



ESSEX COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2025 Update

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

PURPOSE

The Essex County Office of Emergency Management is leading a countywide hazard mitigation plan (HMP) update. This plan is an opportunity to detail potential natural hazards that could affect residents and allows the county and participating municipalities to remain eligible for future mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The goal of the plan is to identify projects that 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 disease outbreak, drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flood, geologic hazards, severe weather, severe winter storms and wildfire.

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?

An 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). They establish and maintain eligibility for FEMA mitigation 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.



Photo Credit: Essex County Division of Engineering

Hazard mitigation planning can reduce the physical, financial and emotional losses caused by disasters. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 is a 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.

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; and 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 public survey! This will provide a better understanding of citizen hazard preparedness.

Where can I see the plan? Sections of the draft plan will be available early 2025 for download, review and comment on the Essex County at <https://www.essexsheriff.com/oem-category/mitigation/>

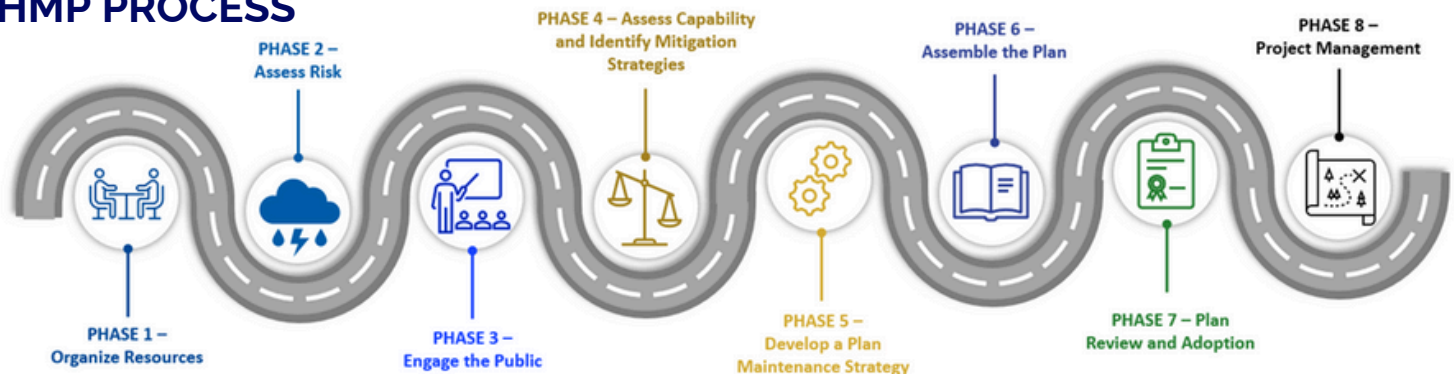
WHAT IS REQUIRED IN A HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN?

FEMA requires an opportunity for the public to 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?

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

HMP PROCESS



For more information, visit our website:

<https://www.essexsheriff.com/oem-category/mitigation/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Live or work in Essex County?

Take our survey!

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

-or-

