



Vanderburgh County, Indiana Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

DRAFT

Prepared by
AMEC Environment & Infrastructure
Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management Program
Nashville, Tennessee



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of natural hazards mitigation is to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards. Vanderburgh County and participating jurisdictions have prepared this update to the local hazard mitigation plan to better protect the people and property of the County from the effects of natural hazard events. The plan was prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and to achieve eligibility for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs.

The Vanderburgh County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers the following local governments that participated in the planning process:

- Vanderburgh County
- City of Evansville
- Town of Darmstadt
- Evansville-Vanderburgh County School Corporation

The County's planning process for the update followed a methodology prescribed by FEMA, which began with the formation of a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) comprised of key stakeholders from Vanderburgh County, participating jurisdictions, and state and federal agencies. The HMPC conducted a risk assessment that identified and profiled hazards that pose a risk to Vanderburgh County, assessed the County's vulnerability to these hazards, and examined the capabilities in place to mitigate them. The County is vulnerable to several hazards that are identified, profiled, and analyzed in this plan. Floods, earthquakes, and severe weather are among the hazards that can have a significant impact on the County.

Based upon the risk assessment, the HMPC identified goals and objectives for reducing risk to natural hazards. The goals and objectives of this multi-hazard mitigation plan are to:

Goal 1: Implement a comprehensive Public Education and Preparedness campaign regarding the hazards posing significant risk to Evansville and Vanderburgh County.

- Promote awareness of Hazards and Vulnerability among citizens, business, industry, school systems, and government.
- Provide information on Hazard Mitigation alternatives and their respective costs, benefit, and impacts.
- Ensure that the information provided is accurate and consistent
- Promote hazard mitigation as a public value in recognition of its importance to the health, safety, and welfare of the population.

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- Strengthen communication and coordination between public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations, business, industry, and school systems to create a widespread interest in hazard mitigation.

Goal 2 Reduce exposure to hazard related losses, before and after disaster strikes

- Implement a Pre-Disaster mitigation Program.
- Implement a Post-Disaster mitigation Program.

Goal 3: Utilize latest technology and data in hazard mitigation activities

- Maximize “Lead-Time” provided by an all-hazards warning system.

To meet identified goals and objectives, the plan recommends the mitigation actions summarized in the table on the following page. The HMPC also developed an implementation plan for each action, which identifies priority level, background information, ideas for implementation, responsible agency, timeline, cost estimate, potential funding sources, and more.

The multi-hazard mitigation plan has been formally adopted by the Vanderburgh County Board of Commissioners and the governing bodies of each participating jurisdiction and will be updated within a five-year timeframe.

Mitigation Action Matrix

Jurisdiction	Action	HMPC Priority	Goals Addressed	Hazards Addressed	Status
Multi-Jurisdictional	1. Develop and conduct a multi-hazard, seasonal Public Awareness Program that provides citizens and businesses with accurate information describing the risk and vulnerability to natural hazards, and is implemented on an annual basis.	High	Goal 1	Multi-Hazard	Ongoing
Multi-Jurisdictional	2. Develop dedicated website page for multi-hazard mitigation information.	High	Goal 1, 3	Multi-Hazard	New
Multi-Jurisdictional	3. Purchase and install stream gages and water table gages to provide flood warning capabilities.	High	Goal 3	Flooding, Severe Weather	Ongoing
Multi-Jurisdictional	4. Explore partnerships to provide retrofitting classes for homeowners, renters, building professionals, and contractors.	High	Goal 1, 2	Earthquakes	Ongoing
Multi-Jurisdictional	5. Incorporate the hazard identification, risk assessment, and mitigation strategies into the 2011 – 2035 Comprehensive Plan for Evansville and Vanderburgh County.	Medium	Goal 2	Multi-Hazard	Ongoing
Vanderburgh County	6. Develop County-Wide Stormwater Master Plan to provide relief from run-off and flooding resulting from rainfall events.	Medium	Goal 2	Flooding	Ongoing
City of Evansville	7. Based on existing City Stormwater Master Plan, develop formalized policies (level-of-service and extent-of-service)	Medium	Goal 2	Flooding	Ongoing

