

Thomas Jefferson Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Scope of Work

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) will lead and coordinate the development of a Regional Hazard Mitigation plan, due to be completed, including adoption by at least one locality, by February 1, 2028. The plan will address mitigation of multiple natural hazards, including hurricanes, high winds and thunderstorms, flood, winter weather, wildfire, drought and extreme heat, tornadoes, earthquakes, landslides, dam failure and Karst features, fire, and geologic hazards.

1. PLANNING PROCESS

- a) TJPDC will work with our local jurisdictions (the City of Charlottesville and the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson) to carry out and document the hazard mitigation planning process, including but not limited to:
 - How the plan was prepared
 - How the public was involved (i.e. workshops, community outreach)
- b) As part of the public involvement process, each local jurisdiction will appoint a representative, and an alternate, to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Working Group. For the planning process, the Towns will be represented by their respective County, and any Town Staff are encouraged to participate. The County and/or the TJPDC will contact the Towns to work together to identify potential actions to include in the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).
- c) Local jurisdictions will also identify groups to work with during the planning process, including, but not limited to, their Local Emergency Planning Committees and any Special Districts. Contact with other community groups, businesses/Chamber of Commerce, and other formal and informal local organizations will be undertaken in order to meaningfully involve and engage the community, including individuals, families, schools, faith-based groups, tribes, nonprofits, government officials, community leaders, and business owners, in the planning process.

The HMP Working Group will:

- Hold regular meetings to guide the development of the plan, including holding multiple workshops during the plan development period. With interest and availability from the working group, members are encouraged to present about aspects of their work that contribute to the region's capacity to mitigate natural hazards.
- Solicit input and information sharing from citizens, stakeholders, and professionals with knowledge of applicable hazards.
- Solicit input regarding the feasibility of potential mitigation measures for each hazard and the prioritization of mitigation projects.
- Review the final draft of the plan and the plan's goals and proposed mitigation projects.
- Be involved in the implementation as well as the updating of the plan's goals and proposed mitigation projects.
- Evaluate progress toward implementation on an annual basis at an annual meeting and submit an annual report to VDEM.

2. CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (LOCAL INVENTORY) This section helps to identify and evaluate the resources that are in place, or need to be in place, to reduce risk and improve resilience.

- a) Local governments will inventory local ordinances, policies, local laws, and plans that relate to guiding and managing growth and development and impact
- b) Local governments will identify the staff, skills, tools and funding resources available to support the implementation of mitigation actions
- c) Research financial resources that the community has access to or is eligible for to fund mitigation actions

3. **RISK ASSESSMENT (HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND VULNERABILITY)** The purpose of this section is to provide a basis for hazard mitigation planning and will include:
- a) **HAZARD IDENTIFICATION:** TJPDC staff will develop a description and prioritization of the natural and man-made hazards that have occurred within the region's localities and provide a detailed description of the planning area. Using the data, the HMP Working Group will prioritize the natural hazards, based on frequency, deaths and injuries, property damage experienced during past events, and the best available models and data, to include the effects of future hazards and climate change as required by FEMA. For this plan, the risk assessment section will assess each community's risks. The natural hazards categories, consistent with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan include, but are not limited to:
- Flood-Related Hazards (river flooding, coastal flooding, erosion, dam failures as the result of coastal storms, winter storms and hurricanes) that include, at a minimum, flood hazard areas as defined by FEMA in the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the jurisdiction as well as local historical data.
 - Wind-Related Hazards (hurricanes, coastal storms, winter storms, tornadoes) based on information provided by the National Weather Service and/or State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - Fire-Related Hazards (drought, wildfires) based on local historical data, the National Weather Service, State Hazard Mitigation Plan, and/or other applicable plans/sources.
 - Geologic Hazards (earthquakes, landslides, sink holes) based on local historical information, State Hazard Mitigation Plan, and/or other applicable plans/sources.
 - Climate-Related Hazards (Extreme Heat, Drought)
 - Other Hazards not listed above as determined by local history and experience. Consideration may also be given to man-made hazards (i.e. chemical spills, cyber-attacks, and/or fires).
- b) **HAZARD MAPPING:** Using the best available, existing data, the TJPDC will develop maps of areas affected by natural hazards. In conjunction with mapping, The TJPDC will develop a comprehensive inventory (database) for use in developing map data layers, of the following items relative to the multiple hazard area:
- 1) Critical facilities, including, but not limited to the following:
 - a) emergency operations center, police/fire stations
 - b) hospitals and emergency shelters
 - c) water and wastewater treatment plants and associated pumping stations
 - d) power generation, transmission, and delivery facilities.
 - e) special population centers, such as schools, day-care facilities, nursing homes/elderly housing,
 - f) correctional facilities
 - g) hazardous material facilities
 - h) evacuation routes
 - 2) All repetitive flood loss and substantial damage structures, as defined by FEMA, if applicable. Data will be requested from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) for inclusion in the analysis and plan.
 - 3) Maps that depict the location of structures, land use, transportation and population.
 - 4) Structures will be delineated by use (e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, other)
- c) **VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT:** Based on the information described above, the TJPDC will develop an overview of each community's vulnerability to specific hazards. This vulnerability assessment, if possible, will include:
- Types and numbers of buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities located in the identified hazard areas.
 - All existing multiple hazard protection measures within the jurisdiction, including protective measures under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

