

2020 New Castle County
All Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



Plan Executive Summary

April 12, 2020 (June 30, 2020 FEMA Revisions)

New Castle County Department of Public Safety
Office of Emergency Management

New Castle County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Summary April 2020

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Introduction

The purpose of the 2020 New Castle County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (hereinafter referred to as the "Plan") is to provide guidance for hazard mitigation in New Castle County unincorporated and incorporated areas as well as the University of Delaware's Wilmington and Newark campuses. It identifies hazard mitigation goals, objectives and recommended actions and initiatives for county and municipal government to reduce injury and damage from natural and human-caused hazards.

This Plan meets the requirements for maintaining a local hazard mitigation plan under 44 CFR Part 201, published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on February 28, 2002, and amended on Oct. 31, 2007.

This Plan keeps New Castle County and its municipalities qualified to obtain all disaster assistance to include all categories of Public Assistance, Individual Assistance and Hazard Mitigation grants available through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended. The Enhanced State All Hazard Mitigation Plan qualifies the State for hazard mitigation planning and project funding of 20 percent of the federal Stafford Act disaster expenditures. It also keeps the state eligible for the annually funded Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.

Without this plan, all eligible local jurisdictions – would be ineligible to receive a variety of disaster recovery programs, including the Public Assistance Program to repair or replace damaged public facilities, and the Fire Management Assistance Program to help the state and communities recover the costs of major disasters. However, the State and local communities would remain eligible for certain emergency assistance and Human Services programs available through the Stafford Act.

The Planning Process

This Plan is the product of multiple hours of work and the effort of people from many organizations. The Plan builds on several mitigation planning initiatives since 2014 and provides updates to those initiatives as well as incorporates a few new initiatives.

Staff from the New Castle County Office of Emergency Management led the development effort of the New Castle County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The Coordinator of Emergency Management directed the planning effort, and staff at Emergency Management supported the update process, along with NCC Department of Land Use GIS Section, and UD GIS.

The New Castle County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee, assembled by the New Castle Office of Emergency Management, provided guidance and assisted with development of the All Hazard Mitigation Plan update, including review of previous hazard mitigation planning initiatives, development of mitigation strategies, an action plan, and an update to the local capability assessment. The members of the Steering Committee provided expertise and perspective to all aspects of the planning process, including, land-use planning, building codes, transportation, and infrastructure, to name a few. Representation included members from the local government, law enforcement, fire service, Licensing & Inspections, emergency management community, state agencies, Public Works, emergency medical professionals, building officials, municipal governments, and private industry.

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Once the Plan is approved by FEMA and then promulgated by County Council, the Committee will function as an advisor to the Coordinator of Emergency Management, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, and the State Flood Mitigation Officer on hazard mitigation efforts, including future reviews and revisions. On an annual basis, the NCC Hazard Mitigation Council reconvenes to review FEMA Mitigation Grant Opportunities. At this workshop, mitigation actions are reviewed and updated, a discussion is held to determine any future actions or amendments, and all entities are encouraged to integrate the various studies and other aspects of mitigation into Land Use Plans, and other pertinent Plans.

Participation of local agencies was critical in the development of the Plan. Over 20 stakeholders (listed below) participated by identifying potential vulnerable facilities along with agency-specific goals to address their vulnerabilities through mitigation actions and initiatives. The NCC All Hazard Mitigation Council is comprised of multiple agencies due to some local services being provided by State Government and other entities. This list is far more inclusive than just the County Government and incorporated municipals that are required to adopt a Mitigation Plan through their governing body per the Stafford Disaster Act amended in 2000. An asterisk below marks those required to adopt a Plan.

Village of Arden*	NC County Land Use – GIS, Floodplain
Village of Ardencroft*	NC County Public Works
Village of Ardentown*	NC County Land Use
Town of Bellefonte*	NC County Office of Emergency Management
Delaware City*	NC County Council
Town of Elsmere*	NC County Community Services
Town of Middletown*	NCC Planning Board Members
City of Newark*	Citizens of NCC
City of New Castle*	Delaware Emergency Management Agency
Town of Newport*	Delaware Department of Transportation
Town of Odessa*	DNREC
Town of Townsend*	New Castle Conservation District
City of Wilmington*	University of Delaware Emergency Management
New Castle County Government*	University of Delaware

Coordination of Local Planning

There was close coordination at the State, local government, and University levels. This approach facilitated the integration of the planning processes. County-level goals and actions were linked to the goals established in the state Plan. This allowed more effective coordination of municipal, county and state goals. County goals will provide valuable feedback to state officials as they developed broader state-level mitigation goals during their next update. County-level risk assessments were conducted in a manner that provided updates to the existing vulnerabilities and presented an opportunity for the State to provide input during the planning process. The GIS Team worked with UD GIS, who performed the vulnerability assessment for the State Plan update in 2018, to work through HAZUS and completing the vulnerability assessment for this Plan Update.

Prioritizing Recipients for Hazard Mitigation Grants

The process used to review, evaluate and select projects for hazard mitigation grants is built on years of public participation. The State's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program uses a competitive system where both Federal and State criteria are used to evaluate and recommend projects for funding. Projects recommended for funding are those that best document their ability to reduce future impacts of natural disasters as well as demonstrate cost-effectiveness through a benefit-cost analysis. Only projects with a minimum benefit-cost ratio of 1-to-1 receive further consideration by a review committee. Typically, hazard mitigation funds following a disaster are available on a competitive basis to all eligible agencies and organizations statewide.

