

## 4.2 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

### 4.2.1 Disaster Declarations

In reviewing and updating Dauphin County’s hazards of concern, the Steering Committee and Planning Team reviewed additional information and historical records from a wide range of sources. The following section discusses the Presidential Disaster and Emergency Declarations, Gubernatorial Disaster Declarations or Proclamations, and Small Business Administration Disaster Declarations that have affected Dauphin County.

Presidential Disaster and Emergency Declarations are issued when it has been determined that state and local governments need assistance in responding to a disaster event. Since 1955, declarations have been issued for various hazard events, including hurricanes or tropical storms, severe winter storms, and flooding. A unique Presidential Emergency Declaration, Emergency Declaration 3235, was issued in September 2005. Through this declaration, President George W. Bush declared a state of emergency existed for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and ordered federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts to help people evacuate from their homes due to Hurricane Katrina. A summary of declarations affecting the county is provided in the tables below.

Table 4.2-1 lists Presidential Disaster and Emergency Declarations issued between 1972 through 2020 that have affected Dauphin County. Additional declarations can be found on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website at: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters>.

**Table 4.2-1. Presidential Disaster and Emergency Declarations affecting Dauphin County**

Declaration Number	Date	Event
DR-4506	March 2020	Covid-19 Pandemic
EM-3441	March 2020	Covid-19
DR-4267	March 2016	Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm
DR-4099	January 2013	Hurricane Sandy
EM-3356	October 2012	Hurricane Sandy
DR-4030	September 2011	Tropical Storm Lee
EM-3340	September 2011	Remnants of Tropical Storm Lee
DR-1898	April 2010	Severe Winter Storms and Snowstorms
DR-1649	June 2006	Severe Storms, Flooding, and Mudslides
EM-3235	September 2005	Hurricane Katrina Evacuation
DR-1557	September 2004	Tropical Depression Ivan
EM-3180	March 2003	Snowstorm
DR-1298	September 1999	Tropical Depression Dennis and Flash Flooding
DR-1093	January 1996	Flooding
DR-1085	January 1996	Blizzard
DR-1015	March 1994	Winter Storm, Severe Storm
EM-3105	March 1993	Blizzard
DR-523	October 1976	Severe Storms, Flooding
DR-485	September 1975	Severe Storms, Heavy Rains, Flooding
DR-340	June 1972	Flood (Agnes)

Source: FEMA 2020

In addition to these Presidential Disaster and Emergency Declarations, 49 events warranted Gubernatorial Disaster Declarations or Proclamations. Table 4.2-2 lists Gubernatorial Disaster Declarations or Proclamations that have been issued for Dauphin County between 1958 and 2020, according to PEMA (PEMA 2020).

**Table 4.2-2. Gubernatorial Disaster Declarations or Proclamations affecting Dauphin County**

Date	Event
December 2020	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Winter Weather
November 2020	Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Coronavirus (COVID-19)
November 2020	Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Opioid Crisis
August 2020	Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Coronavirus (COVID-19)
August 2020	Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Opioid Crisis
June 2020	Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Coronavirus (COVID-19)
May 2020	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency
May 2020	Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Opioid Crisis
March 2020	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Coronavirus (COVID-19)
February 2020	Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Opioid Crisis
December 2019	Amendment to Opioid Crisis Emergency Proclamation
September 2019	Amendment to Opioid Crisis Emergency Proclamation
June 2019	Amendment to Opioid Crisis Emergency Proclamation
March 2019	Amendment to Opioid Crisis Emergency Proclamation
January 2019	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for Severe Winter Event
December 2018	Amendment to Opioid Crisis Emergency Proclamation
September 2018	Amendment to the Opioid Crisis Emergency Proclamation
August 2018	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for Severe Weather Event
June 2018	Amendment to Opioid Crisis Emergency Proclamation
April 2018	Amendment to Opioid Crisis Emergency Proclamation
January 2018	Opioid Crisis Emergency Proclamation
March 2017	Proclamation of Emergency – Severe Winter Storm
March 2017	Proclamation of Emergency – Severe Winter Storm
January 2016	Proclamation of Emergency – Severe Winter Storm
August 2015	Proclamation of Emergency – Severe Storms
January 2015	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Severe Winter Storms
February 2014	Proclamation of Disaster – Severe Winter Storms
January 2014	Proclamation of Disaster Emergency – Extreme Weather, Utility Interruption
June 2013	Proclamation of Emergency – High Winds, Thunderstorms, Heavy Rain, Tornado, Flooding
May 2013	Proclamation of Emergency – Dauphin Bridge Fire
October 2012	Proclamation of Emergency – Hurricane Sandy
April 2012	Proclamation of Emergency – Spring Winter Storms

