



**County of Burlington
Board of Chosen Freeholders
Department of Public Safety Services
Division of Emergency Management**



Burlington County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Project *PLAN FACTS*

WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?

Natural hazards have the potential to cause property loss, loss of life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety.

Hazard mitigation measures are essential to breaking the typical disaster cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

Hazard mitigation measures are the things you do today to be more protected in the future. They are measures taken before a disaster happens to reduce the impact that future disasters will have on people and property in the community. Mitigation reduces the risk of loss and creates a more disaster-resistant and sustainable community.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PLAN

Hazard mitigation plans are developed BEFORE a disaster strikes. The plans identify community policies, actions, and tools for long-term implementation to reduce risk and potential for future losses. Adopted, implemented and maintained on an ongoing basis, these plans will gradually, but steadily, lessen the impacts associated with hazard events in Burlington County.

As of November 1, 2004 communities that do not have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan in place are no longer eligible for FEMA project grant monies under programs such as the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA), Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM).

PARTICIPATION

Jurisdictions located within Burlington County who wish to be recognized by FEMA as being compliant with DMA 2000 must either: (a) participate with the County in the multi-jurisdictional plan development process and formally adopt the final plan, or (b)

prepare their own hazard mitigation plan.

All jurisdictions in Burlington County are being invited to participate in the process.



Trees are uprooted in Edgewater Park during a severe straight-line wind storm in Edgewater Park in 2003.

Active participation in the process is the only way a jurisdiction can be seen in FEMA's eyes as a 'participating jurisdiction' that has met the requirements of DMA 2000 and is therefore eligible to apply for Federal funds for hazard mitigation projects. Participation includes attending meetings, providing feedback and reaching out to the public and other key stakeholders in the community, and adopting the final plan.

Participation has other advantages as well:

- Because Burlington County has hired a consultant to conduct the analyses and author the plan, participation involves relatively little effort on the part of

jurisdictions.

- Because Burlington County has received Federal grant monies to develop the plan, participation involves no cost to local jurisdictions - only allocation of staff time to participate in the process.
- Multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans are practical for addressing issues that do not recognize political boundaries.
- Over time, implementation of the plan will reduce economic damages resulting from future natural disasters.



Downtown Vincentown flooded during the July 2004 floods.

STRUCTURE

Elected and appointed government officials, business leaders, volunteers of non-profit organizations, citizens, and other stakeholders who choose to participate will become part of our overall Burlington County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee.

To keep meeting sizes to workable numbers, the Planning Committee will be broken up into a Core Planning Group and Assessment Teams.

The Core Planning Group (CPG) will include representatives of Burlington County and any of the county's forty jurisdictions who elect to participate in the process. The CPG will manage the overall plan formulation activities and contribute to the decision making process. Representatives on the CPG will coordinate the plan efforts by organizing outreach by means of a team concept through individual Assessment Teams within each participating jurisdiction.

The Assessment Teams will include representatives from the individual participating jurisdictions. The Assessment Teams will be responsible for local community involvement in the multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan.

Regardless of team, all participating jurisdictions must:

- Coordinate and facilitate local efforts.
- Attend meetings.
- Provide information and feedback.
- Involve the public and community stakeholders in the planning process.
- Assess mitigation alternatives.
- Select a course of action to be followed for their communities.
- Implement the plan and monitor its progress.

PROCESS

- Research a full range of natural hazard events. Identify subset of significant hazards; these will be the focus of the plan.
- Identify location and extent of hazard areas. Identify assets located within hazard areas. Characterize existing and potential future assets at risk.
- Assess vulnerabilities to the identified hazards. Evaluate and prioritize:
 - Goals
 - Objectives
 - Mitigation actions.
- Implement the Plan and monitor Plan progress.

SCHEDULE

The mitigation plan development process will occur over approximately one year, beginning in the Summer of 2006.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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WEBSITE

A Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning Page on the County's web site is currently under development. Please check back for additional information and updates at: www.co.burlington.nj.us