

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 update to the Dauphin County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) was prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). DMA 2000 requires states and local governments to prepare HMPs to remain eligible to receive pre-disaster mitigation grant funds and funds made available in the wake of federally declared disasters. Additionally, DMA 2000 effectively improves the disaster planning process by increasing hazard mitigation planning requirements for hazard events. DMA 2000 requires participating municipalities to (1) document their hazard mitigation planning process and (2) identify hazards; potential losses; and mitigation needs, goals, and strategies.

The Dauphin County HMP represents the work of citizens, elected and appointed government officials, business leaders, and volunteer and nonprofit groups to protect community assets, preserve economic viability of the community, and save lives. DMA 2000 regulations require formal updates and adoptions of local plans every 5 years, reassessing risks, and updating local strategies to manage and mitigate those risks. To comply, Dauphin County and inclusive jurisdictions actively participated in updating the county HMP. Extensive outreach efforts by Dauphin County’s Department of Public Safety resulted in participation by 35 of the county’s 40 municipalities. Upon completion and approval of the HMP, participating jurisdictions will continue to address and implement findings and recommendations of this plan update. This 2021 version is an update of the county HMP, with the previous HMP developed in 2015.

Table ES-1 identifies municipal governments that actively participated in the HMP update process.

Table ES-1. Participating Jurisdictions in the 2021 Dauphin County HMP Update

Participating Jurisdictions				
• Dauphin County	• Halifax Borough	• Londonderry Township	• Paxtang Borough	• Susquehanna Township
• Berrysburg Borough	• Halifax Township	• Lower Paxton Township	• Penbrook Borough	• Swatara Township
• Conewago Township	• City of Harrisburg	• Lower Swatara Township	• Pillow Borough	• Upper Paxton Township
• Dauphin Borough	• Highspire Borough	• Lykens Borough	• Reed Township	• Washington Township
• Derry Township	• Hummelstown Borough	• Middle Paxton Township	• Royalton Borough	• Wayne Township
• East Hanover Township	• Jackson Township	• Middletown Borough	• South Hanover Township	• West Hanover Township
• Elizabethville Borough	• Jefferson Township	• Millersburg Borough	• Steelton Borough	• Wiconisco Township
• Gratz Borough				
Non-Participating Jurisdictions				
• Lykens Township	• Mifflin Township	• Rush Township	• Williams Township	• Williamstown Borough

During the plan update process, Dauphin County and its participating municipalities engaged in the following planning process steps:

1. Identified and prioritized hazards that may affect the county and its municipalities.
2. Assessed the county’s and each municipalities’ vulnerabilities to these hazards.
3. Identified mitigation actions that can reduce those vulnerabilities.

4. Developed a strategy for implementing those actions, including identifying the agency (or agencies) responsible for each implementation.

Throughout the planning process, the general public was offered an opportunity to comment on the existing HMP and provide suggestions for the updated version. The county hosted a Planning Team meeting that was open to the public, during which residents could provide input on the HMP.

The following hazards were identified by the Planning Team as presenting the highest risk to the county and its municipalities:

- Opioid Addiction Response
- Floods, Flash Floods, and Ice Jams
- Environmental Hazards: Hazardous Materials Releases
- Pandemic and Infectious Disease
- Utility Interruption
- Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Nor'easter
- Subsidence, Sinkholes
- Cyber Attack
- Invasive Species
- Winter Storm
- Tornado, Windstorm
- Drought
- Transportation Accidents
- Wildfire

This HMP also includes hazard profiles for the following hazards (listed in order of risk factor analysis ranking):

- Radon Exposure
- Dam Failure
- Building or Structure Collapse
- Landslide

To mitigate the effects of those hazards, the Planning Team identified the following goals for hazard mitigation over the next 5 years:

1. **Goal 1:** Prevent injury/death, physical damage, and other impacts from hazards in Dauphin County.
2. **Goal 2:** Protect the citizens of Dauphin County as well as public and private property from the impacts of natural and human-caused hazards.
3. **Goal 3:** Protect and restore existing natural resources.
4. **Goal 4:** Educate officials and the public on the potential impacts of natural and non-natural hazards, and actions to reduce those impacts.



5. **Goal 5:** Plan for improved infrastructure to protect citizens and public and private property from natural and human-made hazards.

Objectives and actions to be implemented are discussed in the Mitigation Action Plan in Section 6.2 of this HMP.

Additionally, Planning Team members will meet annually to evaluate the status of plan implementation and prepare a summary report of HMP status and any needed updates. The mitigation evaluation will address changes as new hazard events occur, as the area develops, and as more information becomes available pertaining to hazards and their impacts. The evaluation will include an assessment of whether the planning process and actions have been effective, whether development or other issues warrant changes to the HMP or its priorities, if progress toward the communities' goals is satisfactory, and whether changes are warranted. The public is encouraged to give feedback (1) by directly contacting the County Hazard Mitigation Plan Coordinator, (2) during recurring review meetings, and (3) during the 5-year revision process.

To request information or provide comments regarding this plan, please contact the Dauphin County Department of Public Safety Office of Emergency Management. Contact information is provided below.

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