



Office of Emergency Preparedness

Monroe County, New York

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Executive Summary of the Monroe County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

AUTHORITY FOR THE PLAN

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Act 42 USC 5133 by adding a new section, 322 – Mitigation Planning. Section 322 establishes a new requirement for local mitigation plans. The Act provides a framework for linking pre-and post-disaster mitigation planning and initiatives with public and private interests to ensure an integrated, comprehensive approach to disaster loss reduction. It requires all local governments to have an approved All-Hazard Mitigation Plan to be eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project funding.

MISSION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Monroe County's Plan is a "multi-jurisdictional plan." As prescribed by regulation it is *a combined planning effort of two or more local governments* (i.e. two municipalities sharing a common political boundary, or a county plan encompassing several, or all municipalities within its boundaries, etc).

Participating local governments include:

- Monroe County
- City of Rochester
- Towns: Brighton, Chili, Clarkson, Gates, Greece, Hamlin, Henrietta, Irondequoit, Mendon, Ogden, Parma, Penfield, Perinton, Pittsford, Riga, Rush, Sweden, Webster, Wheatland
- Villages: Brockport, Churchville, East Rochester, Fairport, Hilton, Honeoye Falls, Pittsford, Scottsville, Spencerport, Webster
- Authorities: Monroe County Water Authority, Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, Monroe County Airport Authority
- Other Public Entities: Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Community Participants: American Red Cross, Rochester Gas & Electric

The planning regulations require an open public involvement process in the formation of the plan. Broad public participation enables the development of mitigation measures that are supported by the various stakeholders within the community. The planning process must include: opportunities for the public to view and comment on the plan during its formation; involvement of any pertinent neighboring communities, interested agencies, private and non-profit organizations; and, review of any existing plans or studies and incorporation of these, if appropriate.

SITUATION

- A. Monroe County applied for and was awarded a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Grant which the Legislature authorized as Resolution No. 112 of 2003, on April 8, 2003.
- B. Monroe County respects the jurisdictional autonomy of the participants in this multi-jurisdictional planning process.
- C. In compliance with grant requirements, the County (through the Office of Emergency Preparedness) submitted its Plan as a “DRAFT” to the State, for their submission to FEMA for final approval.
- D. FEMA approved the Plan, and now each municipal participant must submit the Plan to their respective legislative body for adoption by December 31, 2004.
- E. NOTE: The State Emergency Management Office advised us that Monroe County's Plan is the first Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan within New York State to receive FEMA approval.
- F. With FEMA approval, and local legislative adoption, all municipal participants will be eligible for Federal Mitigation funding authorized by the Act.

PLAN DESIGN

This plan is designed to establish a viable direction for the mitigation of natural and technological disasters within Monroe County. It is a comprehensive document that exceeds federal planning requirements. Specifically, we identify all hazards (29) that may adversely impact our community. Low risk/low probability hazards reside within this Plan to utilize the document’s infrastructure. This ensures ease of access to all hazards, consolidates archival information about local experience in one document, and ensures a comprehensive approach to all local hazard mitigation activities. The low risk/low probability hazards do not reflect the volume and depth of information noted on the higher risk hazards as they remain under construction. Several municipalities created an annex to this Plan that specifies local conditions and details their attention in these areas. Where a local annex has been developed, additional community members have been engaged in the process. Community participants at all levels have demonstrated a commitment to the intent of this program, and to its process.

- A. Planning Committee. The Planning Committee roster includes representatives from the participating local governments, and community partners.
- B. Risk Assessment. Monroe County’s Plan includes a local risk assessment that provides the factual basis for activities proposed in our strategy to reduce losses from these hazards. The Plan’s *Hazard Analysis Worksheet* is included as Appendix A. An analysis of each hazard with potential to threaten Monroe County is addressed in Appendix B.
- C. Mitigation Strategy. The Plan identifies six broad goals and defines measurable objectives for each of them. The planning committee developed various types of projects that could be employed to mitigate the identified hazards, i.e. actions that may generally reduce the risks from the identified hazards. There are six general project categories: prevention, property protection, public education and awareness, natural resource protection, emergency services, and, structural projects. Each of

these project areas identifies a series of action plans to achieve a higher level of readiness and protection.

- D. Action Plan. The local Action Plan identifies feasible and cost-effective Mitigation Measures that should be implemented to eliminate or reduce the identified hazards. A lead agency, or a responsible individual, is required to guide the implementation of each identified Mitigation Measure. These six project areas enumerated above have mitigation value for all twenty-nine (29) hazards on our menu, i.e. their value is not limited to a specific hazard, they have universal application. Additional Mitigation Measures, those that are specifically aligned with one of the twenty-nine (29) hazards, are addressed with their respective hazard in Appendix C.

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & EVALUATION

A. Documentation and Plan Adoption.

1. Public Involvement. Public participation is an integral component of the planning process. Participation in the development of this Plan included meetings and presentations with: the Planning Committee; Local Officials; Professional Organizations; Community Organizations; and, Schools. Solicitation of public input was requested and information was gathered from the public.
2. Legislative Authorization. All villages (10), towns (19), and the City of Rochester joined the County in a multi-jurisdictional Plan, with the understanding that their local Legislative body would need to formally adopt the Plan. All local Legislative bodies will follow statutes and local policy with regard to the Plan adoption process.

B. Plan Implementation.

This Plan may be institutionalized by reference and/or integration with government practices. For example:

1. The Monroe County Comprehensive Emergency Plan (CEMP) integrates this Plan in its “Risk Reduction” section. The menu of hazards and Action Plan for threat reduction are addressed in the CEMP.
2. The Plan may be considered during the review and development of municipal operating budgets and capital improvement budgets.
3. Local municipalities may incorporate the Plan in their review of: land use decisions and plat review, local development proposals, local municipal services, and local policy.

C. Plan Monitoring & Evaluation.

1. Plan Review. The Plan will be reviewed annually by the County Office of Emergency Preparedness, to keep Appendix B current for occurrences and to document the impact of these hazards.

2. Plan Approval. Subsequent Plan revisions will be submitted for local Legislative body approval. This approval will be subject to statutes and local policies regarding legislative authorization, i.e. Legal Notice, Public Hearing.
3. State and Federal Review. After local legislative review and revision, the County Plan will be compiled by the County Office of Emergency Preparedness, and submitted to the New York State Emergency Management Office, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for their review. This action will obtain local compliance with the requirement for state and federal review of Plan revisions on a 5-year cycle.