



Hazard Mitigation

Purpose of Hazard Mitigation

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards such as tornadoes, flooding, and winter and severe storms. Mitigation activities may be implemented prior to, during, or after an incident. However, hazard mitigation has been shown to be most effective when based on an inclusive, comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs.

Because of this, federal regulations were developed through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988 and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, to provide for state, local, and tribal governments to undertake a risk-based approach to reducing risks to natural hazards through mitigation planning. Under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, jurisdictions must have an adopted hazard mitigation plan to remain eligible for pre- and post-mitigation disaster funding.

Federal Requirements

To receive FEMA funding, hazard mitigation plans must be adopted by local jurisdictions, updated every 5 years, and include:

- Public participation and documented update process
- Existing conditions and demographics
- Major disaster declarations since the previous plan
- Risk assessments and vulnerability analyses for hazards
- Mitigation actions and their status
- Identified plan maintenance and updates

Planning Process

- **Milestone 1:** Project kickoff; gather data for existing conditions and demographics.
- **Milestone 2:** Public Meeting #1 will provide time for the community to review goals for the plan, rank potential hazards, and determine the status of previous mitigation actions.
- **Milestone 3:** Burton Planning Services will perform risk assessments & vulnerability analyses and develop mitigation actions based on the feedback received from the first public meeting.
- **Milestone 4:** Public Meeting #2 will provide time for the community to review the proposed mitigation actions and rate actions based on relevance to local communities.
- **Milestone 5:** Burton Planning Services will prepare a draft plan based on community feedback and survey results.
- **Milestone 6:** The Ohio Emergency Management Agency and FEMA will conduct reviews of the draft plan.
- **Milestone 7:** Once the plan has been approved by FEMA, the County and participating jurisdictions will adopt the plan.

To Participate: Fill out digital surveys during the public meetings or fill out a paper copy of the surveys and mail them to the County EMA offices. Additionally, go to the link on the back of this page to fill out the surveys online.



Surveys

Goals Survey

The Goals Survey seeks feedback on potential new goals for the 2025 Athens County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Link: [Athens County Goals Survey](#)



Previous Mitigation Actions Survey

The Mitigation Actions Survey seeks feedback on the status of the mitigation actions included in the 2020 Athens County Hazard Mitigation plan and asks if the same mitigations actions should be carried into the 2025 Plan.

Link: [Athens County Previous Mitigation Action Status and Scoring](#)



Hazard Priority Survey

The Hazard Priority Survey seeks feedback on each potential hazard to determine which hazards should be included in the 2025 mitigation plan.

Link: [Athens County Hazard Priority Survey](#)



Questions & Contact

You may reach out to the Athens County Emergency Management Agency for questions or to return physical surveys via mail.

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