

**George Washington Regional Commission
Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 Update
Frequently Asked Questions**

What is a hazard mitigation plan?

A hazard mitigation plan forms the foundation for the region's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses. It analyzes the risks present in the region, and creates a framework for reducing damages to lives, property, and the economy. The GWRC plan:

- Profiles each of the 7 jurisdictions included in the plan;
- Analyzes the risks and vulnerabilities associated with the hazards present in the region;
- Discusses the capabilities of each jurisdiction to address those hazards;
- Identifies specific steps each jurisdiction can take to reduce future losses from those hazards; and
- Presents the processes for plan adoption and maintenance, including those agencies responsible for updating and maintaining the plan.

Why do we need a hazard mitigation plan?

There are a number of reasons to develop and maintain a hazard mitigation plan, including:

- By identifying risks associated with natural hazards, actions can be taken to reduce future damages to people and property.
- The planning process builds support for implementing mitigation actions, and offers opportunities to coordinate with other agencies and jurisdictions.
- A hazard mitigation plan is required in order for a jurisdiction to be eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation grant funds. The present plan expires on July 15, 2017.

Who is included in the hazard mitigation plan?

The area covered by this plan includes:

- City of Fredericksburg, Town of Bowling Green, Town of Port Royal, Caroline County, King George County, Spotsylvania County, Stafford County

Who is responsible for the hazard mitigation plan?

The George Washington Regional Commission led the update of the plan beginning in 2016. Staff representatives from the 7 jurisdictions formed an advisory committee to guide plan development, while consultants from The Berkley Group produced the document.

Every jurisdiction that adopts the hazard mitigation plan has a stake in its implementation, and a specific local agency is identified for each mitigation action described in the plan. The plan must be monitored and evaluated annually and fully updated every five years.

What hazards present the greatest risks to the region?

Flooding and Erosion, Hurricanes and Thunderstorms, Tornados, Wildfires, Earthquakes, Winter storms and Nor'easters, Dam Failure, Drought & Extreme Heat, Sinkholes and Landslides.

What is the goal of the mitigation plan?

This plan, and the associated strategies found in this section, are based on four broad goals established in the state-wide hazard mitigation plan:

- Goal 1: Identify and implement projects that will eliminate long-term risk, directly reduce impacts from hazards, and maintain continuity of critical societal functions.
- Goal 2: Incorporate mitigation concepts and objectives into existing and future policies, plans, regulations, and laws in the Commonwealth.
- Goal 3: Improve the quality of the data and analysis used in the hazard identification and risk assessment process in state, local, and university hazard mitigation plans.
- Goal 4: Through training, education, and outreach promote awareness of hazards, their risk, and potential mitigation actions in order to increase resiliency.

What is being done about the natural hazard risks in the region?

The participating jurisdictions have identified multiple mitigation actions that specifically address each hazard present in the region. These actions are specific to each jurisdiction, and range from public outreach to construction projects.

How was the public engaged in Plan update activities?

Once a draft Hazard Mitigation Plan was produced, public involvement efforts took place during the months of March and April 2017. The plan was presented publicly at the offices of the George Washington Regional Commission, with local and regional staff members, local elected leaders, and representatives of other regional organizations in attendance.

The public was also encouraged to review and comment on the draft plan by participating local governments using forums familiar to their citizens, including government websites, citizens' committees, social media, and local access television.