

# ESSEX COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

2020 UPDATE

REDUCE THE VULNERABILITY TO HAZARDS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, QUALITY OF LIFE, ENVIRONMENT, AND ECONOMY OF ALL PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IN ESSEX COUNTY

## PURPOSE

The Essex County Sheriff's Office is leading the update of the countywide HMP. This plan is an opportunity to detail a variety of potential hazards that could affect some or all of our residents and will also allow the county and participating municipalities to be eligible for future mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The goal of the plan is to identify projects that can reduce damages from future hazards. The plan will include a risk assessment and a hazard mitigation strategy. The primary natural hazards of concern in Essex County include: Coastal Erosion and Sea Level Rise, Coastal Storm, Drought, Earthquake, Extreme Temperatures, Flood, Geologic Hazards, Severe Weather, Severe Winter Storm and Wildfire. The primary non-natural hazards in Essex County include: Civil Disorder, Cyber Attack, Disease Outbreak, Economic Collapse, Hazardous Substances, Power Outages, Terrorism, and Transportation Failure.

The study will focus on existing buildings and potential future development, infrastructure, and critical facilities that might be impacted. Critical facilities include but are not limited to municipal buildings and infrastructure such as power-generation facilities, water utilities, roadways, railroads and communication systems.

## WHAT IS A HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN?

A hazard mitigation plan (HMP) is “the representation of the jurisdiction’s commitment to reduce risks from natural hazards, serving as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards” (44 CFR 201.6). HMPs establish and maintain eligibility for grant funds. The planning process is as important as the plan itself because it creates a framework for governments to reduce the negative impacts from future disasters on lives, property, and the economy.



Hazard mitigation planning can significantly reduce the physical, financial, and emotional losses caused by disasters. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 is federal legislation that establishes a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). It encourages and rewards state and local pre-disaster planning and promotes sustainability. Completion of an HMP will result in more effective risk reduction projects and in a faster and more efficient allocation of funding.

## FAQS

**What is mitigation?** Any sustained action taken to reduce/eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event.

**How can you reduce/eliminate risk?** Identify mitigation actions/projects/activities or processes that can include 1) Local plans and regulations; 2) Structure and infrastructure projects; 3) Natural systems protection; 4) Education and awareness programs.

**What grant funding is available?** FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding is available with a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (annual and post-disaster opportunities).

**How can I support the plan?** Take the citizen survey! This will help us obtain input and get a better understanding of citizen preparedness for hazard events.

**Where can I see the plan?** Sections of the draft plan will be available late 2019 for download, review and comment on the Essex County website at: <https://www.essexsheriff.com/oem-category/2020-mid-plan-update/>

## WHAT IS REQUIRED IN A HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN?

FEMA regulations require that the public must be engaged in all phases of the plan's development. The HMP should review and incorporate existing plans and programs that can support or enhance hazard mitigation. The plan must assess the risk to natural hazards that may impact the planning area and identify and prioritize mitigation actions that can be taken. The HMP must also include a strategy for maintaining the plan, which must be updated every 5 years.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN?

There are numerous benefits to participating in the HMP including:

- Awareness of risk and vulnerabilities
- Identification of implementable strategies and funding sources
- Reduction of hazard impact (save lives, property, and the local economy)
- Creation of partnerships and develop comprehensive approaches that enhance project grant funding opportunities.
- Pooling of resources and reduce their level of effort while avoiding duplication of effort.
- Creation of more resilient communities; bounce-back from disasters faster!

## SCHEDULE



For more information, visit our website:

<https://www.essexsheriff.com/oem-category/2020-mid-plan-update/>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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Essex County resident? Take our survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/essexhmp2020>

-or-

scan the QR code to complete the survey

