

5 PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCESS

This chapter provides an overview of the overall strategy for plan maintenance and outlines the method and schedule for monitoring, updating, and evaluating the plan. The chapter also discusses incorporating the plan into existing planning mechanisms and how to address continued public involvement.

5.1 Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

44 CFR Requirement 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.

5.1.1 Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

With adoption of this plan, the HMPC will be tasked with monitoring, evaluation, and maintenance of the plan. The participating jurisdictions and agencies, led by the City of Evansville-Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency, agree to:

- Meet annually and after a disaster event to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the plan;
- Act as a forum for hazard mitigation issues;
- Disseminate hazard mitigation ideas and activities to all participants;
- Pursue the implementation of high priority, low- or no-cost recommended actions;
- Maintain vigilant monitoring of multi-objective, cost-share, and other funding opportunities to help the community implement the plan's recommended actions for which no current funding exists;
- Monitor and assist in implementation and update of this plan;
- Keep the concept of mitigation in the forefront of community decision making by identifying plan recommendations when other community goals, plans, and activities overlap, influence, or directly affect increased community vulnerability to disasters;
- Report on plan progress and recommended changes to the governing bodies of participating jurisdictions; and
- Inform and solicit input from the public.

The HMPC is an advisory body and will not have any powers over County, City, Town, or District staff. Its primary duty is to see the plan successfully carried out and to report to the community governing boards and the public on the status of plan implementation and mitigation opportunities. Other duties include reviewing and promoting mitigation proposals, hearing stakeholder concerns about hazard mitigation, passing concerns on to appropriate entities, and posting relevant information on the City and County websites.

5.1.2 Plan Maintenance Schedule

The HMPC agrees to meet annually and after a hazard event to monitor progress and update the mitigation strategy. The City of Evansville-Vanderburgh County emergency manager is responsible for initiating these plan reviews. In conjunction with the other participating jurisdictions, a five-year written update of the plan will be submitted to the Mitigation and Recovery Branch of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and FEMA Region V per Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i) of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, unless disaster or other circumstances (e.g., changing regulations) require a change to this schedule.

5.1.3 Plan Maintenance Process

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

- Decreased 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).

Updates to this plan will:

- Consider changes in vulnerability due to action implementation,
- Document success stories where mitigation efforts have proven effective,
- Document areas where mitigation actions were not effective,
- Document any new hazards that may arise or were previously overlooked,
- Incorporate new data or studies on hazards and risks,
- Incorporate new capabilities or changes in capabilities,
- Incorporate growth and development-related changes to inventories, and
- Incorporate new action recommendations or changes in action prioritization.

In order to best evaluate any changes in vulnerability as a result of plan implementation, the participating jurisdictions will follow the following process:

- A representative from the responsible office identified in each mitigation action will be responsible for tracking and reporting on an annual basis to the jurisdictional lead on action status and provide input on whether the action as implemented meets the defined objectives and is likely to be successful in reducing vulnerabilities.
- If the action does not meet identified objectives, the jurisdictional lead will determine what additional measures may be implemented, and an assigned individual will be responsible for defining action scope, implementing the action, monitoring success of the action, and making any required modifications to the plan.

Changes will be made to the plan to accommodate for actions that have failed or are not considered feasible after a review of their consistency with established criteria, time frame, community priorities, and/or funding resources. Actions that were not ranked high but were identified as potential mitigation activities will be reviewed as well during the monitoring and update of this plan to determine feasibility of future implementation. Updating of the plan will be by written changes and submissions, as the City of Evansville-Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency deems appropriate and necessary, and as approved by the governing boards of the participating jurisdictions.

5.2 Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms

44 CFR Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(ii): [The plan shall include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate.

Where possible, plan participants will use existing plans and/or programs to implement hazard mitigation actions. Based on the capability assessments of the participating jurisdictions, communities in Vanderburgh County continue to plan and implement programs to reduce losses to life and property from hazards. This plan builds upon the momentum developed through previous and related planning efforts and mitigation programs and recommends implementing actions, where possible, through the following plans:

- General or master plans of participating jurisdictions
- Ordinances of participating jurisdictions
- City of Evansville-Vanderburgh County Emergency Operations Plan
- Capital improvement plans and budgets
- Other community plans within the County, such as water conservation plans, stormwater management plans, and parks and recreation plans
- Other plans and policies outlined in the capability assessments in the jurisdictional annexes

HMPC members involved in updating these existing planning mechanisms will be responsible for integrating the findings and actions of the mitigation plan, as appropriate. The HMPC is also responsible for monitoring this integration and incorporating the appropriate information into the five-year update of the multi-hazard mitigation plan.

5.3 Continued Public Involvement

44 CFR Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(iii): [The plan maintenance process shall include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

The update process provides an opportunity to publicize success stories from the plan's implementation and seek additional public comment. Information will be posted in the *Evansville Courier & Press* and on the City and County websites following the annual review of

the mitigation plan. A public hearing(s) to receive public comment on plan maintenance and updating will be held during the update period. When the HMPC reconvenes for the update, they will coordinate with all stakeholders participating in the planning process, including those who joined the HMPC after the initial effort, to update and revise the plan. Public notice will be posted and public participation will be invited, at a minimum, through available website postings and press releases to the local media outlets, primarily newspapers.

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