Jurisdiction	Action	HMPC Priority	Goals Addressed	Hazards Addressed	Status
	for maintenance of the storm water drainage system.				
Multi-Jurisdictional	8. Update repetitive loss areas adjacent to the repetitive loss properties as new claim information is reported.	Medium	Goal 2	Flooding	Ongoing
Multi-Jurisdictional	9. Develop a property acquisition plan and associated policies to acquire prioritized properties in the repetitive loss areas.	Medium	Goal 2	Flooding	Ongoing
City of Evansville	10. Coordinate City of Evansville design requirements for Detention/Retention Ponds with requirements of Vanderburgh County.	Medium	Goal 2	Flooding	Revised
Multi-Jurisdictional	11. Encourage purchase of earthquake hazard insurance throughout Vanderburgh County, including the City of Evansville and the Town of Darmstadt.	Medium	Goal 2	Earthquakes	Ongoing
Multi-Jurisdictional	12. Purchase and distribute NOAA weather radios throughout Vanderburgh County, including the City of Evansville and the Town of Darmstadt.	Medium	Goal 1, 2	Severe Weather	Ongoing
Multi-Jurisdictional	13. Identify electronic notification services for weather information and provide information to public.	Medium	Goal 1, 3	Multi-Hazard	Revised
Vanderburgh County	14. Expand warning siren coverage into new areas as development and housing expand.	Medium	Goal 3	Multi-Hazard	Ongoing
Multi-Jurisdictional	15. Continue efforts to train local contractors and property owners in tree trimming practices.	Low	Goal 1, 2	Severe Weather	Ongoing
Multi-Jurisdictional	16. Continue coordination to select locations for tornado safe rooms. Potential sites are located throughout Vanderburgh	Low	Goal 2	Severe Weather	Ongoing

Jurisdiction	Action	HMPC Priority	Goals Addressed	Hazards Addressed	Status
	County, including the City of Evansville, the Town of Darmstadt, and Red Cross, private and public sector.				
Multi-Jurisdictional	17. Pursue alternative funding sources for structural retrofits to critical facilities.	Low	Goal 2	Earthquake	Revised
Multi-Jurisdictional	18. Investigate financial incentives for property owners to make seismic retrofits to existing buildings, particularly unreinforced masonry structures, located within the earthquake hazard area. Pursue alternative funding sources for structural retrofits for critical facilities.	---	---	---	Re-organized
Multi-Jurisdictional	19. Distribute National Flood Insurance Program information.	Low	Goal 1	Flood	New
Multi-Jurisdictional	20. Coordinate annual meetings of the Vanderburgh County Multi Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee to monitor, evaluate, and update the multi-hazard mitigation plan.	Low	Goal 2	Multi-Hazard	New

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Appendix A: Adoption Resolution

Appendix B: Planning Process Documentation

Appendix C: Flood Hazard Mapping

Appendix D: Mitigation Alternatives

PREREQUISITES

44 CFR requirement 201.6(c)(5): The local hazard mitigation plan shall include documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan. For multi-jurisdictional plans, each jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan must document that it has been formally adopted.

Note to Reviewers: When this plan has been reviewed and approved, pending adoption, by FEMA Region V, the adoption resolution will be signed by the participating jurisdictions and added to Appendix A. A model resolution is provided on the following page.

Model Resolution

Resolution # _____

Adopting the Vanderburgh County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Whereas, the (Name of Government/District/Organization seeking FEMA approval of hazard mitigation plan) recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within our community; and

Whereas, undertaking hazard mitigation actions will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences; and

Whereas, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (“Disaster Mitigation Act”) emphasizing the need for pre-disaster mitigation of potential hazards;

Whereas, the Disaster Mitigation Act made available hazard mitigation grants to state and local governments;

Whereas, an adopted Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is required as a condition of future funding for mitigation projects under multiple FEMA pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant programs; and

Whereas, the (Name of Government/District/Organization) fully participated in the FEMA-prescribed mitigation planning process to prepare this Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

Whereas, the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (IDHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region V officials have reviewed the “Vanderburgh County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan”, and approved it contingent upon this official adoption of the participating governing body;

Whereas, the (Name of Government/District/Organization) desires to comply with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act and to augment its emergency planning efforts by formally adopting the Vanderburgh County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Whereas, adoption by the governing body for the (Name of Government/District/Organization), demonstrates the jurisdiction’s commitment to fulfilling the mitigation goals and objectives outlined in this Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Whereas, adoption of this legitimacies the plan and authorizes responsible agencies to carry out their responsibilities under the plan.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the (Name of Government/District/Organization) adopts the “Evansville -Vanderburgh County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan” as an official plan; and

Be it further resolved, the (Name of Government/District/Organization) will submit this Adoption Resolution to the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (IDHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency Region V officials to enable the plan’s final approval.

Passed: _____

Certifying Official