

Section 1

Introduction

Overview

Wayne County expects that the development and implementation of this Hazard Mitigation Plan will help to better protect the lives and property of its residents. The role of this Plan is to effectively lessen the impact of disasters by identifying useful mitigation measures. This is to be done by managing programs and resources to prepare and protect the people of Wayne County. The effort will require the teamwork of local and county officials so that the people and their property can be protected before, during, and after any type of disaster. The Plan will first determine the overall state of the County in regards to hazard vulnerability, then analyze ways to reduce or eliminate that risk, and, finally, offer suggestions for specific mitigation actions that can be implemented, provided financial and public support are secured. The Core Committee will analyze said measures to ensure that they are appropriate for Wayne County. Some mitigation measures, while effective, may not be practical or feasible, based on fiscal, political, and environmental demands. This Plan will rely heavily on historical data and other reliable information in order to attempt to predict which hazards are more likely to affect the County. While many different hazards may pose a risk to Wayne County, it is most important to focus the County's finite time and resources on those hazards that have a higher statistical chance of occurring. This is not to say that lesser known or less often experienced hazards will be ignored, but proper mitigation analysis must weigh cost versus benefit. The measures this Hazard Mitigation Plan will recommend will be those measures that will help the most people, in the most effective way, for the most likely hazards.

The Core Committee

In the interest of creating a plan representing a wide spectrum of perspectives, the Core Committee was formed. Members of the Committee were chosen based individual area of expertise and willingness to participate. In order for the plan to gain community acceptance, it was felt that the Committee must include a broad range of representatives and ideas. Therefore, the Committee included both individuals from the private sector and governmental employees. The members from the private sector represented a wide range of interests, from farming to engineering. Members from the governmental side included a township trustee, a local mayor, a county commissioner, the head of the Planning Department, and the head of the Wayne County Emergency Management Agency. This assemblage of members allowed the Core Committee to remain small, which facilitates better communication and cooperation between members, while still representing a variety of interests.

The Committee's general role in the planning stage was to act as an advisory board and to review the Plan as it was being written. The opinions of the Committee were used to rank hazard impacts, set goals, and analyze mitigation measures. In addition to this, the Core Committee played a large role in the public awareness campaign and served as ambassadors to the public.

The original committee members and their affiliation:

Michael Buchholz	Wayne County Fair Board, Farm owner
Gary Daugherty	Engineering Associates
Donald Grimes	Baughman Twp. Trustee
Cheryl Noah	Wayne County Commissioner
Matthew Smith	Soil and Water Conservation District
Betsy Sparr	Wayne County Planning Department
Dennis Steiner	Mayor, City of Orrville
John Wise	Wayne County Emergency Management

Principles of the Plan

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has identified ten principles that form the National Mitigation Strategy. These ten principles serve as the foundation of the Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

1. Risk reduction measures should ensure long-term economic success for the community as a whole, rather than short-term benefit for special interests.
2. Risk reduction measures for one natural hazard should be compatible with risk reduction measures for other natural hazards.
3. Risk reduction measures should be evaluated to achieve the best mix for a given location.
4. Risk reduction measures for natural hazards should be compatible with risk reduction measures for technological hazards and vice versa.
5. All mitigation is local.
6. Emphasizing proactive mitigation before emergency response can reduce disaster costs and the impacts of natural hazards. Both pre-disaster (preventive) and post disaster (corrective) mitigation is needed.
7. Hazard identification and risk assessment are the cornerstones of mitigation.
8. Building new federal-state-local partnerships and public-private partnerships is the most effective means of implementing measures to reduce the impacts of natural hazards.
9. Those who knowingly choose to assume greater risk must accept responsibility for that choice.
10. Risk reduction measures for natural hazards should be compatible with the protection of natural and cultural resources.

FEMA's National Mitigation Strategy advocates the following steps for local governments, the private sector, and individuals:

1. Guidance for local governments:

- Develop strategic mitigation plans and identify funding sources to support them.
- Adopt and enforce all-hazards building codes.
- Adopt incentives and disincentives to encourage mitigation.
- Develop administrative structures to support implementation of mitigation programs and priorities.
- Incorporate mitigation of natural hazards into their land use management plans and programs.
- Develop, support, and conduct ongoing public information campaigns on natural hazard mitigation.

2. Guidance for the private sector:

- Develop business interruption plans and implement mitigation to minimize loss of jobs and business activity.
- Develop incentives for mitigation with insurance and banking institutions.
- Promote awareness of hazard risk and mitigation solutions among customers and the public.

3. Guidance for individual citizens:

- Become aware of the natural hazards that may affect them and their communities.
- Support adoption and enforcement of measures designed to reduce their vulnerability.
- Take other appropriate actions to protect their lives and property against the impacts of natural hazards.

Goals of the Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan

1. Reduce the loss of life, property, and repetitive damage from the effects of natural hazards.
2. Create safe, sustainable communities through long-range planning that seeks a balance between the natural and man-made environments.
3. Establish a program that will help facilitate orderly recovery and minimize economic disruption following a disaster.
4. Incorporate the use of mitigation throughout the entire community by making and keeping the public aware of hazard risks and mitigation measures.

Authority

Wayne County began this process of creating a strategic planning guide as part of fulfilling the requirements of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). The Act is administered by Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) and FEMA Region V. This Plan will comply with eligibility under the FEMA Grant Assistance Program, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA).

Authority is granted from Section 409 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The DMA of 2000 provides the framework for state and local governments to evaluate and mitigate all hazards as a condition of receiving Federal disaster assistance.