA calls a ‘multi-jurisdictional’ approach – meaning that instead of it just being a plan for the County government, every municipality was invited to participate as an equal partner with the County. Adopting a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan opened the door for all participating municipalities to be in compliance with DMA 2000, and

eligible to apply for hazard mitigation project grants. To stay in compliance with DMA 2000, the plan must be updated every five years. The update ensures that the plan remains current in its discussion of local risks and risk reduction strategies. The 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. Each jurisdiction in the County is attending meetings, providing feedback in a series of topic areas, reaching out to the public and other key stakeholders, and updating their local mitigation strategy.

For More Information

For questions or other feedback, or to find out how you can become involved, please contact your local elected official or Emergency Management Coordinator; the Atlantic County Office of Emergency

Preparedness at 609-407-6742; or visit our web site at www.aclink.org/oep.

Planning Timeline

- First plan adopted in 2010; updates are required every five years
- Update process began in August 2014 and is ongoing
- Submittal of the updated plan to FEMA is anticipated in 2015

Natural disasters cannot be prevented from occurring but, if we tackle some of the biggest risks with hazard mitigation projects, eventually, our hazards won't become disasters.

