

Section 2 Planning Process

The Autauga County Hazard Mitigation Plan up-date was developed by the Autauga County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee over the course of three years. A work plan was developed using (1) information on hazard mitigation planning from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), (2) the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) disaster mitigation planning requirements, and (3) current FEMA approved county hazard mitigation plans for Alabama. The Autauga County Emergency Management Agency provided historical information on past hazard occurrences in the County as well as geographically at-risk areas. Information was also gathered from various local, state, federal and public agencies and private firms including the Alabama Department of Transportation, Prattville Baptist Hospital, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, and Economic Development, Montgomery Alabama Metropolitan Planning Organization, Elmore County EMA, Montgomery County EMA, City of Millbrook, Alabama Power, Central Alabama Electrical Corporative, and Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission.

The planning process involved the formation of a planning committee, municipality input, and public participation. All levels of governmental involvement were the trade mark of this document. All governments within the county were involved in the development of this Plan. The involvement was not just individual, but was from the various departments of each government (Autaugaville, Billingsley, Prattville and Autauga County). There were individuals representing the mayor’s office (or the mayor), engineers, planning offices, fire departments, water, forestry, chamber of commerce, employers and school district. In addition, the above mentioned organizations provided information and chose to remain active in an advisory status

Table 2.1 Summary of Plan Updates (Section 2)

Section		Modifications
2.1	Planning Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Restructured and expanded membership
2.3	The 10-Step Planning Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Restructured and explained process
2.4	Municipal Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase involvement of local governments and citizens through interviews and by survey

2.4	Public and Neighboring Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to expand citizen involvement in the planning and plan development phases
2.5	Plan Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded effort to incorporate other local planning efforts and community development initiatives into the hazard mitigate plan update

2.1 Planning Committee

A Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) was formed by the Autauga County Emergency Management in order to assist in the planning process. The planning committee identified and prioritized hazards, determined the County's capabilities, and reviewed the risk and vulnerability assessments to develop and prioritize mitigation goals, objectives, and actions. The planning committee consisted of representatives from various private, nonprofit, and government organizations. Table 2.1 provides a list of the organizations that were represented on the planning committee. Other organizations as indicated above chose to remain in an advisory status and provide information and technical assistance as requested.

Table 2.1
Planning Committee Representation
Autauga County Commission
Autauga County Engineering Department
Autauga County Emergency Management
Town of Autaugaville
Town of Billingsley
Billingsley VFD
Billingsley Water Works
City of Prattville
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce
Autauga County E-911
Alabama Forestry Commission
Central Alabama Regional Planning Development Commission

The planning committee met a total of eleven times. The following is a list of those meetings.

1. Meeting One – Introduction of Process (June 21, 2007)
2. Meeting Two - Review of Current Plan (August 3, 2007)
3. Meeting Three – Review of Current Plan (September 14, 2007)
4. Meeting Four – Review of Current Conditions (November 2, 2007)
5. Meeting Five – Review of New Plan Requirements (January 18, 2008)
6. Meeting Six – Training of the Committee (October 9, 2008)
7. Meeting Seven – Review of FMA Rules (October 31, 2008)
8. Meeting Eight – Review of County Hazards (December 10, 2008)
9. Meeting Nine – Review of Draft Hazard Section (February 5, 2009)
10. Meeting Ten – Collection of Facility Data and Hazards (March 5, 2009)

11. Meeting Eleven – Review of Mitigation Strategies and Objectives, and Setting of Public Notification Dates (April 9, 2009)

The following chart displays the steps to develop, implement and maintain the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

