



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 update to the Chester County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) was prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). The DMA 2000 requires states and local governments to prepare HMPs to remain eligible to receive hazard mitigation grant funds made available annually and in the wake of federally declared disasters. Additionally, DMA 2000 effectively improves the disaster planning process by increasing hazard mitigation planning requirements for hazard events. DMA 2000 requires participating municipalities to (1) document their hazard mitigation planning process, and (2) identify hazards; potential losses; and mitigation needs, goals, and strategies.

The Chester County HMP represents the work of citizens, elected and appointed government officials, business leaders, and volunteer and nonprofit groups to protect community assets, preserve economic viability of the community, and save lives. DMA 2000 regulations require formal updates and adoptions of local plans every 5 years to reassess risks and update local strategies to manage and mitigate those risks. To comply, Chester County and inclusive jurisdictions actively participated in updating the county HMP. Extensive outreach efforts by Chester County Department of Emergency Services resulted in participation from all 73 municipalities. Upon completion and approval of the HMP, participating jurisdictions will continue to address and implement findings and recommendations of this plan update.

Table ES-1 identifies the jurisdictions that actively participated in the HMP update process.

Table ES-1. Participating Jurisdictions in the 2021 Chester County HMP Update

Jurisdictions		
Chester County	Elverson Borough	Thornbury Township
Atglen Borough	Honey Brook Township	Tredyffrin Township
Avondale Borough	Kennett Square Borough	Upper Oxford Township
Birmingham Township	Kennett Township	Upper Uwchlan Township
Caln Township	London Britain Township	Uwchlan Township
Charlestown Township	London Grove Township	Valley Township
Coatesville City	Londonderry Township	Wallace Township
Downingtown Borough	Lower Oxford Township	Warwick Township
East Bradford Township	Malvern Borough	West Bradford Township
East Brandywine Township	Modena Borough	West Brandywine Township
East Caln Township	New Garden Township	West Caln Township
East Coventry Township	New London Township	West Chester Borough
East Fallowfield Township	Newlin Township	West Fallowfield Township
East Goshen Township	North Coventry Township	West Goshen Township
East Marlborough Township	Oxford Borough	West Grove Borough
East Nantmeal Township	Parkesburg Borough	West Marlborough Township
East Nottingham Township	Penn Township	West Nantmeal Township
East Pikeland Township	Pennsbury Township	West Nottingham Township
East Vincent Township	Phoenixville Borough	West Pikeland Township
East Whiteland Township	Pocopson Township	West Sadsbury Township
Easttown Township	Sadsbury Township	West Vincent Township
Elk Township	Schuylkill Township	West Whiteland Township
Franklin Township	South Coatesville Borough	Westtown Township
Highland Township	South Coventry Township	Willistown Township
Honey Brook Borough	Spring City Borough	



During the plan update process, Chester County and its participating municipalities engaged in the following planning process steps:

1. Identified and prioritized hazards that may affect the county and its municipalities
2. Assessed the county’s and each municipality’s vulnerabilities to these hazards
3. Identified mitigation actions that can reduce those vulnerabilities
4. Developed a strategy for implementing those actions, including identifying the agency (or agencies) responsible for each implementation

Throughout the planning process, the general public was offered an opportunity to comment on the existing HMP and provide suggestions for the updated version. The county hosted two Planning Team meetings and two Risk Assessment meetings that were open to the public during which residents could provide input on the HMP.

The following hazards were identified by the Steering Team as presenting the highest risk to the county and its municipalities:

- Dam Failures
- Drought and Water Supply Deficiencies
- Earthquakes
- Environmental Hazards – Hazmat Releases
- Environmental Hazards – Oil and Natural Gas Pipelines
- Extreme Temperatures
- Floods, Flash Floods, and Ice Jams
- Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
- Invasive Species
- Nuclear Incidents
- Opioid Addiction Responses
- Pandemics
- Radon Exposure
- Structural Fires
- Terrorism
- Tornadoes and Windstorms
- Transportation Accidents
- Utility Failures
- Winter Storms

To mitigate the effects of those hazards, the Steering Team identified the following goals and objectives for hazard mitigation over the next 5 years:

Goal 1: Prevent injury/death, physical damage, and other impacts from hazards in Chester County.

- Objective 1.1 Enhance regulations for addressing development in hazard-prone areas.
- Objective 1.2 Upgrade infrastructure to reduce the likelihood of hazards from impacting Chester County.
- Objective 1.3 Support government agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide aid to vulnerable populations before, during and after a hazard.

Goal 2: Protect the citizens of Chester County, as well as public and private property, from the impacts of natural and human-caused hazards.

- Objective 2.1 Protect existing structures, including critical facilities and culturally or historically significant assets, from damage that can be caused by hazards.
- Objective 2.2 Acquire, relocate, elevate, and/or retrofit existing structures, including repetitive loss properties, located in hazard areas.



- Objective 2.3 Improve existing stormwater management systems to reduce flooding.
- Objective 2.4 Provide resources that encourage regular inspection and maintenance of existing stormwater facilities to reduce flooding.
- Objective 2.5 Assist with updating local stormwater management standards to reduce flooding.
- Objective 2.6 Encourage homeowners, renters, and businesses to insure their properties against all hazards, including purchasing flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Goal 3: To protect and restore existing natural resources including wetlands, floodplains, and riparian buffers.

- Objective 3.1 Lessen impacts on natural resources and open space from natural and human-caused hazards by promoting sustainable land use and water resources management practices.
- Objective 3.2 Provide appropriate safeguards for the preservation of the quality of water resources, stream corridors, watershed areas, and floodplains.

Goal 4: To promote public awareness on the potential impacts of natural and non-natural hazards, and actions to reduce those impacts.

- Objective 4.1 Develop public education and outreach programs on hazards and hazard mitigation.
- Objective 4.2 Educate property owners in hazard-risk areas regarding their risks and the precautions they can take.
- Objective 4.3 Encourage residents to implement hazard mitigation and preparedness measures on their properties.
- Objective 4.4 Encourage local participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) Program.
- Objective 4.5 Provide outreach and educational opportunities to the community about where to find comprehensive information on hazards.

Objectives and actions to be implemented are discussed in the Mitigation Action Plan in Section 6 of this HMP.

Additionally, Steering Team members will meet annually to evaluate the status of plan implementation and prepare a summary report of HMP status and any needed updates. The mitigation evaluation will address changes as new hazard events occur, as the area develops, and as more information becomes available pertaining to hazards and their impacts. The evaluation will include an assessment of whether the planning process and actions have been effective, whether development or other issues warrant changes to the HMP or its priorities, if progress toward the communities' goals is satisfactory, and whether changes are warranted. Monitoring, evaluating, and updating the plan is further discussed in Section 7, Plan Maintenance. The public is encouraged to give feedback (1) by directly contacting the County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team Coordinator, (2) during recurring review meetings, and (3) during the 5-year revision process.

To request information or provide comments regarding this plan, please contact the Chester County Department of Emergency Services. Contact information is provided below:

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