



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2020 update to the Fulton County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) was prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). DMA 2000 requires states and local governments to prepare HMPs to remain eligible to receive pre-disaster mitigation grant funds and funds made available in the wake of federally declared disasters. Additionally, DMA 2000 effectively improves the disaster planning process by increasing hazard mitigation planning requirements for hazard events. DMA 2000 requires participating municipalities to (1) document their hazard mitigation planning process and (2) identify hazards; potential losses; and mitigation needs, goals, and strategies.

The Fulton County HMP represents the work of citizens, elected and appointed government officials, business leaders, and volunteer and nonprofit groups to protect community assets, preserve economic viability of the community, and save lives. DMA 2000 regulations require formal updates and adoptions of local plans every 5 years, reassessing risks, and updating local strategies to manage and mitigate those risks. To comply, Fulton County and inclusive jurisdictions actively participated in updating the Fulton County HMP. Extensive outreach efforts by Fulton County’s Planning & Mapping Department resulted in participation from 12 of its municipalities. Valley-Hi Borough was the only jurisdiction that did not participate. Upon completion and approval of the HMP, participating jurisdictions will continue to address and implement findings and recommendations of this plan update. This 2020 version is the third update of the County HMP, with the original HMP developed in 2004.

Table ES-1 identifies municipal governments that actively participated in the HMP update process.

Table ES-1. Participating Jurisdictions in the 2020 Fulton County HMP Update

Jurisdictions				
• Fulton County	• Bethel Township	• Licking Creek Township	• Thompson Township	• Wells Township
• Ayr Township	• Brush Creek Township	• McConnellsburg Borough	• Todd Township	
• Belfast Township	• Dublin Township	• Taylor Township	• Union Township	

During the plan update process, Fulton County and its 12 participating municipalities engaged in the following planning process steps:

1. Identified and prioritized hazards that may affect the county and its municipalities.
2. Assessed the vulnerabilities of the county and each municipality to these hazards.
3. Identified mitigation actions that can reduce those vulnerabilities.
4. Developed a strategy for implementing those actions, including identifying the agency (or agencies) responsible for each implementation.

Throughout the planning process, the general public was offered an opportunity to comment on the existing HMP and provide suggestions for the updated version. The county hosted two Steering Committee meetings that were open to the public, during which residents could provide input on the HMP.

The following hazards were identified by the Steering Committee as presenting the highest risk to the county and its municipalities:

- Flood, Flash Flood, and Ice Jam
- Winter Storm



- Transportation Accidents
- Environmental Hazards
- Drought

This HMP also includes hazard profiles for the following hazards (listed in order of risk factor analysis ranking):

- Dam Failure
- Earthquake
- Tornado, Windstorm
- Subsidence and Sinkholes
- Radon Exposure
- Wildfire
- Hailstorm
- Landslide

To mitigate the effects of the above hazards, the Steering Committee identified the following goals for hazard mitigation over the next 5 years:

1. **Goal 1:** Protect the people, property, and environment in hazard areas.
2. **Goal 2:** Prevent hazards from impacting the community.
3. **Goal 3:** Enhance awareness, understanding, and preparedness among local, county, state, and federal emergency management personnel to protect public health and safety.
4. **Goal 4:** Ensure that stakeholder groups have necessary information to mitigate against hazard impacts.

Objectives and actions to be implemented are discussed in the Mitigation Action Plan in Section 6.2 of this HMP.

Additionally, Steering Committee members will meet annually to evaluate the status of plan implementation and prepare a summary report of HMP status and any needed updates. The mitigation evaluation will address changes as new hazard events occur, as the area develops, and as more information becomes available pertaining to hazards and their impacts. The evaluation will include an assessment of whether the planning process and actions have been effective, whether development or other issues warrant changes to the HMP or its priorities, if progress toward the communities' goals is satisfactory, and whether changes are warranted. The public is encouraged to give feedback (1) by directly contacting the Fulton County Hazard Mitigation Plan Coordinator, (2) during recurring review meetings, and (3) during the 5-year revision process.

To request information or provide comments regarding this plan, please contact the Fulton County Planning & Mapping Department. Contact information is provided below:

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