



Section 4: Hazard Mitigation Strategies and Implementation

Hazard Mitigation Goals

Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(i): The hazard mitigation plan shall include a description of goals to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards.

Hazard Mitigation Strategies and Implementation

Requirement §201.6(c)(3): The plan shall include a mitigation strategy that provides the jurisdiction's blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment, based on existing authorities, policies, programs and resources, and its ability to expand on and improve these existing tools.

Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Actions

Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(ii): The mitigation strategy shall include a section that identifies and analyzes a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects being considered to reduce the effects of each hazard, with particular emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure.

Implementation of Mitigation Actions

Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(iii): The mitigation strategy section shall include an action plan describing how the actions identified in section (c)(3)(ii) will be prioritized, implemented, and administered by the local jurisdiction. Prioritization shall include a special emphasis on the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost benefit review of the proposed projects and their associated costs.

Introduction

The Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (Section 2) of *Snyder County's Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan* evaluated the County's vulnerabilities and risks to a series of natural, man-made, and technological hazards. This analysis determined that Snyder County and its 21 municipalities are most vulnerable to natural hazards, particularly flooding, hurricanes/tropical storms, and severe winter weather.

This section, therefore, specifies a comprehensive mitigation strategy that includes these goals and mitigation actions: emergency services; natural resource protection; preparedness; property protection; public information; and structural projects.



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Emergency services focus on preparedness opportunities for the Snyder County Emergency Management Agency (SCEMA), County GIS staff, County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and local Emergency Management Coordinators.

Such measures include:

- Communications and warning
- Emergency operations planning
- Evacuation route planning
- Critical facilities protection
- Public health and safety
- Standardized street addressing
- Hazardous materials planning
- Damage assessment and reporting
- HAZUS training
- Special needs population

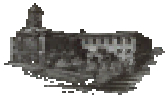
Natural resource protection measures help preserve the County's floodways (regulatory and fringes) and protect public and private property through:

- Floodplain and riparian areas protection
- Storm water management
- Erosion and sediment control

Preparedness measures strengthen county- and municipal-level planning and administration activities for all-hazard events through post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, and intergovernmental cooperation.

Property protection measures identify and protect both public and private sector-owned property assets and critical infrastructures. These measures include repetitive-loss properties and identify opportunities to permanently remove people, property, and businesses from the County's flood-prone areas. Property protection mitigation measures include: repetitive loss structures; flood insurance; business continuity planning; floodplain regulations; and critical infrastructure protection.

Public information measures are intended to advise officials and the public of hazards and ways to protect people and property from them. Public information measures include: flood maps and data; public advisory and outreach programs; flood warning and responses; and technical and financial assistance.



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Structural projects identify capital improvement opportunities to mitigate local critical infrastructure from flood risks and power outages from severe storms. Examples include: bridge improvements; levees, floodwalls; channel modifications; critical facility relocation; evacuation route improvements; communications; and power supply.

Hazard Mitigation Goals

The goals developed for the *Snyder County Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan* were developed in response to the aforementioned hazard vulnerability section and inputs received from the project's public involvement process. The following goal statements denote long-term objectives to reduce or avoid vulnerabilities to flooding and other natural, man-made, and technological hazards profiled.

- Strengthen County and local capabilities to reduce the potential impacts of flooding on existing and future public/private assets, including structures, critical facilities, and infrastructure.
- Increase intergovernmental cooperation and build public-private partnerships to implement activities that will reduce the impacts of natural, man-made, and technological hazards.
- Enhance planning and emergency response efforts among state, county, and local emergency management personnel to protect public health and safety.
- Continue to build Snyder County's spatial information resources to strengthen public and private hazard mitigation planning and decision-support capabilities.
- Increase public awareness on both the potential impacts of natural hazards and activities to reduce those impacts.

Hazard Mitigation Measures

Found in Appendix D, Figures D-1, D-2, and D-3 identify and analyze a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and structural projects to reduce the impact of flooding and other natural, man-made, and technological hazards profiled under the hazard vulnerability section.

Figure D-1 presents a series of non-structural mitigation measures and their respective implementation schedules. These measures are grouped according to the aforementioned categories and by applicable hazard vulnerability. The measures were also prioritized by their respective impact and benefit scores. This prioritization methodology examined each measure's impact and benefit relative to cost, segment of the population affected (countywide vs. local), and long-term benefit to the population served. Appendix D also establishes an implementation strategy for each measure and specifies a schedule, funding source(s), responsible entity(ies) and estimated costs.



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Appendix Figure D-2 presents a series of structural projects solicited from Snyder County's 21 municipalities through the hazard mitigation planning process. These measures have been thoroughly evaluated and prioritized, and will be implemented and administered according to the specified implementation strategy. Figure D-3 presents a series of structural projects previously solicited with Snyder County's participation in the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project. Likewise, these projects were thoroughly evaluated and prioritized, and are being administered by Snyder County Emergency Management Agency through Luzerne County and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.