

1 Introduction

Section 1 provides a general introduction to hazard mitigation and an introduction to the Wake County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. This section contains the following subsections:

- ▶ 1.1 Background
- ▶ 1.2 Purpose and Authority
- ▶ 1.3 Scope
- ▶ 1.4 References
- ▶ 1.5 Plan Organization

1.1 BACKGROUND

This document comprises a Hazard Mitigation Plan for Wake County, North Carolina and its incorporated municipalities.

Each year in the United States, natural and human-caused hazards take the lives of hundreds of people and injure thousands more. Nationwide, taxpayers pay billions of dollars annually to help communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals recover from disasters. These monies only partially reflect the true cost of disasters because additional expenses incurred by insurance companies and non-governmental organizations are not reimbursed by tax dollars. Many natural hazards are predictable, and much of the damage caused by hazard events can be reduced or even eliminated.

Hazards are a natural part of the environment that will inevitably continue to occur, but there is much we can do to minimize their impacts on our communities and prevent them from resulting in disasters. Every community faces different hazards, has different resources to draw upon in combating problems, and has different interests that influence the solutions to those problems. Because there are many ways to deal with hazards and many agencies that can help, there is no one solution for managing or mitigating their effects. Planning is one of the best ways to develop a customized program that will mitigate the impacts of hazards while accounting for the unique character of a community.

A well-prepared hazard mitigation plan will ensure that all possible activities are reviewed and implemented so that the problem is addressed by the most appropriate and efficient solutions. It can also ensure that activities are coordinated with each other and with other goals and activities, preventing conflicts and reducing the costs of implementing each individual activity. This plan provides a framework for all interested parties to work together toward mitigation. It establishes the vision and guiding principles for reducing hazard risk and proposes specific mitigation actions to eliminate or reduce identified vulnerabilities.

In an effort to reduce the nation's mounting natural disaster losses, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) to invoke new and revitalized approaches to mitigation planning. Section 322 of DMA 2000 emphasizes the need for state and local government entities to closely coordinate on mitigation planning activities and makes the development of a hazard mitigation plan a specific eligibility requirement for any local government applying for federal mitigation grant funds. These funds include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, all of which are administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Department of Homeland Security. Communities with an adopted and federally approved hazard mitigation plan thereby become pre-positioned and more apt to receive available mitigation funds before and after the next disaster strikes.

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This plan was prepared in coordination with FEMA Region IV and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) to ensure that it meets all applicable federal and state planning requirements. A Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool, found in Appendix A, provides a summary of FEMA’s current minimum standards of acceptability and notes the location within this plan where each planning requirement is met.

1.2 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

This plan was developed in a joint and cooperative manner by members of a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) which included representatives of County, City, and Town departments, federal and state agencies, citizens, and other stakeholders. This plan will ensure Wake County and its incorporated municipalities remain eligible for federal disaster assistance including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM), and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA).

This Plan has been prepared in compliance with Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act or the Act), 42 U.S.C. 5165, enacted under Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, (DMA 2000) Public Law 106-390 of October 30, 2000, as implemented at CFR 201.6 and 201.7 dated October 2007.

This plan will be adopted by each participating jurisdiction in accordance with standard local procedures. Copies of adoption resolutions are provided in Section 9 Plan Adoption.

1.3 SCOPE

This document comprises a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for Wake County. The planning areas includes all of Wake County’s incorporated municipalities and unincorporated areas. All participating jurisdictions are listed in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 – Participating Jurisdictions in the Wake County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Wake County	
Apex	Morrisville
Cary	Raleigh
Fuquay-Varina	Rolesville
Garner	Wake Forest
Holly Springs	Wendell
Knightdale	Zebulon

The focus of this plan is on those hazards deemed “high” or “moderate” priority hazards for the planning area, as determined through the risk and vulnerability assessments. Lower priority hazards will continue to be evaluated but will not necessarily be prioritized for mitigation in the action plan.

Wake County followed the planning process prescribed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and this plan was developed under the guidance of a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) comprised of representatives of County, City, and Town departments; citizens; and other stakeholders. The HMPC conducted a risk assessment that identified and profiled hazards that pose a risk to the planning area, assessed the planning area’s vulnerability to these hazards, and examined each participating jurisdiction’s capabilities in place to mitigate them. The hazards profiled in this plan include:

- ▶ Dam Failure
- ▶ Drought
- ▶ Earthquake
- ▶ Extreme Heat
- ▶ Flood

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- ▶ Hurricane and Tropical Storm
- ▶ Landslide
- ▶ Severe Weather (Thunderstorm Winds, Hail, and Lightning)
- ▶ Severe Winter Storm
- ▶ Tornado
- ▶ Wildfire
- ▶ Hazardous Materials Incident
- ▶ Radiological Incident
- ▶ Terrorism

1.4 REFERENCES

The following FEMA guides and reference documents were used to prepare this document:

- ▶ FEMA 386-1: Getting Started. September 2002.
- ▶ FEMA 386-2: Understanding Your Risks: Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses. August 2001.
- ▶ FEMA 386-3: Developing the Mitigation Plan. April 2003.
- ▶ FEMA 386-4: Bringing the Plan to Life. August 2003.
- ▶ FEMA 386-5: Using Benefit-Cost Review in Mitigation Planning. May 2007.
- ▶ FEMA 386-6: Integrating Historic Property and Cultural Resource Considerations into Hazard Mitigation Planning. May 2005.
- ▶ FEMA 386-7: Integrating Manmade Hazards into Mitigation Planning. September 2003.
- ▶ FEMA 386-8: Multijurisdictional Mitigation Planning. August 2006.
- ▶ FEMA 386-9: Using the Hazard Mitigation Plan to Prepare Successful Mitigation Projects. August 2008.
- ▶ FEMA. Local Mitigation Planning Handbook. March 2013.
- ▶ FEMA. Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide. October 1, 2011.
- ▶ FEMA National Fire Incident Reporting System 5.0: Complete Reference Guide. January, 2008.
- ▶ FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance. June 1, 2010.
- ▶ FEMA. Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning: Case Studies and Tools for Community Officials. March 1, 2013.
- ▶ FEMA. Mitigation Ideas. A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards. January 2013.

Additional sources used in the development of this plan, including data compiled for the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, are listed in Appendix D.

1.5 PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Wake County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is organized into the following sections:

- ▶ Section 2: Planning Process
- ▶ Section 3: Planning Area Profile
- ▶ Section 4: Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
- ▶ Section 5: Capability Assessment
- ▶ Section 6: Mitigation Strategy
- ▶ Section 7: Mitigation Action Plans
- ▶ Section 8: Plan Implementation and Maintenance
- ▶ Section 9: Plan Adoption
- ▶ Appendix A: Local Plan Review Tool
- ▶ Appendix B: Planning Process Documentation
- ▶ Appendix C: Mitigation Alternatives
- ▶ Appendix D: References