



## 4.2 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

This section summarizes previous disaster declarations and hazards affecting Fulton County

### 4.2.1 Disaster Declarations

In reviewing and updating Fulton County’s hazards of concern, the Steering Committee reviewed additional information and historical records from a wide range of sources. This section discusses the Presidential Disaster and Emergency Declarations, Gubernatorial Disaster Declarations or Proclamations, and Small Business Administration Disaster Declarations that have affected Fulton County.

Presidential Disaster and Emergency Declarations are issued when state and local governments are determined to be in need of assistance in responding to a disaster event. Since 1955, Presidential Declarations have been issued for various hazard events, including hurricanes or tropical storms, severe winter storms, and flooding. A unique Presidential Emergency Declaration, Emergency Declaration 3235, was issued in September 2005. Through this declaration, President George W. Bush declared a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and ordered federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts to help people evacuate from their homes due to Hurricane Katrina. A summary of declarations affecting the county is provided in the tables below.

Table 4.2-1 lists Presidential Disaster and Emergency Declarations issued from 1972 through October 2019 that have affected Fulton County. Additional declarations beyond March 2016 can be found on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website at <https://www.fema.gov/disasters>.

**Table 4.2-1. Presidential Disaster and Emergency Declarations Affecting Fulton County**

Declaration Number	Date	Event
DR-4267	March 23, 2016	Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm
DR-4099	January 10, 2013	Hurricane Sandy
EM-3356	October 29, 2012	Hurricane Sandy
EM-3340	September 8, 2011	Remnants of Tropical Storm Lee
DR-1898	April 16, 2010	Severe Winter Storms and Snowstorms
EM-3235	September 10, 2005	Hurricane Katrina Evacuation
DR-1557	September 19, 2004	Tropical Depression Ivan
DR-1555	September 19, 2004	Severe Storms and Flooding associated with Tropical Depression Frances
EM-3180	March 14, 2003	Snowstorm
DR-1093	January 21, 1996	Flooding
DR-1085	January 13, 1996	Blizzard
EM-3105	March 16, 1993	Severe Snowfall and Winter Storm
DR-485	September 26, 1975	Severe Storms, Heavy Rain, Flooding
DR-340	June 23, 1972	Tropical Storm Agnes

Source: FEMA 2020



In addition to these Presidentially-declared events, 26 events warranted Gubernatorial Disaster Declarations or Proclamations that included Fulton County (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency [PEMA] 2019). These events are summarized in Table 4.2-2

**Table 4.2-2. Gubernatorial Disaster Declarations or Proclamations Affecting Fulton County**

Date	Event
August 2018	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Rapid, Heavy Rainfall Resulting in Flash Floods
January 2018	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Opioid Crisis
March 2017	Proclamation of Emergency – Severe Winter Storm
January 2016	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Severe Winter Storm
August 2015	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Severe Storms
January 2015	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Severe Winter Storms
February 2014	Proclamation of Emergency – Severe Winter Storms
January 2014	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Extreme Weather, Utility Interruption
June 2013	Proclamation of Emergency – High Winds, Thunderstorms, Heavy Rain, Tornado, Flooding
October 2012	Proclamation of Emergency – Hurricane Sandy
April 2012	Proclamation of Emergency – Spring Winter Storms
August 2011	Proclamation of Emergency - Severe Storms and Flooding (Lee/Irene)
January 2011	Proclamation of Emergency – Severe Winter Storm
February 2010	Proclamation of Emergency – Severe Winter Storm
April 2007	Proclamation of Emergency – Severe Winter Storm
February 2007	Proclamation of Emergency – Severe Winter Storm
February 2007	Proclamation of Emergency – Regulations
September 2006	Proclamation of Emergency – Tropical Depression Ernesto
September 2005	Proclamation of Emergency – Hurricane Katrina
February 2002	Drought and Water Shortage
June 1999	Drought
February 1978	Blizzard
January 1978	Heavy Snow
February 1974	Truckers’ Strike
February 1972	Heavy Snow
January 1966	Heavy Snow

Source: PEMA 2019

Fulton County has also received Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance for a number of disaster events. A Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration qualifies communities for access to affordable, timely, and accessible financial assistance. Table 4.2-3 lists Small Business Administration Disaster Declarations issued for Fulton County from 1991 through July 2016 (PEMA 2019), including those declarations for which Fulton County was declared as an adjacent county.



Table 4.2-3. Small Business Administration Disaster Declarations Affecting Fulton County

Date	Event
July 2016	Flash Flooding
January 2007	Fire
July 1991	Drought

Source: PEMA 2019

### 4.2.2 Summary of Hazards

As part of the plan update process, the Steering Committee reviewed the hazards of concern detailed in the 2015 version of the plan, as well as those identified in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). They also considered the history of hazard events occurring in Fulton County as well as events occurring after the completion of the 2015 version of the plan. This review of historical events included an evaluation of all emergency and disaster declarations in the Commonwealth, with a focus on those in which Fulton County was designated for federal assistance.

Further, all jurisdictions participating in the plan update process were provided a Hazard Identification/ Evaluation of Risk worksheet to help identify the hazards—natural and non-natural—that each community believed posed significant risk to Fulton County, including any that may not have been considered in either the 2015 version of the plan or the State HMP. Completed worksheets submitted by the municipalities are included in Appendix D of this plan. Based on the review of the 2015 hazards list and the completed the Hazard Identification/ Evaluation of Risk worksheets, no additional hazards were considered in need of a risk assessment. The Steering Committee decided not to remove any of the hazards that were addressed in the 2015 version of the HMP.

Based on all available information and input from the municipalities, the Steering Committee selected the following natural and non-natural hazards for consideration in this plan:

#### Natural Hazards

- Drought
- Earthquake
- Flood, Flash Flood, Ice Jam
- Hailstorm
- Landslides
- Radon Exposure
- Subsidence and Sinkholes
- Tornado and Windstorm
- Wildfire
- Winter Storm

#### Non-Natural Hazards

- Dam Failure
- Environmental Hazards
- Transportation Accidents

Individual profiles for each of these hazards are included in Section 4.3 of this plan.