



LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE JOINT COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Goals and Objectives

A. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Goal:

- Ensure hazard mitigation goals are consistent with goals and objectives of other plans and ordinances in the county and municipalities.

Objectives

- Promote responsible growth and development through the incorporation of hazard mitigation principles in municipal plans and zoning, subdivision, and floodplain ordinance as appropriate.
- Continue to ensure that the current building codes and standards follow FEMA guidelines and are properly enforced.
- Continue to regulate development in conservation zoned areas and within the floodplain to prevent flood damage.
- Regulate construction/development in accordance with stormwater management ordinances to prevent increases in runoff and subsequent increases in flood flows.
- Incorporate hazard mitigation planning principles into other planning activities such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate.
- Encourage municipalities to join the Community Rating System (CRS).



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B. PROPERTY PROTECTION

Goals:

- Minimize damage caused by flooding, high winds, snow and ice, wildfires, under ground mine subsidence, landslides, and drought.
- Ensure adequate protection of critical facilities and infrastructure throughout the county.

Objectives

- Ensure that high-risk, pre-FIRM residential structures are not repeatedly flooded by using retrofitting techniques to reduce the flood risk to properties.
- Investigate ways to protect against sewer back-up damage.
- Determine the most appropriate mitigation alternatives to reduce wind damage, particularly to mobile homes.
- Protect utilities against potential damage from exposure to hazards such as snow and ice including underground pipelines.
- Reduce risk to buildings, and infrastructure located in wildfire high risk areas.
- Develop measures to protect wellheads near abandoned mine lands.
- Prevent stormwater runoff from entering the mine pools.
- Promote groundwater recharge and reduce development intensity on permeable soils to reduce the impacts of drought.
- Identify areas prone to landslides, and develop actions to monitor ground movement.
- Develop measures to minimize damage to critical facilities in high hazard areas (100-year floodplain, heavily forested areas, and areas of geologic subsidence).



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C. EMERGENCY SERVICES

Goal:

- Provide for adequate shelters in the bi-county area to serve as refuge areas during hazard events.

Objectives

- Provide residents with adequate warning of potential hazards and hazard events.
- Ensure that flooding does not interrupt emergency response services and critical facilities functions.
- Provide safe and efficient evacuation routes during floods and other hazard events, including nuclear power plant emergencies.
- Provide for adequate shelters in the two-county area during flood and other hazard events.



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D. STRUCTURAL PROJECTS

Goal:

- Encourage high construction standards on structural projects.

Objectives

- Ensure that existing drainage systems (pipes, culverts, bridges, and channels) are adequate and functioning properly.
- Investigate structural solutions to flooding, as necessary.
- Investigate the need for structural remediation of abandoned underground mines



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E. NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE

Goal:

- Promote sustainable development to maintain environmental quality.

Objectives

- Protect existing natural resources and open space, including wetlands, flood plains, watershed areas, steep slopes, critical habitat, etc.
- Ensure all properties acquired are cleared of structures and remain in public ownership in perpetuity.



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F. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Goal:

- Promote public understanding of hazards, and participation in hazard mitigation related activities.

Objectives

- Identify cost-effective techniques to reach the public including: television, radio, and newspaper to promote public awareness on the potential impacts of natural hazards and actions to reduce those impacts.
- Encourage citizens with structures at risk to flooding to buy flood insurance.
- Ensure that property owners and potential property owners are aware of the availability and benefits of Federal flood insurance. Increase accessibility of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).
- Educate residents on water conservation to reduce impacts of drought.