

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Across the United States, natural and human-caused disasters have led to increasing levels of deaths, injuries, property damage, and interruption of business and government services. The time, money, and efforts to recover from these disasters exhaust resources, diverting attention from important public programs and private agendas. With 101 statewide or county-specific gubernatorial and presidential disaster declarations since 1954, the emergency management community, citizens, elected officials, and other stakeholders in Fulton County, Pennsylvania, recognized the impact of disasters on their community and concluded that proactive efforts needed to be taken to reduce the impact of natural and human-caused hazards.

Hazard mitigation is a phrase that describes actions taken to prevent or reduce the long-term risks to life and property from hazards. Pre-disaster mitigation actions are taken in advance of a hazard event and are essential to breaking the typical disaster cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. With careful selection, mitigation actions can be long-term, cost-effective means of reducing the risk of loss.

Accordingly, the Fulton County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee (Steering Committee), composed of Fulton County officials, municipal representatives, emergency responders, and business leaders, has updated this Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The update was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), which is using Emergency Management Performance Grant funds to update 14 county HMPs between July 2009 and May 2010. As part of this process, PEMA contracted with Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. (Baker), which in turn subcontracted the update of Fulton County's HMP to Delta Development Group, Inc. (Delta).

The HMP update is the result of six months of work by the citizens and officials of the County and representatives from Baker and Delta to develop a pre-disaster multi-hazard mitigation plan that will not only guide the County toward greater disaster resistance, but will also respect the character and needs of the community.

1.2. Purpose

The purpose of this HMP is to minimize the effects that natural, technological, and man-made hazards have on the people, property, environment, and business operations within Fulton County. This document exists to provide the background information and rationale for the mitigation actions that the Steering Committee and municipal representatives have chosen to implement.

The document is governed by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and its implementing regulations (44 CFR §201.6, published February 26, 2002). Local jurisdictions

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must comply with the DMA 2000 and these regulations to remain eligible for funding and technical assistance from state and federal hazard mitigation programs.

1.3. Scope

The implementation actions within this HMP apply to Fulton County and any municipalities that adopt this HMP as their own. However, only those municipalities that have participated in the plan update process will remain eligible for state and federal hazard mitigation funding through the HMP. For the purpose of this plan update, municipal participation was defined as completion and submission of a Risk Assessment Update Worksheet and Capability Assessment Survey, and attendance by a municipal official at a planning or public meeting conducted as part of the planning process.

1.4. Authority and References

This section lists references used to prepare the Fulton County HMP. Existing plans and studies were reviewed and integrated into the HMP. The County Comprehensive Plan, located on the Fulton County Planning Commission's Web site, was incorporated into multiple aspects of this HMP. Information from the Comprehensive Plan and other documents was used to formulate the County profile, to identify the history of individual hazards, and to detail the population projections in Fulton County.

1.4.1. Federal

1. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988, as amended by Public Law 106-390 (October 30, 2000).
2. *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000*, Public Law 106-390, 106th Cong., (October 30, 2000).
3. Department of Homeland Security, *National Infrastructure Protection Plan*, 2006.
4. Federal Emergency Management Agency, <http://www.fema.gov>.
5. ———. *State and Local Mitigation Planning How-to Guide (FEMA 386-Series)*.
6. ———. *Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance for State and Local Governments*.
7. ———. *Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction (FEMA, American Planning Association)*.
8. ———. *Multi-Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Report*.
9. ———. *FEMA's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Review Crosswalk*.
10. ———. Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration. *National Flood Insurance Program*. Program description, August 01, 2002, www.fema.gov/business/nfip/.
11. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, <http://www.bts.gov>.
12. United States Environmental Protection Agency, <http://www.epa.gov>.

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13. National Climatic Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOOA), <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>.
14. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, <http://www.census.gov>.
15. United States Geological Survey, www.usgs.gov.
16. Federal Aviation Administration, <http://www.faa.gov>.

1.4.2. State

1. *Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code of 1968*, Act 247 as reenacted and amended by Act 170 of 1988.
2. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/default.asp>.
3. Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>.
4. ———. “2007 Pennsylvania Annual Pest Conditions Report,” http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/FORESTRY/leaflets/2007_PestConditions.pdf.
5. Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, <http://www.pema.state.pa.us>.
6. ———. Pennsylvania Emergency Incident Reporting System (PEIRS), <https://www.peirs.state.pa.us/>.
7. ———. *Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code*. Title 35, Pa C.S. Section 101.
8. Pennsylvania State Data Center, <http://www.pasdc.hbg.psu.edu>.
9. Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act of October 4, 1978. P.L. 864, No. 167.
10. PENNDOT Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering. “2006 Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics; Pennsylvania County Crashes.” <http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/Bureaus/pdBHSTE.nsf/InfoF606?OpenForm>
11. Temple University, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania State University. *The Atlas of Pennsylvania* (Temple University Press: Philadelphia, 1989).

1.4.3. Local

1. Fulton County Board of Commissioners. “Fulton County Hazardous Materials Transportation Commodity Flow Study,” February 28, 1997.
2. Fulton County Emergency Management Agency. “Hazard Vulnerability Analysis,” March 2004.
3. Fulton County Planning Commission. “Fulton County, Pennsylvania Comprehensive Plan: A Planning Guide for the 21st Century,” May 16, 2000.

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4. Fulton County Planning Commission. "Moving Fulton Forward: A Joint Comprehensive Plan for Fulton County," January 2007.

1.4.4. Other

1. Henry, Greg. Valley Rural Electric. Interview. April 7, 2003.
2. Hixon, Christopher D. Allegheny Power. Interview. June 3, 2003.
3. Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. <http://www.potomacriver.org>. June 2004.
4. Kurtz, Thomas. *Intergovernmental Cooperation Handbook*. 4th ed. Pennsylvania: Department of Community and Economic Development, 1997.
5. Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. Standard Operating Guide. Philadelphia, PA, 2009.
6. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). *NFPA 1600: Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs*, 2004.
7. Replogle, William. PennDOT. Interview. May 9, 2003.
8. Smith, Richard. Frontier Communications. Interview. April 16, 2003.
9. So, Frank S., and Judith Getzels, eds. *The Practice of Local Government Planning*, 2nd ed. Washington, D.C.: International City Management Association, 1988.
10. South Central Mountains Counter Terrorism Task Force. Regional Response Plan. 2002.
11. Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission. "Long Range Transportation Policy Document for Bedford, Huntingdon, and Fulton Counties," 2003.
12. Sprint. Interview. April 3, 2003.
13. Strait, Doris. McConnellsburg Sewerage Authority. Interview. April 3, 2003.
14. Susquehanna River Basin Commission. "2003 Annual Report," June 2004.
15. ———. Web site. www.srbc.net. June 2004.