Maintaining the Plan

The New Castle County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan is a living document and will be reviewed, updated and adopted by county officials and submitted to FEMA for approval every five years. The Plan will be revised more frequently if conditions under which the Plan was developed materially change as a result of new or revised policy, a major disaster, or availability of funding.

Participants in the maintenance of this Plan include the NCC Hazard Mitigation Council and representatives of local jurisdictions whose hazard mitigation plans influenced the Plan's development.

Review of the Plan can take place in three ways:

- Annually, for progress made on mitigation actions and projects identified in the Mitigation Strategy and for integration of Land Use Plans, studies, assessments.
- After each presidentially declared disaster, to look for areas where the Plan should be refocused due to the impact of the disaster.
- Every five years before the county plan is resubmitted for approval to FEMA.

The process used to monitor mitigation measures is similar to the one used to monitor, evaluate and update the content of the plan. Actions and projects identified in the mitigation strategies will be reviewed annually at the Hazard Mitigation Workshop held in conjunction with DEMA, DNREC, New Castle County, Wilmington, County municipalities and stakeholders in mitigation projects. Local agencies will submit brief progress reports annually. NCC OEM will track the overall progress of actions and projects identified in the plan. An annual report is sent to County Council as part of the requirements of the CRS program.

Risk Assessment

The NCC Hazard Identification, Analysis, and Vulnerability Assessment, completed in January-March 2020 identified nine natural and three human-caused hazards that have the greatest potential to adversely affect the people, environment, economy and property of New Castle County, Delaware and incorporated areas. Hazards that were considered include: Flood, Hurricanes and Coastal Storms, Severe Thunderstorms and Tornadoes, Drought/Extreme Heat, Hail, Winter Storms and Freezes, Hail, Earthquake, Dam/Levee Failure, Terrorism, Hazardous Materials, and Energy Pipeline Failures.

Overall Risk Ranking for New Castle County

Probability of Future Events -The final step of any hazard analysis is calculating the likelihood of future events. Given the number of events that have occurred in the past and the time period over which those events have occurred, one can calculate the number of events that occur per year. This gives a sense of the probability of future occurrences and their relative impact on NCC and Municipalities. The Rank below indicates a determination of which hazard has the most risk to New Castle County and are presented in Table 4.3-4.

Hazard	Rank
Flood	1
Haz Mat	2
Coastal Wind	3
Winter Storm	4
Tornado	5
Dam/Levee Failure	6
Public Health Incident	7
Earthquake	8
Drought	9
Hail	10

New Castle County Mitigation Goals and Objectives

The Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee supported the review of the goals, objectives, mitigation actions, and initiatives (mitigation strategy).

Mission -

Develop and maintain a comprehensive hazard mitigation program guided by the effective use of technology and data, improved communications and warning, the purchase of necessary equipment, sound planning, the adoption of codes, leading to the creation of policies and projects designed to reduce the vulnerability of people and property within New Castle County to the negative effects of all hazards – natural, technological and man-made.

The mitigation actions address or solve statewide mitigation issues or problems. The steering Committee revisited the following mission statement for the New Castle County All Hazard Mitigation Plan and the following goals for hazard mitigation. The following goals and mitigation actions represent a comprehensive approach taken by the County and its municipalities. The goals have remained unchanged for the most part

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since the 2015 Plan. However, the goals have been reworded to focus on all hazards and to incorporate changes in approach.

Goal #1 New Castle County and its municipalities will continue to maximize the use of technology (GIS, remote sensing, etc.) to develop sound mitigation policies and projects based upon risk and an enhanced risk assessment.

Goal #2 New Castle County and its municipalities will continue to emphasize the use of sound planning practices to reduce the impacts of natural, technological, and man-made hazards.

Goal #3 New Castle County and its municipalities will continue to acquire or upgrade existing equipment to improve disaster readiness and implement hazard mitigation measures.

Goal #4 New Castle County and its municipalities will continue to improve communication and warning systems to better protect lives and property from the potential impacts of all hazards.

Goal #5 New Castle County and its municipalities will continue to enhance and implement local codes and ordinances at higher standards to reduce the impacts of all hazards while considering a holistic approach as well as at the project level.

Goal #6 New Castle County and its municipalities, and the State (DELDOT) will continue to adopt transportation-related measures to improve evacuation flow and operations, sheltering and security concerns.

Goal #7 New Castle County and its municipalities will continue to enhance education and outreach strategies to improve the dissemination of information to the public regarding hazards, including the steps that can be taken to reduce hazard impacts.

Goal #8 New Castle County and its municipalities will continue to adopt mitigation measures that better protect critical facilities and technology infrastructure from the impacts of all hazards.

Goal #9 New Castle County and its municipalities will continue to identify and implement sound hazard mitigation projects.

Goal #10 New Castle County and its municipalities will ensure that sound stormwater and drainage management principles are implemented throughout the County.

Goal #11 New Castle County and its municipalities will continue to identify potential funding sources and partnerships for projects.

- The Goals and Objectives for the University of Delaware will be incorporated into an Appendix upon their completion of their full internal Mitigation Planning Process at the conclusion of the COVID-19 event.

Mitigation actions from the 2010 and 2015 Plan were reviewed in detail to determine the status of each action (completed, cancelled, in progress, not started, ongoing, etc.) Specific mitigation actions are contained in Section 6.2 of the Plan. Mitigation Actions have now been numbered for the year they were developed in order to track the initiative and updates more efficiently. A majority of the 2015 actions were carried over with a few new ones. There were a few cancellations, several completions, and some combining of repetitive actions from the 2015 Plan.