



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

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FEMA Approves State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan

Columbus, OH – The State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan has received its official approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Mitigation Plan contains information on natural hazards that could impact the state and the state's blueprint for reducing risk posed by those hazards. The highest priority hazards in Ohio include: riverine flooding, tornadoes, winter storms, landslides, dam/ levee failure, wildfire, seiche/coastal flooding, earthquakes, coastal erosion, drought, severe summer storms, invasive species, and land subsidence.

The plan identifies actions that the State of Ohio can undertake to help protect people and property from natural hazards and their effects. One of the priority actions identified in the plan is the acquisition and demolition of repetitively flooded structures and the permanent deed restriction of the land as open space. It is estimated that the acquisition and demolition of repetitively flooded properties in Ohio have resulted in millions of dollars in flood damages avoided.

According to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, all states must have a natural hazard mitigation plan approved by FEMA in order to maintain eligibility for federal disaster assistance and mitigation funds.

The State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan was first approved by FEMA in 2005, and has been updated at least every three years. The 2014 plan update meets the "enhanced" plan criteria, which enables the state to qualify for additional funds following future disaster declarations. Ohio is one of only seven states that currently meet enhanced plan criteria. The enhanced plan status designation is a testament to Ohio's comprehensive hazard mitigation program.

FEMA approved the State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan on May 13, 2014 the approval letter can be read at the Ohio EMA website.

For additional information on Ohio EMA's mitigation program and the SOHMP, click on:
<http://ohiosharpp.ema.state.oh.us/ohiosharpp/>.

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