

Announcement - CITY OF SOMERS POINT Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



Natural hazards are a part of life throughout Atlantic County. All of these hazard events have the potential to cause property loss, economic hardship, environmental degradation, and threats to public health and safety including loss of life. An important part of emergency management involves hazard mitigation

planning aimed at minimizing these impacts and improving resiliency. The Plan describes the hazard risks that can occur, identifies vulnerable community assets, and presents mitigation strategies comprised of actions and projects that will be implemented to reduce key hazard risks.

Purpose and Need for the Plan

The **Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Atlantic County** was initially adopted in 2010 to meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (or "DMA 2000"). Its development was led by the County under a FEMA planning grant that covered the costs of its preparation. Though it wasn't required, Atlantic County opted to use what FEMA calls a 'multijurisdictional' approach – meaning that instead of the plan being limited in scope to the County government, every municipality was invited to participate as an equal partner with the County. Adopting a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan opens the door for all participating jurisdictions to

be in compliance with DMA 2000 and eligible to apply for hazard mitigation project grants. To stay in compliance with DMA 2000, the plan must be updated every five years. The update ensures that the plan remains current in its discussion of local risks and risk reduction strategies. The County has once again obtained FEMA grant funding to cover the cost of this second plan update, and has opted to continue its 'multi-jurisdictional' approach. Each jurisdiction in the County is attending meetings, providing feedback in a series of topic areas, reaching out to the public and other key stakeholders, and updating their local mitigation strategy.

For More Information

For questions or other feedback, or to find out how you can become involved, please contact the Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management. Vincent Jones, Chief of Staff, can be reached at jones_vincent@aclink.org and Karen Koptic,

Operations and Training Officer, can be reached at koptic_karen@aclink.org. Information about the project is also maintained on our web site at: <https://www.atlantic-county.org/hazard-mitigation/>

Planning Timeline

- The initial hazard mitigation plan was adopted in 2010
- Regular updates are required by FEMA
- The first plan update was completed in 2016
- This second plan update process began in April 2021 and is targeted for completion in 2022

Natural hazard events cannot be prevented from occurring. However, by implementing the hazard mitigation projects identified in the Plan, we can reduce vulnerabilities, risks, and future damage. Over time, our hazards will result in fewer disasters.