

1.3 PLANNING PROCESS COORDINATION AMONG AGENCIES & ENTITIES

44 CFR 201.4 (b) recommends the solicitation of other state and appropriate federal agencies, and other entities participate in the development of the SHMP.

Agency coordination was significantly different in the 2008 update. First, there was not a need to solicit feedback from every agency, as the universe of agencies that desired to be involved was reduced significantly in 2005. Many of these agencies coordinate regularly with the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch day-to-day, and others are part of the SHMT. Agency coordination in the 2008 update primarily dealt with updating the HIRA. It is anticipated that the web and a portal will further change the coordination for the 2011 update.

INITIAL STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (2005)

The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch developed and distributed a participation letter to all state agencies. The letter explained the federal requirements for development of the SHMP and the importance of the plan for all State agencies. The agencies were encouraged to participate and the letter requested they identify a liaison to represent their agency in the development of the SHMP. In January of 2004, the participation letter was sent directly from the Director of the Department of Public Safety to all other cabinet level Directors.

In May of 2004 the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch hosted a SHMP kick-off meeting and invited the forty-seven state agencies that received and responded to the participation letter. The State requested the agencies support the planning process as a member of the OMPAT, which guided the mitigations plan's development and future implementation. Membership in the OMPAT requires: review and comments of the draft plan, adoption of the final plan, attendance at an annual meeting to review and direct plan update and revision, and assistance in soliciting additional state agencies for OMPAT membership. The activities required of the OMPAT are minimal compared to those of SHMT.

The FEMA Region V RD and Region V Chief of the Mitigation and Flood Insurance DM received participation letters and an invitation to the mitigation plan kick-off meeting, but were unable to attend. However, R-V and R-IV staffs were active participants in the mitigation planning process.

There were other Federal agencies that actively participated in the development of the plan. These agencies included:

- NWS - assisted in the development of goals, actions, and provided data regarding natural weather events,
- USACE - assisted in project development
- USFW - provided environmental data and outlined steps for historical reviews
- HUD - provided information and data relevant to housing and development

- Census Bureau - provided data for the development of the socio-economic assessment and the vulnerability assessment.

The plan development also incorporated non-governmental groups. Ohio's Regional Planning Commissions and the Ohio VOAD contributed information for several sections of the plan. VOAD represents all the non-profit groups with interests in assisting disaster victims and is responsible for coordination of all volunteer activities associated with disaster events in Ohio. The Regional Planning and Development Organizations, established as not-for-profit corporations, receive financial support from a combination of federal and state grants and local service contracts. The Regional Commissions help counties plan and secure funding for development with projects such as construction, repair or upgrade of roads, bridges and water and sewer lines, industrial park development as well as projects related to community services, education and workforce development.

Ohio EMA Mitigation staff solicited assistance from The Ohio State University Department of Geology who works in cooperation with the ODNR Division of Geological Survey to study Ohio's earthquake risk. The OSU departments involved in geocoding, long-term weather forecasting, hydrological analysis and urban development were also consulted during plan development. Potential updates for the plan could include information from The University of Akron's Emergency Management Program, which provides a network to other academic institutions including: the Ohio University Geology Department, OSU Agricultural Extension Office and University of Cincinnati Law Enforcement Program.

Pennsylvania and West Virginia State EMA's, which are contiguous to Ohio and have similar risks and vulnerabilities and were able to provide insight, which assisted Ohio in its state mitigation planning efforts.

2008 UPDATE

As was indicated in Section 1.2, several agencies who either had the statutory programmatic responsibility for various hazards or those that had data/expertise in those hazards were coordinated with closely (*see table 1.2.d*). Also, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and Ohio Department of Insurance were consulted. Additionally, the agencies / entities that are members of the SHMT were consulted, often leading to extensive coordination (*see Section 1.2*) on the plan update.