



ESSEX COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Essex County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Underway *Attend the Kickoff Meeting and Take the Online Survey*

The public is invited to participate in updating a countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) that will pave the way for mitigation funding. Please consider attending the plan participant kickoff meeting at 9:00am on July 18, 2019 at the Essex County Emergency Operations Center at 560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052.

To learn more about the project, please visit our website at:

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

We encourage all Essex County residents to take the online survey to gauge citizen preparedness available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/essexhmp2020>.

Essex County has received a grant to complete a mandatory five-year update of its existing 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines hazard mitigation as a “sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards.” Essex County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan will identify key actions to be taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural disasters.

The Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 requires local governments to have a hazard mitigation plan approved by FEMA. This plan will eventually form the basis for a long-term strategy to help reduce or eliminate disaster losses, and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

The goal of the plan is to identify projects that can reduce damages from future natural hazards. The plan includes a risk assessment and a hazard-mitigation strategy. The hazards of concern include coastal erosion and sea-level rise, coastal storms, dam/levee failure, drought, earthquake, extreme temperature, flood, geologic hazards, winter storms, and wildfire. The study focuses on the population, existing and future buildings, infrastructure and critical facilities that might be impacted.

Communities with an approved HMP may apply for FEMA pre-disaster mitigation funding for projects to mitigate risk to both public and private property, such as home acquisitions/elevations and local flood-control measures. Ultimately these projects will reduce vulnerability and enable communities to recover more quickly from disasters.

Additional information regarding future opportunities to participate in the plan update will be



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posted on the mitigation website: <https://www.essexsheriff.com/oem-category/2020-mid-plan-update/> Opportunities include attendance at public meetings and review of the draft plan. For more information, please contact Essex County Office of Emergency Management at 973-324-9750 and essexoem@essexsheriff.com