

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines the disaster life cycle as the process through which emergency managers respond to disasters when they occur; help people and institutions recover from them; reduce the risk of future losses; and prepare for emergencies and disasters. In **Figure i** each phase in the Emergency Management Lifecycle; Mitigate, Prepare, Respond, and Recover has a description of the phase as well as a time frame within the disaster cycle. Although each of the phases is visually tied to a specific time period within the life cycle of the disaster, mitigation can take place throughout much of the disaster life cycle. The Huntington County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) update focuses on the mitigation activities that may be implemented throughout the disaster life cycle.



Figure i Phases of the Emergency Management Lifecycle

According to FEMA, mitigation is most effective when it's based on an inclusive, comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs. The MHMP planning process identifies hazards, the extent that they affect the municipality, and formulates mitigation practices to ultimately reduce the social, physical, and economic impact of the hazards.

The overall goals of the Huntington County MHMP, which align closely with the State of Indiana MHMP, are:

- 1) Lessen the impacts of disasters and enhance community resilience.
- 2) Minimize the loss of life and injuries caused by disasters.
- 3) Promote mitigation activities both prior to and following a disaster.

To achieve the stated goals the community strategy includes the following:

- 1) Lessen the impacts of disasters and enhance community resilience by:
 - a. Supporting resilience opportunities within the community
 - b. Incorporating the MHMP into local ordinances, local planning efforts and the community comprehensive plans
 - c. Evaluating and strengthening collaboration among organizations
 - d. Making sure essential facilities can withstand disasters
 - e. Supporting the NFIP
 - f. Identifying opportunities to reduce repetitive loss incidents
- 2) Minimize the loss of life and injuries caused by disasters by:
 - a. Improving warning systems for the residents
 - b. Developing public awareness and outreach programs
 - c. Improving shelter availability
 - d. Developing a program of affordable housing that is resilient to flooding
 - e. Improving education and training for emergency personnel and officials
 - f. Developing ways to provide education, awareness, and warning of disasters to the underserved populations.
- 3) Promote mitigation activities prior to and following a disaster by:
 - a. Ensuring better communication between federal, state and local officials
 - b. Seizing opportunities to buy out properties, floodproof buildings, or improve building codes

- c. Conducting new studies and/or research opportunities to reduce impacts from disasters and prepare for future events anticipating the impacts of our changing climate.
- d. Conducting outreach efforts to educate community members of the risks and hazards in their area as well as encouraging the implementation of a variety of mitigation actions.

For National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) communities to be eligible for future mitigation funds, they must adopt either their own MHMP or participate in the development of a multi-jurisdictional MHMP. Further, it is required that local jurisdictions review, revise, and resubmit the MHMP every five years. As representatives from Huntington County, the City of Huntington, the Towns of Andrews, Markle, Mount Etna, Roanoke, and Warren have provided information, attended meetings, and participated in the planning process, the planning process used to update the Huntington County MHMP satisfies the requirements of a multi-jurisdictional plan.

During Planning Committee meetings, those in attendance revisited existing the 2018 MHMP and identified new critical facilities and local hazards; reviewed the State’s mitigation goals and updated the local mitigation goals; reviewed the most recent local hazard data, vulnerability assessment, and maps; evaluated the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures and identified new mitigation projects; and reviewed materials for public participation. Keeping in mind the ever-changing climate, the team also examined the needs of underserved populations that may be more vulnerable to the impacts of the listed hazards. Meetings were conducted with key groups such as city planners, health department specialists, representatives of organizations serving the underserved populations and various emergency responders. Their information has been incorporated into this MHMP update. This plan update will examine each of the hazards with data from the past 5 years, where possible.

The review of hazards and risks is based on the methodology described in the Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide FP 206-21-0002, Effective April 19, 2023. The plan identifies the hazards assessed, the nature of each hazard including historic occurrences, vulnerabilities, and the relationship to other hazards. Using a ranking tool known as the Calculated Risk Priority Index (CPRI), the planning team scored each of the hazards. **Table i** lists the hazards in the plan and compares the scores to the previous plan. The CPRI scores reflect the hazards of most concern by the planning team members and change from one plan to another based on recent experiences, changes in community demographics, and challenges.

Table i: Comparison of CPRI Scores for All Hazards

Hazard	2024 Rank	CPRI Score	2018 Rank	Hazard
Fire and Wildfire	1	3.10	12	Wildfire only
Hail/Thunder/Wind	2	3.10	4	Summer Storm
Winter	3	2.98	5	Winter Storm
Drought	4	2.95	10	Drought
Dam and Levee Failure	5	2.55	13/14	Levee Failure/Dam Failure
Flood - Flash	6	2.72	6	Flash Flood
Extreme Temperature	7	2.51	8	Extreme Temperature
Flood - Riverine	8	2.51	3	Flood
Tornado	9	2.37	1	Tornado
Haz Mat - Transportation	10	2.00	2	Hazmat Spill
Earthquake	11	1.47	9	Earthquake
Land subsidence	12	1.45	11	Ground Failure
Haz Mat Fixed Facility				
			7	Harmful Organism

Lastly, the plan concludes with a discussion about mitigation actions. The MHMP lists a variety of mitigation actions the planning team members would like to accomplish within the next 5 years to enhance the resilience of Huntington County. In addition, it celebrates the mitigation successes from the previous MHMP Plans and community actions which contribute to mitigating the various risks and hazards identified.

This MHMP is a living document which has a 5-year life span. During the next 5 years, Huntington County and the incorporated communities that adopt this plan will work to complete the mitigation actions as well as regularly noting items for the 2029 MHMP update. The County EMA and planning team members will also use tools contained in the Appendices, or similar documents, to track progress, and note changes that may impact community resilience.

