

# STATE OF OHIO STANDARD HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The turn of the millennia witnessed a dramatic change in how our Nation prepares for and responds to disasters. The passage of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K) reoriented the focus of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs to promote projects and plans which reduce the exposure of Americans and their property to natural hazards. In 2002 Congress further defined how to implement DMA2K by publishing rules in the Federal Register containing criteria for state mitigation plan content. Ohio must have a FEMA-approved Standard All Hazards Mitigation Plan to remain eligible for Federal Mitigation and Public Assistance funds associated with a Presidential disaster declaration.

The development of the state plan began in 2002, and it involved the participation of numerous state and federal agencies, adjacent state EMA representatives, and various subject-matter experts. The plan was approved by FEMA in 2005, and updated and re-approved in 2008. The 2011 revision of the plan details Ohio's highest priority hazards: riverine flood, tornado, winter storm, landslide, dam/levee failure, wildfire, seiche/coastal flooding, earthquake, coastal erosion, drought, severe summer storm, invasive species and land subsidence hazards. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) proved an invaluable resource for contributing to the evaluation of riverine flooding, dam/levee failure, wildfire, seiche/coastal flooding, earthquake and invasive species hazards.

Once the hazards are identified, the vulnerability to those hazards must be analyzed. The 2011 plan update utilizes data from multiple sources to evaluate risk, including: HAZUS analyses, historical damage data, input from subject-matter experts, and information from local natural hazard mitigation plans. The state hazard mitigation plan describes the unique vulnerabilities associated with the highest priority hazards in Ohio.

The next step in the planning process is to develop a statewide blueprint of actions that will mitigate the risk to the identified hazards. The State Mitigation Strategy includes: state goals, objectives, and action items that will help reduce risk, an evaluation of state capability to accomplish this task, and identification of available funding sources. The State Mitigation Strategy is outlined in broad terms by the following goals described in this plan update:

- Reduce loss of life and injury from hazard events;
- Minimize damage to property and societal disruptions from hazard events;
- Integrate hazard mitigation policies and programs;
- Eliminate vulnerable repetitive loss flood-prone structures;

- Promote research, education, and outreach activities to create a culture of mitigation in Ohio; and
- Provide leadership in hazard mitigation in Ohio.

Each of these goals has associated objectives and actions aimed at getting the state closer to realizing community resiliency. For example, the State Hazard Analysis, Resource and Planning Portal (SHARPP) is a premiere web-based system that captures and disseminates state and local hazard mitigation information including: plans, proposed actions, existing and past projects and general mitigation information. The management of this portal addresses multiple mitigation actions aimed at accomplishing the aforementioned goals.

The statewide blueprint for hazard reduction is only part of the solution. To effectively reduce hazard exposure the state plan must reflect the goals, objectives and actions identified in local mitigation planning efforts. While the state has a goal of eliminating structures that are repetitively flooded, it is local planning that leads to the projects that will mitigate those properties. The state plan contains information from various local hazard mitigation plans, ranging from hazard identification and vulnerability analysis to specific, community mitigation objectives and actions. The 2014 state mitigation plan update will integrate the most up-to-date local mitigation information and data via SHARPP.

The Ohio mitigation plan addresses each required element of 44 CFR 201.4. This plan update also includes the information required in 44 CFR 201.5 to meet “enhanced” plan criteria. The State of Ohio will submit this document for enhanced plan review pending standard plan approval. Enhanced plan approval will result in increased federal funding for state and local mitigation projects.