



# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 PURPOSE

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) established a requirement that in order for local jurisdictions to remain eligible for Federal disaster assistance and grant funds, they must develop and adopt a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-approved hazard mitigation plan (HMP) and update that plan every five years. Monmouth County adopted its first HMP in 2009, known as the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for Monmouth County, New Jersey (referred to as Monmouth County HMP), and conducted the first plan update in 2015 (the five-year update requirement was extended due to Superstorm Sandy). This Monmouth County HMP is the second update to the original plan and is the result of work by County residents, local officials, and stakeholders that participated in the hazard mitigation planning process.

The term “Hazard Mitigation” describes actions that can help reduce or eliminate long-term risks caused by hazards or disaster. The HMP process includes identifying local risks and vulnerabilities associated with disasters and developing long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events. These strategies are essential to breaking the typical disaster cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. According to the National Institute of Building Sciences, natural hazard mitigation saves \$6 on average for every \$1 spent on Federal mitigation grants (FEMA, 2018). In other words, hazard mitigation actions and projects save more than they cost. In addition to natural hazard mitigation, this version of the Monmouth County HMP includes mitigation strategies against human-based hazards, such as terrorism and cyber-attacks.

**Natural hazard mitigation saves \$6 on average for every \$1 spent on federal mitigation grants (FEMA 2018)**

### 1.2 SCOPE

The Monmouth County HMP update has been prepared to meet requirements set forth by the FEMA and the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) in order for the County to be eligible for funding and technical assistance from State and Federal hazard mitigation programs. Further, this HMP update is an effort to identify risks and vulnerabilities to natural and human-made hazards across Monmouth County, as well as to outline suggested actions aimed at reducing overall risk and building resilience across the County. This multi-jurisdictional plan includes participation and will be adopted by Monmouth County and all 53 municipalities. Monmouth County and the municipalities participating in the plan have undergone hazard mitigation planning and related activities in the past. Previous and ongoing hazard mitigation activities are documented throughout the plan.

### 1.3 NEW TO THIS PLAN UPDATE

In an effort to improve the implementation of hazard mitigation in Monmouth County, this plan update now includes the following elements:

- **Human-based Hazards:** In addition to natural hazards, the Monmouth County HMP now profiles human-based hazards.
- **Online Project Website:** Added an additional forum for public input, meeting notices, general information on hazard mitigation, and links to additional resources ([www.mocohmp.com](http://www.mocohmp.com)).
- **Municipal Meetings:** The Project Team individually met with each municipality to discuss changes in capabilities since the last plan update, the status of 2015 mitigation actions (and any new actions), the status of Repetitive Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Lost (SRL) properties, the list of critical facilities, and new resources and funding opportunities.

- Appendices by Jurisdiction: Each jurisdiction has their own appendix with a hazard mitigation summary sheet, Mitigation Action Worksheets, capability assessment, flood vulnerability mapping, and meeting materials.
- Development Trends: Assessed current development patterns and development pressures to examine the potential for future development in hazard areas.

## 1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

The Monmouth County HMP is reformatted and organized to be more readable while paralleling the structure of the requirements outlined in 44CFR 201.4 and FEMA’s Plan Review Tool elements. The Monmouth County HMP is organized into the following sections:

- 1.0 Introduction: Discusses the purpose of hazard mitigation planning and the planning requirements for the HMP.
- 2.0 Community Profile & Asset Inventory: Describes Monmouth County’s geography, land use, housing characteristics, changes in development, economic assets, and transportation trends.
- 3.0 Planning Process: Discusses the planning process, planning team, and municipal meeting process.
- 4.0 Risk Assessment: Provides an overview of the hazard identification, an analysis on each hazard affecting Monmouth County, and key risk findings.
- 5.0 Capability Assessment: Examines the integration of existing planning mechanisms and the HMP.
- 6.0 Mitigation Strategy: Discusses the HMP goals and mitigation strategies.
- 7.0 Plan Maintenance: Explains the plan maintenance process for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the HMP.
- 8.0 Plan Adaptation: Discusses municipal HMP adoption process.

Appendices Volume I – Jurisdictions: Each municipality has their own appendix with their mitigation actions, capability assessment, flood vulnerability maps, and meeting materials.

Appendices Volume II: Includes the Plan Review tool, plan adoption resolutions, and monitoring tools.

A Crosswalk of the Plan Update Sections and Previous Plan’s Sections are below:

### PLAN UPDATE SECTIONS

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Community Profile & Asset Inventory
- 3. Planning Process
- 4. Risk Assessment
- 5. Capability Assessment
- 6. Mitigation Strategy
- 7. Plan Maintenance
- 8. Plan Adoption

### PREVIOUS PLAN SECTIONS

- 1. Introduction
- N/A
- N/A
- 2. Identification of Potential Hazards / 3. Risk Assessment
- 4. Capabilities and Resources
- 5. Mitigation Goals / 6. Mitigation Strategies
- 7. Plan Maintenance and Integration
- 8. For More Information



## 1.5 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

Authority for this plan originates from the following Federal and State sources:

- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C., Section 322, as amended;
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 44, Parts 201 and 206;
- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, Public Law 106-390, as amended.
- National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.
- 2019 State of New Jersey HMP (State HMP)

FEMA's most recent guidance, the Local Mitigation Planning Handbook and Integrating Hazard Mitigation Planning into Local Planning: Case Studies and Tools for Community Officials were the primary FEMA guides used for the development of this plan. Additionally, guidance from the State Requirements to the Crosswalk from the State HMP was followed. Previous FEMA guides including the 386 series and information available from NJOEM on hazard mitigations was used to guide this plan's development.