



# **Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency & FEMA Region III**

## **Pennsylvania Internship Program**

# Agenda

- Introductions
- Purpose
- Hazard Mitigation Planning Overview
- Role of Students and Required Skills
- Hazard Mitigation Planning Tasks
- Internship Program Expectations
- Questions

# Purpose

- Discuss the potential of academic institutions and students to help counties and/or communities with their hazard mitigation and/or disaster recovery plans and efforts through an internship program



# Program Benefits

- For Universities
  - Develop relationships with counties/communities
  - Enhance career development opportunities for students
- For Students
  - Networking
  - Career development
  - Learning opportunity
- For Counties/Communities
  - Develop relationships with universities
  - Receive assistance with HM planning



# What is Hazard Mitigation?

- The effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters
- By considering historic, cultural, and natural resources, hazard mitigation can also help to preserve community character and “place”
- Mitigation examples:
  - Elevating a home in a flood-prone area
  - Managing stormwater runoff to reduce flash flooding
  - Drafting an ordinance to prohibit development in hazard-prone areas



# Resiliency, Hazard Mitigation, and Recovery

**Resiliency:** The ability of the Commonwealth, it's communities, organizations, and citizens to prepare for and rebound from shocks and stresses, recover quickly, and be able to sustain and enhance our strength

- **Hazard Mitigation:** Activities to reduce risk and impacts of disasters
- **Recovery:** Activities to restore services and systems impacted by disasters
- **Partners:**
  - Federal – FEMA
  - State – PEMA, PHMC, DCED
  - Local – Municipalities, Counties, Private, Non-governmental, Public

# Hazard Mitigation Planning Overview

- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
  - Establishes eligibility for certain FEMA programs
  - Requires tribal, state, and local governments to submit plans to FEMA for review
- Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 201.6
  - Establishes FEMA's requirements for approval of a local mitigation plan
- Plans include:
  - Risk assessment
  - A prioritized action plan to address all identified hazards
  - A strategy to implement those actions
- Goals and objectives of local HMPs should be consistent with the goals of the PA State Standard All-Hazard Mitigation Plan

# Hazard Mitigation Plan Contents

1. Introduction
2. **Community Profile**
  - Describe Geography and Environment
  - Describe Community
  - Summarize Demographics
  - Growth Trends and Land Use
3. Planning Process
4. **Risk Assessment**
  - Identify Geographic Location
  - Define the Extent
  - Identify Past Hazard Occurrences
  - Establish Probability of Future Occurrence
- Assess Vulnerability
- Estimate Losses
5. **Capability Assessment**
  - Existing Planning Mechanisms
  - Other Existing Planning Capabilities
6. Mitigation Strategy
  - Actions: What, where, who, why, and how.
  - Priorities
7. Plan Maintenance
8. Adoption



# Benefits of Hazard Mitigation Planning

- Prevents injury and loss of life
- Prevents damage to assets (existing and future), including natural and historic and/or cultural resources
- Reduces costs of disaster response and/or recovery
- Advances other community initiatives
- Provides long-term savings
- Required by FEMA to be eligible for hazard mitigation grants, including:
  - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
  - Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
  - Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)



# Plan Integration

- A two-way exchange of information between hazard mitigation plan and other community plans
  - Incorporation of risk reduction concepts in community plans
  - Consistent information and goals between all plans
- Planning Benefits:
  - Promotes consistency between plans
  - Increases visibility of risk reduction principles
  - Promotes the prioritization of mitigation as a policy across elements
  - Promotes the prioritization of mitigation as a policy across elements
  - Guides safe future development
  - Increases likelihood of risk reduction project implementation
  - Leverages available resources
  - Improves coordination
  - Reduces conflicting outcomes and facilitates holistic solutions

# Plan Integration

- Building Codes
- Capital Improvement Programs and Budgets
- Comprehensive Plans
- Continuity of Operations Plans
- Emergency Operations Plans
- Floodplain Ordinances
- Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Historic Preservation Plans
- Parks, Open Space, Greenways, and/or Recreation Plans
- Post-Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plans
- Stormwater Management Plans
- Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances
- Transportation Plans
- Zoning Ordinances

# Challenges

- Each county must update its Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years
- Most counties do not have the capability or capacity to update the plan in-house
- Most counties do not have the funding to pay a consultant
- PEMA does not have the funding to hire consultants to update the required 10 to 20 plans each year
- Post-disaster recovery planning usually happens in time where counties have less capacity