- A description of each measure and the method of enforcement and/or the point of contact responsible for implementation of each measure.
- Historical performance of each measure and a description of improvements or changes needed.
- General description of land uses and development trends to incorporate future land use decisions.
- A description of how the hazards could affect the population, economy, property, and environment.
- A description of changes in recent development and evaluate how vulnerability has changed over time

4. **MULTIPLE HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY** Local jurisdictions will assist the TJPDC in developing local mitigation strategies specific to each community's exposure and impacts by identified natural hazards. The Hazard Mitigation Strategy will include a list of mitigation goal statements that focus on reducing the risks from the identified natural hazards. The goal development and project prioritization will be conducted by the HMP Working Group, informed by local input through meetings, survey, or other means. An example of a goal statement and an objective from the current regional plan is:

- a) **GOAL:** Increase mitigation capacity through planning and project implementation
- b) **OBJECTIVE:** Reduce property risks through planning, zoning, ordinances and regulations
- c) **ACTIONS:** A comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects being considered to reduce the effects of each hazard, with particular emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure. This section will include a list of prioritized hazard mitigation projects that best meet the communities' needs for multiple hazard damage reduction, while identifying the responsible parties.
 - These projects may be non-structural (e.g.: planning, regulatory measures, property acquisition, retrofitting, elevation) or structural (e.g.: seawalls, dams, dikes) solutions, and gray and green infrastructure to improve resiliency.
 - At a minimum, this list of prioritized projects will be based on a process that results in identification of cost-effective hazard mitigation projects with public input, including:
 - An analysis of proposed mitigation projects focused on several key areas, including but not limited to: economic (including benefits and cost), engineering, technical, legal, environmental, social, and political feasibility. Selected options will best fit the community's needs and meet most or all aspects of the feasibility analysis.
 - Coordination with relevant Federal and State agencies for input and technical assistance.

5. **HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCESS**

- a) **MONITORING, EVALUATING, AND UPDATING:** The Hazard Mitigation Working Group, supported by TJPDC staff, will meet annually in May or following a major disaster to evaluate progress and review annual impacts or actions which may necessitate changes in the plan. Regular evaluation of the plan will address whether:
 1. goals and objectives address current and expected conditions;
 2. the nature, magnitude, or type of hazard affecting the region has changed;
 3. current resources are appropriate for implementing the plan;
 4. important problems such as technical, political, legal, or coordination issues with other agencies have occurred;
 5. agencies and other partners are participating as originally proposed.

The plan will undergo a comprehensive review and evaluation every five years by the Working Group and the TJPDC under the authority of the Boards of Supervisors and City Council.

- b) **INCORPORATION INTO EXISTING PLANNING MECHANISMS:** Local jurisdiction will assist the communities in the implementation and incorporation of the plans' goals into other local planning processes, such as a Comprehensive Plan, or other local by-laws and ordinances.
- c) **IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE:** The completed plan will include an implementation schedule with procedures for ensuring the plans' implementation, updating and revision every 5 years.
- d) **CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** Local jurisdiction will work with the communities for continued public involvement.

6. ADDITIONAL STATE REQUIREMENTS

Local jurisdiction will work with the communities to identify and include additional requirements set by Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

7. PLAN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN ADOPTION, REVIEW, AND APPROVAL

- a) **LOCAL ADOPTION:** The TJPDC will work with the participating localities (the City of Charlottesville, the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson, and the Towns of Louisa, Mineral, Scottsville and Stanardsville) for the adoption of the plan by their respective governing body.
- b) **PLAN APPROVAL:** The adopted plan will be submitted to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) on or before the termination date for initial review and forwarding to FEMA/Region for final review and approval.