TUSCARAWAS COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN OVERVIEW

Goal

Update the 2022 Tuscarawas County Hazard Mitigation Plan to include both natural and man-made hazards that pose a threat to the County.

Who's involved?

The Tuscarawas County HS&EMA will work closely with Burton Planning Services and members of the Core Planning Committee to develop a mitigation plan that adequately addresses the threats posed to Tuscarawas County residents by natural and man-made hazards. The following people will be involved:

- Jennifer James, Tuscarawas County HS&EMA Director
- Kami Stanley, Tuscarawas County HS&EMA Deputy Director
- Burton Planning Services (BPS)
- Kimberly Burton, P.E., AICP CTP, LEED AP ND
- Meagan Russell, Project Manager, Hazard Mitigation Analyst
- Erika Estrada, Hazard Mitigation Analyst
- Jared Godwin, Planner
- Core Planning Committee Members

Hazard Mitigation Planning: Federal Requirements

The Disaster Mitigation Act, 2000 (DMA2K) states that all jurisdictions must have an adopted plan to receive funds from FEMA in the event of a disaster. DMA2K provides a legal basis for FEMA's state, local, and tribal mitigation planning requirements. Additionally, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988 created the system where Presidential disaster declarations trigger federal assistance via FEMA.

To receive federal funding, hazard mitigation plans must:

- Be updated and adopted by local jurisdictions every 5 years.
- Include:
    - Public participation and documented 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
- Municipalities, police and fire departments, schools, businesses, and the general public may receive funding for any mitigation strategy found in the approved and adopted plan update.

Hazard Mitigation Planning: Overview

Potential hazard types include natural disasters (floods, storms, droughts, landslides, invasive species, etc.) and potentially man-made disasters (dam failure, hazardous material spills). Benefits of updating the hazard mitigation plan include:

- Minimizing property damage, economic loss, injuries, and loss of human life
- Enhancing public awareness of natural and man-made hazards

- Coordinating inter-jurisdictional preparedness measures, mitigation actions, and programs for effective implementation
- Providing a tool for decision-makers to better prepare for disasters.
- Achieving state and federal regulatory compliance to be eligible for funding

Hazard Mitigation Planning: Process and Schedule

FEMA focuses on the mitigation strategies, on the intent and compliance of the plan, and on the planning process. Milestones for the Tuscarawas County Hazard Mitigation Plan are indicated in blue, below.

Tuscarawas County Hazard Mitigation Plan Schedule

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Aug-27	Sep-27	Oct-27	Nov-27	Dec-27
Project Kickoff														
Existing Conditions														
Perform Risk Assessments														
Prepare Mitigation Actions														
Prepare Draft Plan														
Review of Draft Plan (OEMA)														
Review of Draft Plan (FEMA)										*	*			
Adoption Final Plan														
Close Out Project														
Public Involvement/ Meetings	(1)		(2)	(3)			(4)							

(1) Stakeholder Kickoff (email): October 2026
(2) Stakeholder/Public Meeting #1: January 13, 2027
(3) Stakeholder/Public Meeting #2: February 17, 2027
(4) Public Comment Period (30-day): May 2027
* If needed, schedule may need to be extended

Hazard Mitigation Planning: Core Planning Committee Role

The role of the Core Planning Committee (you!) is as follows:

- Provide local knowledge and data as needed.
- Help identify potential hazards from past experience and prioritize hazards.
- Help develop new mitigation actions, determine the status of previous mitigation actions, and prioritize new mitigation actions.
- Provide feedback on the draft plan.
- Participate in public and stakeholder meetings.
- Assist in plan adoption for representative local jurisdiction.

Contact Information:

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