# Potential Academic Contributions

- Research and Data Collection
- Writing
- Data Analysis
- Preparation of Tables and Charts
- GIS Analysis and Mapping



# Community Profile

- Describe Geography and the Environment (natural and historic)
- Describe Community
- Summarize Demographics
- Discuss Trends in Growth and Land Use



# Risk Assessment



- Identify the Geographic Location
- Define the Extent
- Identify Past Hazard Occurrences
- Establish Probability of Future Occurrences
- Assess Vulnerability
- Estimates Losses

# Capability Assessment

- Existing Planning Mechanisms

- Comprehensive Plans
- Zoning Ordinances
- Floodplain Ordinances
- Flood Insurance Studies
- Building Codes

- Other Existing Capabilities

- Administrative
- Technical
- Financial
- Education and Outreach

**FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY**

VOLUME 1 of 3

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**  
(ALL JURISDICTIONS)

COMMUNITY NAME	COMMUNITY NUMBER	COMMUNITY NAME	COMMUNITY NUMBER
BERKSBURG BOROUGH OF*	42098	MIDDLETON BOROUGH OF	42088
CONRADT TOWNSHIP OF	42488	SWARTA TOWNSHIP OF	42595
DAUPHIN BOROUGH OF	42070	MILLERSBURG BOROUGH OF	42089
DEWY TOWNSHIP OF	42076	PAYTAN BOROUGH OF	42090
EAST HANOVER TOWNSHIP OF	42077	HARRISBURG BOROUGH OF*	42091
ELZAPHEUSVILLE BOROUGH OF	42078	PELOW BOROUGH OF	42092
GRANT BOROUGH OF	42109	REDFORD TOWNSHIP OF	42093
HALLAM BOROUGH OF	42079	ROYALTON BOROUGH OF	42094
HALLAM TOWNSHIP OF	42100	RUSH TOWNSHIP OF	42101
HARRISBURG CITY OF	42080	SOUTH HANOVER TOWNSHIP OF	42095
HENDERSON BOROUGH OF	42081	STEELE BOROUGH OF	42097
HUMMELSTOWN BOROUGH OF	42082	SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP OF	42099
JACKSON TOWNSHIP OF	42105	SWARTA TOWNSHIP OF	42098
JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP OF	42104	UPPER PAYTON TOWNSHIP OF	42096
LODOLCENY TOWNSHIP OF	42083	WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP OF	42102
LOWER PAYTON TOWNSHIP OF	42084	WAYNE TOWNSHIP OF	42103
LOWER SWARTA TOWNSHIP OF	42085	WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP OF	42100
LYONS BOROUGH OF	42086	WINDSOR TOWNSHIP OF	42104
LYONS TOWNSHIP OF	42102	WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP OF	42101
MIDDLE PAYTON BOROUGH OF	42087	WILLIAMSTOWN BOROUGH OF	42093

\* NO SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS IDENTIFIED

Effective: August 2, 2012

Federal Emergency Management Agency

FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY NUMBER  
42043CV001A



# Mid-Cycle HM Planning Activities

- Pre- and post-disaster recovery efforts
- GIS data clean-up (structures, critical facilities, utilities, roads)
- Community Rating System (CRS) requirements
- Implementing Mitigation Actions
  - Develop educational materials
  - Assist with grant applications
  - Complete activities to participate in StormReady or CRS
  - Revise other planning documents to incorporate HM planning principles

# Program Assumptions

- Identifying hazards to profile is **not** the responsibility of the students
- Students who are completing GIS analysis and mapping will have a background in GIS but may receive additional training

# Professor/University Responsibilities

- Work with student to submit internship applications
- Assist with matching students to counties and communities
- Act as faculty advisor to student
- Review and offer feedback on evaluations
- Ensure that necessary documentation is submitted to receive academic credit

# Student Responsibilities

- Demonstrate professionalism
- Communicate with and report to supervisor
- Complete time logs and other necessary documentation for academic credit

# County/Community Responsibilities

- Supervisor
  - Establish expectations and responsibilities
  - Communicate expectations, policies, and procedures
  - Provide positive and supportive learning environment
- Guidance
  - Review tasks and assignments
  - Provide necessary documents, resources, tools, etc.
- Coordination with University
  - Appoint a liaison
  - Complete documentation for academic credit



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