

2017



Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan

City of Hampton
City of Newport News
City of Poquoson
City of Williamsburg
James City County
York County
City of Norfolk
City of Portsmouth
City of Suffolk
City of Virginia Beach
City of Chesapeake
Isle of Wight County
Town of Smithfield
Town of Windsor
City of Franklin
Southampton County
Town of Boykins
Town of Branchville
Town of Capron
Town of Courtland
Town of Ivor
Town of Newsoms



REPORT DOCUMENTATION

TITLE	REPORT DATE
Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan	January 10, 2017
ABSTRACT	
<p>The <i>Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan</i> is being updated for 2017. The region is vulnerable to a wide range of hazards that threaten the safety of residents and have the potential to damage or destroy both public and private property and disrupt the local economy and overall quality of life. While the threat from hazards may never be fully eliminated, the <i>Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan</i> recommends specific actions designed to protect residents, business owners and the built environment.</p>	
GRANT/SPONSORING AGENCY	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
<p>This report was funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, via grant Agreement number HMGP-4072-001 for \$266,852.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">   FEMA </div>	<p>The HMPC would like to acknowledge the contributions of Salter's Creek Consulting, Inc., Hampton, Virginia, throughout the planning process, as well as the contributions of the members of Steering Committee and the extended planning committee that made the planning process work.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  Salter's Creek <small>CONSULTING</small> </div>

INTRODUCTION

2017 UPDATE

As part of the 2017 update process, six hazard mitigation plans have been combined into this single plan. The six separate plans and their year of adoption include:

Southside Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan (2011)
City of Franklin All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (2011)
Southampton County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (2011)
Peninsula Hazard Mitigation Plan (2011)
City of Chesapeake, Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan (2014)
City of Poquoson, Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan (2015)

Accordingly, each section of this plan has been broadly updated as part of the 2017 update process. At the beginning of each section, there is a synopsis of the changes made to that section as part of the update, although the process of combining the six plans accounts for many of the changes that cannot be individually enumerated.

Section 1 was updated to modify the scope to include all 22 communities participating in this planning process.

BACKGROUND

The Hampton Roads region of southeastern Virginia is vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards that threaten the safety of residents, and have the potential to damage or destroy both public and private property and disrupt the local economy and overall quality of life.

While the threat from hazards may never be fully eliminated, much can be done to lessen their potential impact. The concept and practice of reducing risks associated with known hazards is referred to as *hazard mitigation*. As discussed in the National Mitigation Framework, mitigation includes the capabilities necessary to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters.

Hazard mitigation techniques include both structural measures, such as strengthening or protecting buildings and infrastructure, and non-structural measures, such as the adoption of sound land use or floodplain management policies and the creation of public awareness programs. Effective mitigation measures are often implemented at the county or municipal level, where decisions that regulate and control development are made. A comprehensive mitigation approach addresses hazard vulnerabilities that exist today and in the foreseeable future. Therefore, projected patterns of future development must be evaluated and considered in terms of how that growth will increase or decrease a community's hazard vulnerability over time.

As a community formulates a comprehensive approach to reduce the impacts of hazards, a key means to accomplish this task is through the development, adoption, and regular update of a local hazard mitigation plan. A hazard mitigation plan establishes the community vision, guiding principles, and the specific actions designed to reduce current and future hazard vulnerabilities.



FEMA Definition of Hazard Mitigation

"Any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards."

The Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan (hereinafter referred to as “Hazard Mitigation Plan”, “Plan”, or “HMP”) is a logical part of incorporating hazard mitigation principles and practices into routine government activities and functions. The Plan recommends specific actions designed to protect residents, business owners, and the developed environment from those hazards that pose the greatest risk. Mitigation actions should go beyond recommending structural solutions to reduce existing vulnerability, such as elevation of structures, retrofitting, and acquisition projects. Local policies that guide community growth and development, incentives tied to natural resource protection, and public awareness and outreach activities should be considered to reduce the region’s future vulnerability to identified hazards.

In keeping with federal requirements and to present a review of Hampton Road’s risk and vulnerability, state and regional capabilities, and current local capabilities, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) prepared this updated Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2015 and 2016. The planning committee worked throughout the two-year planning period to update mitigation goals, objectives, and recommended actions, as outlined in detail in Section 2. As part of the ongoing mitigation planning process, this Plan is the result of the 2015/2016 mitigation evaluation.

DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2000

In an effort to reduce the Nation’s mounting natural disaster losses, Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). Section 322 of DMA 2000 requires that state and local governments develop a hazard mitigation plan in order to remain eligible for pre- and post-disaster mitigation funding. These funds include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program, which are administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Communities with an adopted and federally approved hazard mitigation plan are eligible for available mitigation funds before and after the next disaster strikes.

This Plan was prepared and updated in coordination with FEMA and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) to make certain it meets all applicable state and federal mitigation planning requirements. In addition, guidance from the March 2013 FEMA manual, *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* was used by the committee and professional consultants to guide the plan update process. The *Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool*, found in Appendix A, provides a summary of FEMA’s current minimum standards of acceptability, and notes the location within the Plan where each planning requirement is met.

NATIONAL MITIGATION FRAMEWORK

The National Mitigation Framework establishes a common platform and forum for coordinating and addressing how the Nation manages risk through mitigation capabilities. Mitigation reduces the impact of disasters by supporting protection and prevention activities, easing response, and speeding recovery to create better prepared and more resilient communities. This Framework describes mitigation roles across a whole community. The Framework addresses how the Nation will develop, employ, and coordinate core mitigation capabilities to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Building on a wealth of objective and evidence-based knowledge and community experience, the Framework seeks to increase risk awareness and leverage mitigation products, services, and assets across a whole community or, in this case, across a region.

National Mitigation Framework, May 2013 was published by the Department of Homeland Security to further discuss seven core capabilities required for entities involved in mitigation: threat and hazard identification, risk and disaster resilience assessment, planning, community resilience, public information and warning, long-term vulnerability reduction, and operational coordination. The document focuses on the need for the whole community (or region) to be engaged in examining and implementing the doctrine contained in the Framework and to create a culture that embeds risk management and mitigation in all planning, decision making and development.

The operational work plan for this Hazard Mitigation Plan Update considered the objectives of the National Mitigation Framework in many aspects of its implementation: building the committee and choosing committee leaders; providing risk and vulnerability data early in the planning process; requesting capability update information from communities to foster understanding of capability gaps early in the planning process; and creating regional mitigation actions that help create a culture of mitigation at the regional level that brings together a larger group of stakeholders.

PURPOSE

The general purposes of this Hazard Mitigation Plan are to:

- protect life and property by reducing the potential for future damages and economic losses that result from natural hazards;
- qualify for additional grant funding, in both the pre-disaster and post-disaster environment;
- speed recovery and redevelopment following future disasters;
- integrate existing flood mitigation documents;
- demonstrate a firm local commitment to hazard mitigation principles; and
- comply with state and federal legislative requirements tied to local hazard mitigation planning.

SCOPE

This Hazard Mitigation Plan shall be updated and maintained to continually address those natural hazards determined to be of high and moderate risk as defined by the results of the risk assessment (see “Conclusions on Hazard Risk” in Section 5: *Vulnerability Assessment*). This enables Hampton Road’s planning committees to prioritize mitigation actions based on those hazards which present the greatest risk to lives and property.

The planning area includes the following communities in Hampton Roads, which were further broken down into 3 categories based on geography:

The Peninsula:

City of Hampton
City of Newport News
City of Poquoson
City of Williamsburg
James City County
York County

The Southside:

City of Norfolk
City of Portsmouth
City of Suffolk
City of Virginia Beach
City of Chesapeake

Western Tidewater:

Isle of Wight County
Town of Smithfield
Town of Windsor
City of Franklin
Southampton County

Town of Boykins
Town of Branchville
Town of Capron
Town of Courtland
Town of Ivor
Town of Newsoms

AUTHORITY

This updated Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted by each of the participating communities in early 2017. A copy of each resolution adopting the Plan is included in Appendix B.

This Plan was developed and updated in accordance with current state and federal rules and regulations governing local hazard mitigation plans. The Plan shall be monitored and updated on a routine basis to maintain compliance with the following legislation:

- Section 322, Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as enacted by Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-390); and
- Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 201, used as the basis for the October 1, 2011 update to FEMA's *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide*.