

6. PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

A. MONITORING THE PLAN

“Every two years following completion of this Plan, the York County EMA will distribute a survey form to each of the 29 local EMA directors in the county. This form will ask each director to comment on how his or her community has or has not addressed the Plan’s objectives during the past two years. The County EMA will take the individual municipal results and compile a biennial progress report that will be distributed to local officials and the media. The County EMA also intends to work with MEMA officials and SMRPC in periods following disasters to better understand how the region can mitigate future damages to roads, critical facilities, residential structures and businesses.”

York County Hazard Mitigation Plan: Evaluation Matrix

Town _____
 Year _____

No.	Objectives	How Effective? (10=most, 1=least)										ACTIONS TAKEN THIS YEAR TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1.1.	Discourage future residential and commercial development in hazard-prone areas												
1.2.	Improve emergency evacuation routes and plans												
1.3.	Enact and enforce regulations that reduce the threat of hazard damage												
1.4.	Improve functionality of emergency shelter system												
1.5.	Improve post-disaster reporting systems												
2.1.	Ensure that infrastructure is fully restored as quickly as possible after disasters occur												
2.2.	Encourage owners of commercial properties and businesses to enact mitigation measures												
2.3.	Ensure that all workers and customers can access businesses												
2.4.	Maintain security during and after hazard events												
3.1.	Enact strict mitigation standards for key public facilities												
3.2.	Develop formal arrangements for sharing of facilities and equipment in case of disasters												
3.3.	Encourage municipalities to develop, adopt and implement local hazard mitigation plans												
4.1.	Protect critical public facilities and services from hazard damage												
4.2.	Prioritize hazard mitigation activities by benefit-cost ratios												
4.3.	Use public funds to limit development of buildings and facilities in hazard-prone locations												
4.4.	Preserve invaluable cultural and historic resources in hazard-prone areas												
5.1.	Encourage property owners to undertake voluntary mitigation measures												
5.2.	Improve visibility and knowledge of evacuation routes and emergency shelters												
5.3.	Educate children about hazard mitigation												

B. EVALUATING THE PLAN

During the fourth year of the five-year planning cycle, the York County EMA will convene a meeting of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team to review the risk assessment portion of the Plan to determine if this information should be updated or modified, and if additional hazards should be profiled. The Planning Team will also review the County EMA's status report on implementation, as well as each mitigation action to determine its continued relevance to changing situations and land developments in the County, as well as changes in Federal or State policy, and to ensure that each action is addressing current and expected conditions."

C. UPDATING THE PLAN

At the beginning of the fourth year of implementation of this Plan, the County EMA will convene a meeting of the local EMA Directors, who will serve as liaisons to other municipal staff and officials. Based on the evaluation of the Plan, proposed changes will be prepared for the following five-year period. The County EMA and the County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team will rely on EMA Directors for input, as well as public input obtained through public workshops, mailings, and phone-in meetings. Proposed changes to the Plan will be submitted to the Maine Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review.

19. Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms	
Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(ii): (The plan shall include a) process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, where appropriate.	
Elements	<p>A. Does the new or updated plan identify other local planning mechanisms available for incorporating the mitigation requirements of the mitigation plan?</p> <p>B. Does the new or updated plan include a process by which the local government will incorporate the mitigation strategy and other information contained in the plan (e.g., risk assessment) into other planning mechanisms, when appropriate?</p> <p>C. Does the updated plan explain how the local government incorporated the mitigation strategy and other information contained in the plan (e.g., risk assessment) into other planning mechanisms, when appropriate?</p>

A. Identification of local planning mechanisms.

County government is very limited in scope and authority in the State of Maine and does not have the staff or fiscal capabilities to control planning or development within municipalities. In Maine, most government authority is derived from State statutes and rules and with municipal “Home Rule” ordinances.”

There are a total of 29 municipalities in the County. Available planning mechanisms at the municipal level include:

- Local comprehensive plans (most of the municipalities have adopted comprehensive plan)’
- Capital improvement plans (some of the larger municipalities have capital improvement plans; most of the smaller ones do not);
- Road maintenance planning efforts;
- Emergency management and mitigation planning;
- Fire prevention planning; and
- Grant writing (some of the County’s municipalities have been active in applying for grants to address municipal priorities).”

There were very few ordinance-related mitigation measures identified by the York County Hazard Mitigation Team. The majority of the mitigation measures that were identified, and all of the actions selected by individual communities are either structural, public educational, or emergency planning measures.

B. Process for incorporating mitigation strategies and related information into local planning mechanisms.

County government does not have the authority to control local planning mechanisms. However, the County EMA Director can provide information to local units of government, as well as technical assistance.

Following approval of the Plan by FEMA, the County EMA will send a copy to all municipalities in the County with a recommendation that local comprehensive planning efforts, municipal road maintenance planning efforts, emergency management programs and local fire prevention programs will be utilized to their greatest extent to complete the community's mitigation measures.

The County EMA Office will assist the municipal officers in implementing their selected mitigation measures. The County EMA Office will also continue to assist municipalities with the completion of FEMA Pre-Disaster and Hazard Mitigation Grant packages.

C. Explanation of how local governments incorporated strategies and other information.

The County EMA and all municipal EMAs have continued to advise their respective jurisdictions on pending hazard events, such as winter storms, as well as posted public service announcements in public locations such as municipal offices.

The County EMA has notified municipal EMAs and local officials of hazard mitigation workshops such as those related to the Pre-Disaster and Hazard Mitigation Grant programs, and workshops with hazard mitigation content such as those sponsored by Maine's Local Roads Center that deal with the use of geo-textiles.

For information of hazard events, posted public announcements and/or workshops, visit York County's EMA website at: <http://www.yorkcountyme.gov>

Three York County towns (Biddeford, Saco, and Old Orchard Beach) have begun working cooperatively to address the impacts of sea level rise. They have formed the Sea Level Adaptation Working Group (SLAWG) for the purpose of developing and implementing regional climate change adaptation strategies, to respond to rising sea levels and to become more resilient to coastal storms.

There are seven towns in York County that participate the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS). CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. These communities must continue to implement its credited activities to keep its CRS classification.

D. CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

20. Continued Public Involvement	
Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(iii): (The plan maintenance process shall include a) discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.	
Elements	A. Does the new or updated plan explain how continued public participation will be obtained? (For example, will there be public notices, an on-going mitigation plan committee, or annual review meetings with stakeholders?)

A. Public participation.

York County is committed to involving the public directly in the continued reshaping and updating of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Planning Team is responsible for reviewing and updating the Plan. Although the members of the Planning Team represent the public to some extent, all meetings will continue to be open to the public for opportunities to comment on and provide meaningful input on the Plan.

Copies of the Plan will be issued to the municipal Emergency Management Directors and kept on hand at all participating municipal offices in the County. The County EMA Office will post the Plan on its web site. The Plan will include the address and phone number of the York County EMA Office that is responsible for keeping track of public comments on the Plan.

The York County EMA Office will also provide a public comment period at each meeting of the Hazard Mitigation Team. The purpose of the public comment period is to provide a public forum for input. The York County EMA Office will be responsible for providing public notice for each meeting of the Hazard Planning Team, for hosting the meeting, and for including information about the public comment period.