
Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

7.0 Plan Implementation and Maintenance

44 CFR 201.6(c)(4): “{The plan maintenance process shall include a} section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.”

IMPLEMENTATION

Step 10 of the Plan Development Process: Implementation and Maintenance of the Plan is critical to the overall success of Hazard Mitigation Planning. Upon adoption, the plan faces the truest test of its worth: implementation. Implementation implies two concepts: action and priority. These are closely related.

While this plan puts forth many worthwhile and “High” priority recommendations, the decision of which action to undertake first will be the first issue that the CPT faces. Fortunately, there are two factors that will help make that decision. First, there are high priority items and second, funding is always an issue. Thus, pursuing low or no-cost high-priority recommendations will have the greatest likelihood for succeeding.

Another important implementation mechanism that is highly effective but low-cost, is to take steps to incorporate the recommendations, and equally important, the underlying principles of this Hazard Mitigation Plan into other community plans and mechanisms, such as Comprehensive Planning, Capital Improvement budgeting, Economic Development goals and incentives, or regional plans such as those put forth by the State Department of Transportation. Mitigation is most successful when it is incorporated within the day-to-day functions and priorities of government and development --- and so the best opportunity to be successful is to maintain a vigilance to do this. This integration is accomplished by a constant, pervasive and energetic effort to network and to identify and highlight the multi-objective, “win- win” benefits to each program, the community and the constituents. This effort is achieved through the mundane actions of monitoring agendas, attending meetings, sending memos, and promoting safe, sustainable communities.

Simultaneous to these efforts, it is important to maintain a constant monitoring of funding opportunities that can be leveraged to implement some of the more costly recommended actions. This will include creating and maintaining a bank of ideas on how any required local match or participation requirement can be met. Then, when funding does become available, the CPT will be in a position to capitalize upon the opportunity. Funding opportunities that can be monitored include special pre- and post-disaster funds, special district budgeted funds, state or federal ear-marked funds, and grant programs, including those that can serve or support multi-objective applications.

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With adoption of this plan, the CPT should be converted to a permanent advisory body referred to as the Mitigation Coordinating Committee. This Committee, led by the Vanderburgh County OEM, agrees to commit to:

- Act as a forum for hazard mitigation issues;
- Disseminate hazard mitigation ideas and activities to all participants;
- Pursue the implementation of the high priority, low/no-cost Recommended Actions;
- Keep the concept of Mitigation in the forefront of community decision-making by identifying recommendations of this plan when other community goals, plans and activities they overlap, influence, or directly affect increased community vulnerability to disasters;
- Maintain a vigilant monitoring of multi-objective cost-share opportunities to assist the community in implementing the Recommended Actions of this plan for which no current funding or support exists;
- Monitor implementation of this Plan;
- Report on progress and recommended changes to the City and County Councils; and
- Inform and solicit input from the public.

The Committee will not have any powers over County staff; it will be purely an advisory body. Its primary duty is to see the Plan successfully carried out and to report to the City and County Councils and the public on the status of Plan implementation and mitigation opportunities in Evansville and Vanderburgh County. Other duties include reviewing and promoting mitigation proposals, hearing stakeholder concerns about hazard mitigation, passing the concerns on to the appropriate entities, and posting relevant information on the Evansville and Vanderburgh County community website.

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MAINTENANCE

Plan maintenance implies an ongoing effort to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the plan, and to update the plan as progress, roadblocks, or changing circumstances are recognized.

This monitoring and updating will take place through a semi-annual review by the Vanderburgh County OEM, an annual review through the standing CPT or Mitigation Coordinating Committee, and a 5-year written update to be submitted to the state and FEMA Region V, unless disaster or other circumstances (e.g., changing regulations) lead to a different time frame.

When the Committee reconvenes for the review they will coordinate with all stakeholders that participated in the planning process – or that have joined the Committee since the inception of the planning process -- to update and revise the plan. Public notice will be given and public participation will be invited, at a minimum, through available webpostings and press releases to the local media outlets, primarily newspapers and AM radio stations.

The evaluation of the progress can be achieved by monitoring changes in the vulnerability identified in the plan. Changes in vulnerability can be identified by noting:

- Lessened vulnerability as a result of implementing Recommended Actions;
- Increased vulnerability as a result of failed or ineffective mitigation actions; and/or,
- Increased vulnerability as a result of new development (and/or annexation).

The updating of the plan will be by written changes and submissions, as the Committee deems appropriate and necessary, and as approved by the City and County Councils.

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