Date	Event
August 2011	Proclamation of Emergency - Severe Storms and Flooding (Lee/Irene)
January 2011	Proclamation of Emergency - Severe Winter Storm
February 2010	Proclamation of Emergency - Severe Winter Storm
April 2007	Severe Storm
February 2007	Proclamation of Emergency - Severe Winter Storm
February 2007	Proclamation of Emergency - Regulations
April 2007	Proclamation of Emergency – Severe Winter Storm
September 2006	Proclamation of Emergency - Tropical Depression Ernesto
September 2005	Proclamation of Emergency - Hurricane Katrina
February 2002	Drought and Water Shortage
July 1999	Drought
February 1978	Blizzard
January 1978	Heavy Snow
February 1974	Truckers’ Strike
February 1972	Heavy Snow
January 1966	Heavy Snow
February 1958	Heavy Snow

Source: Dauphin County HMP 2015, PEMA 2020

Dauphin County has also received Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance for a number of disaster events. A Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration qualifies communities for access to affordable, timely, and accessible financial assistance. Table 4.2-3 lists Small Business Administration Disaster Declarations issued for Dauphin County between 1989 and 2020 (SBA 2020).

**Table 4.2-3. Small Business Administration Disaster Declarations affecting Dauphin County**

Date	Event
December 2018	Flooding
October 2018	Flooding
August 2018	Flooding
July 2018	Flooding
July 2016	Flash Flooding
July 2009	Fire
May 2004	Heavy Rain, High Winds and Flooding
February 1999	West Shore Farmer’s Market Fire
July 1991	Drought
January 1990	Fire

Source: Dauphin County HMP 2015, SBA 2020

### 4.2.2 Summary of Hazards

As part of the plan update process, the Steering Committee and Planning Team reviewed the hazards of concern detailed in the 2015 version of the plan as well as those identified in the State HMP. They also considered the history of hazard events occurring in Dauphin County as well as events occurring after the

completion of the 2015 version of the plan. This review of historical events included an evaluation of all emergency and disaster declarations in the Commonwealth, with a focus on those in which Dauphin County was designated for federal assistance.

Further, all jurisdictions participating in the plan update process were provided a *Hazard Identification/Evaluation of Risk* worksheet to help identify the hazards—natural and non-natural—that each community believed posed significant risk to Dauphin County, including any that may not have been considered in either the 2015 version of the plan or the State HMP. Completed worksheets submitted by the municipalities are included in Appendix D. Following review of the 2015 hazards list and completion of the *Hazard Identification/Evaluation of Risk* worksheet, additional hazards were considered in need of a risk assessment. The Steering Committee and Planning Team decided to keep all 2015 hazards of concern and add the following hazards:

1. Invasive Species
2. Cyber Terrorism
3. Opioid Addiction Response.

Based on all available information and input from the municipalities, the Steering Committee and Planning Team selected the following natural and non-natural hazards for consideration in this plan:

**Natural Hazards**

- Drought
- Flood, Flash Flood, Ice Jam
- Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Nor’easter
- Invasive Species
- Landslide
- Pandemic and Infectious Disease
- Radon Exposure
- Subsidence and Sinkholes
- Tornado and Windstorm
- Wildfire
- Winter Storm

**Non-Natural Hazards**

- Building or Structure Collapse
- Cyber Terrorism
- Dam Failure
- Environmental Hazards: Hazardous Materials Releases
- Opioid Addiction Response
- Transportation Accidents
- Utility Interruption

These hazards have been profiled individually in Section 4.3 of this plan.