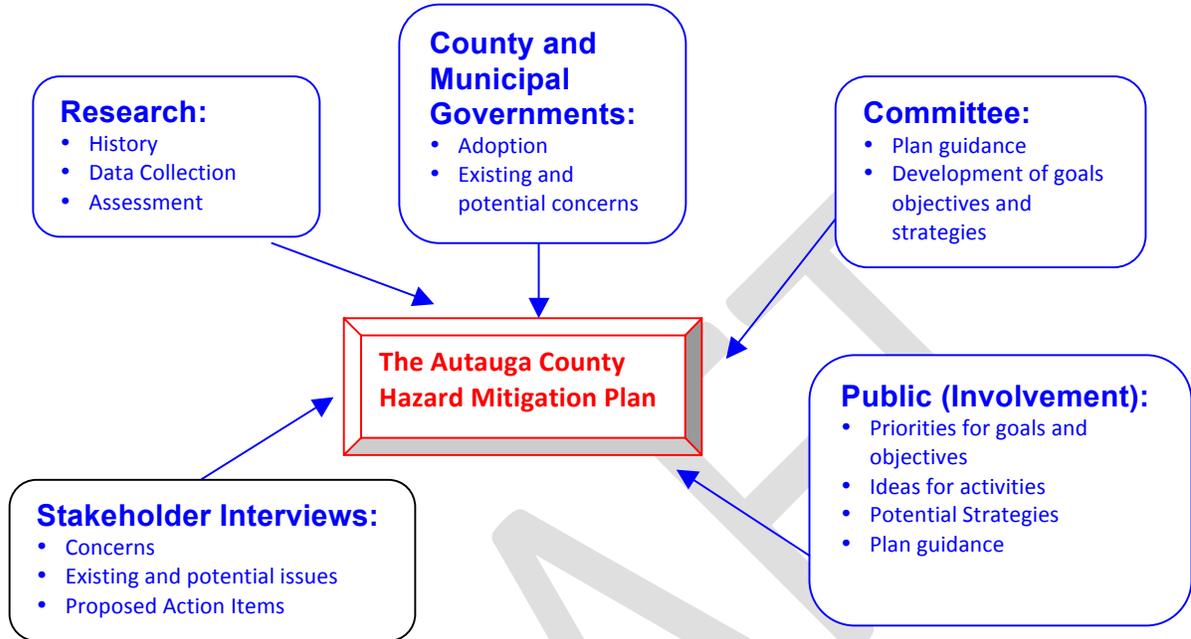


Table 2.2 Hazard Mitigation Plan Process

FEMA's 4-Phase DMA Process	Modified 10-Step CRS Process
1) Organize Resources	
201.6(c)(1)	1) Organize the Planning Effort
201.6(b)(1)	2) Involve the Public
201.6(b)(2) and (3)	3) Coordinate with Other Departments and Agencies
2) Assess Risks	
201.6(c)(2)(i)	4) Identify the Hazards
201.6(c)(2)(ii)	5) Assess the Risks
3) Develop the Mitigation Plan	
201.6(c)(3)(i)	6) Set Goals
201.6(c)(3)(ii)	7) Review Possible Activities
201.6(c)(3)(iii)	8) Draft an Action Plan
4) Implement the Plan and Monitor Progress	
201.6(c)(5)	9) Adopt the Plan
201.6(c)(4)	10) Implement, Evaluate, and Revise the Plan

2.2 The 10-Step Planning Process

The planning process for Autauga County's plan update followed the DMA planning requirements and FEMA's associated guidance. This guidance is structured around a four-phase process:

1) Organize Resources 2) Assess Risks 3) Develop the Mitigation Plan 4) Implement the Plan and Monitor Progress

Into this four-phase process, HMPC integrated a more detailed 10-step planning process used for FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) and Flood Mitigation Assistance programs. Thus, the modified 10-step process used for this plan meets the requirements of six major programs: FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, CRS, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Severe Repetitive Loss program, and flood control projects authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Table 2.2 shows how the modified 10-step process fits into FEMA's four-phase process.

2.3 Municipal Involvement

As outlined in the DMA 2000, in order for a county hazard mitigation plan to receive FEMA approval, each municipality adopting the plan must be involved in the planning process. At the end of February 2009, each municipality was mailed a short survey. In addition, each municipality has a representative on the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee. At the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meetings municipalities had the opportunity to review, comment and direct the development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. They also were given a hazard mitigation project opportunity form to complete. Each municipality also received a draft copy of the plan for comment and review.

