

3.0 HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team identified and prioritized project-planning goals following the completion of the hazard vulnerability assessment. The identification and prioritization of project-planning goals were based on the findings of the hazard vulnerability assessment and were specifically focused on the County's vulnerability to the profiled natural hazard events and the potential severity (i.e., frequency and magnitude) of those hazard events. Clinton County's hazard mitigation goals were prioritized based on a formula of frequency, magnitude and cost benefit ratio. The hazard mitigation goals were ranked highest priority when the actions had the largest impact at the lowest cost. As such, these project-planning goals represent Clinton County's vision for minimizing damages caused by flooding and other natural hazards.

To prioritize the goals, the individual Hazard Mitigation Planning Team members spent time reviewing the data collected for the hazard vulnerability assessment. This review process resulted in the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team assigning our goals to one (1) of three (3) priority levels; High, Medium or Low. The project-planning goals identified for the County are listed below (in random order) but are identified in a specific area of priority.

3.1 HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS

- Ensure that existing drainage systems (pipes, culverts, channels) are adequate and functioning properly.
- Ensure that local building codes/ordinances are consistent with FEMA and PA DCED guidelines and are properly enforced.
- Preserve areas where natural hazard potential is high (i.e., steeply sloping areas, floodplains, etc.).
- Provide residents with adequate warning of potential floods and other meteorological events.

- Ensure that emergency response services and critical facilities functions are not interrupted by natural hazards.
- Provide safe and efficient evacuation routes during floods and other natural hazards.
- Provide adequate shelters during hazard events.
- Ensure that all residents and business owners are aware of the potential hazards associated with their environment and the ways they can protect themselves.
- Ensure that current and potential property owners are aware of the availability and benefits of obtaining federal flood insurance.
- Ensure that local officials are well trained regarding natural hazards and appropriate prevention and mitigation activities.
- Develop citizen information on natural, technological, and man-made disaster response.
- Provide adequate communication systems for emergency management agencies and emergency response units.
- Work to improve the length of stream reaches mapped on FIRM maps and/or increase the density of flood elevation data where this mapping would be beneficial.

3.2 MEDIUM-PRIORITY HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS

- Minimize future damage due to flooding of the Susquehanna River and its tributaries.
- Reduce impacts related to flash flooding and storm water problems.
- Reduce impacts from severe storms and/or improve response procedures.
- Investigate structural solutions to natural hazards.
- Regulate construction and development in the County to prevent increases in runoff and subsequent increases in downstream flood flows.
- Ensure that new construction is resistant to natural hazards.
- Ensure that high-risk, pre-FIRM residential structures do not get repeatedly flooded by using retrofitting techniques to reduce the flood risk to the properties.

- Reduce the impact of flooding on commercial structures through retrofitting techniques.
- Investigate retrofitting alternatives to reduce impacts from other natural hazards.
- Protect existing natural resources and open space, including parks and wetlands, within the floodplain.
- Restore degraded natural resources and open space to improve their flood control function.
- Ensure the adequacy of erosion and sedimentation control practices throughout the County.
- Improve the participation rate in the Federal Flood Insurance Program through education.

3.3 LOW-PRIORITY HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS

- Reduce threats related to hurricanes.
- Evaluate the potential for improving building and infrastructure resistance to tornadoes.
- Reduce threats related to landslides.