

Butler County

Natural Hazard Mitigation Action Plan

Why does Butler County need a Natural Hazard Mitigation Action Plan?

On July 18th, 2001, storms and severe weather conditions led to significant flooding in Butler County, which caused substantial property damage. Butler County was among the counties in Ohio listed as Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas during this storm event. This was the eight Presidential Disaster Declaration for Butler County since 1964. The loss of life and property from natural hazards has resulted in increased awareness and activities related to planning for natural hazards throughout the county. Butler County's population continues to grow at a rapid pace, land development and densification is putting a greater percentage of the population and environment at risk from natural hazards, creating justification for the need to reduce risk.

In the wake of these recent events, Butler County is developing a Countywide Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The plan will serve as a resource to help guide and coordinate mitigation activities throughout the county, and assist in reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards. Butler County has been enabled to develop the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in part by becoming the recipient of a Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant. This program is a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant program, which requires recipients to develop mitigation plans.

What is Mitigation?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency defines mitigation as the "sustained action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects." Mitigation is an ongoing effort conducted at Federal, state, local, and individual levels lessening the impact of disasters upon our families, homes, communities and economy.

What is involved in developing a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Our Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee is working with the Butler County Emergency Management Agency, our consultant, Jobes Henderson & Associates, Inc., and other county organizations to develop a mitigation plan that will assist in coordinating partnerships and implementing activities aimed at reducing risk and preventing loss from future natural hazard events. The mitigation plan will address chronic and catastrophic hazards, including: flood, severe winter storm, tornadoes and other windstorms, and earthquakes. Specific project activities include:

1. Conducting stakeholder interviews to assess organizations engaged in risk reduction activities and potential partnerships for mitigation activities and projects;
2. Developing and consolidating information on the natural hazards in Butler County;
3. Crafting the agenda for public workshops to identify key issues and concerns related to natural hazards in Butler County;
4. Reviewing the inventory of natural hazards in the county and conducting vulnerability assessments;
5. Drafting recommendations for projects that will assist the county in reducing long term risk to people and property and facilitating a workshop for the public to review and prioritize action items; and
6. Preparing the County Natural Hazard Mitigation Action Plan.

Who is the Project Manager?

The Project Manager for this project is the Butler County Emergency Management Agency.

Who are the other Partners?

There is a project steering committee with members represented from the Butler County Department of Development, Butler County Engineers Office, Butler County Environmental Services, Butler County

Emergency Management Agency, local business Alliances and non-Profit organizations in Butler County. In addition, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will collaborate with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in obtaining resources, information on regional, state and federal mitigation activities. Butler County has contracted with the firm of Jobes Henderson & Associates to assist the county in developing this plan.

What Will I Learn from this Project?

Our Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee team members will be engaged in researching, collecting and consolidating information pertaining to natural hazards and land use planning in Butler County. Team members will also participate in developing an action plan that provides strategies for implementation and evaluation of the recommended action items, and at the same time create a manageable document that can be used by the diverse population and jurisdictions in Butler County

This project will expose citizens to natural hazards mitigation and planning in Butler County, and offer the opportunity to interact with county agency staff, planners in the public and private sector, other community organizations and businesses, and state agency representatives. Skills you'll gain or strengthen as a member of this project include:

- Conducting Stakeholder Interviews
- Collaboration and Partnership Development
- Client Presentations and Work Session Facilitation
- Public Meeting Facilitation
- Writing and Report Preparation
- Action Plan development

In addition, you'll learn about:

- Natural Hazards Mitigation
- Data Inventory and Hazard Assessment
- Local Government Planning Processes
- Land Use Planning and Natural Resource Management

Who is the Project Manager?

William R. Turner, Director
Butler County Emergency Management Agency
315 High Street, Suite 670
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
Phone: (513) 785-5810
Fax: (513) 785-5811
Email: turnerwr@butlercountyohio.org

Other point of contact:

Douglas W. Kullman, P.E.
Director of Transportation
Jobes Henderson & Associates, Inc.
59 Grant Street
Newark, OH 43055
Phone: (740) 344-5451
Fax: (740) 344-5746
Email dkullman@jobeshenderson.com

Please call or send an email if you have any questions.

-