Municipal / Citizen Survey

In addition, each municipality, various civic organizations (chamber of commerce), quasi-governmental organizations (volunteer fire departments, school district) and individual citizens received a municipal / citizen survey. The survey was designed to obtain input on the various natural hazards within the county, to determine their priority of impact, and to gain historical event data. The survey polled the municipalities / citizens on the types and severity of hazards they have experienced in the past 15 years as well as the types of mitigation actions they have completed and their hazard mitigation needs. Overall, tornadoes had the greatest number of occurrences

while flooding and thunderstorms had the greatest number of occurrences resulting in property damage. The following list is the hazards identified as the ones of concern perceived by individuals from the survey.

- Winter Storms
- Floods/Tropical Storm Flooding
- Windstorms
- Transportation Accidents
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Dam Failure
- Agricultural Hazards

The following list is the hazards with the greatest occurrences as perceived by individuals from the survey.

- Floods/Tropical Storm Flooding
- Drought/ Water Supply Deficiencies
- Tornadoes
- Windstorms
- Fires
- Hurricanes
- Agricultural Hazards
- Winter Storms

The most commonly reported projects municipalities had in place or completed to aid in hazard mitigation were: building codes, subdivision ordinances, and emergency management plans. The City of Prattville had a majority of the following regulations, as Autaugaville and Billingsley were limited.

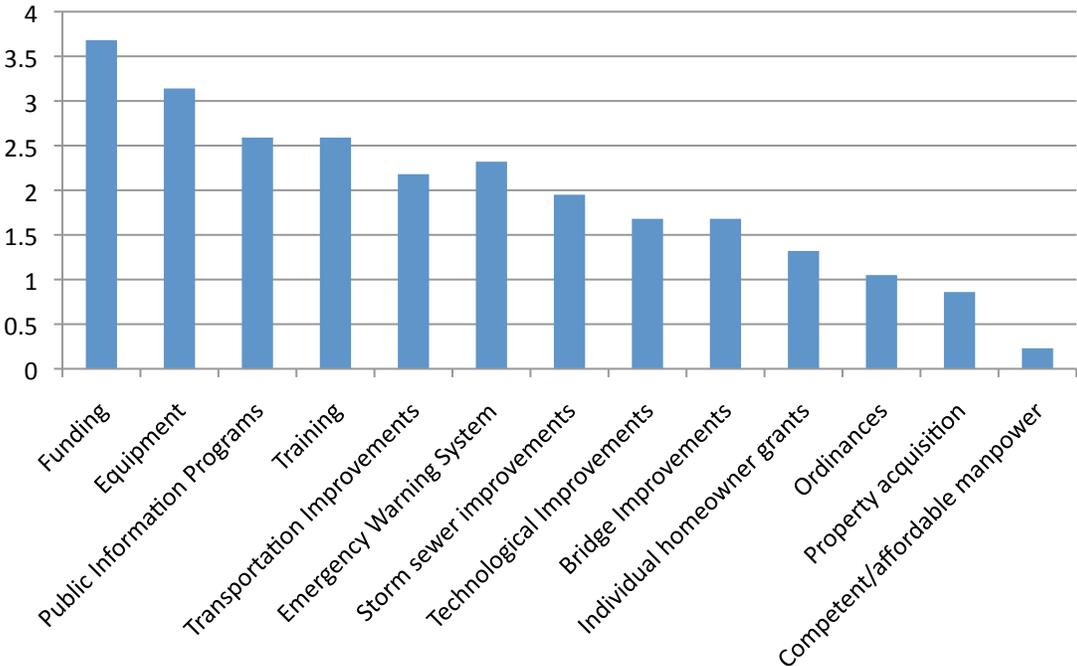
**Figure 2.3
Current Municipality Regulations and Programs**

	Autauga County	Autaugaville	Billingsley	Prattville
Building Code Ordinance/Permits				*
Subdivision Ordinances	*			*
Comprehensive Plan		* under development		* Update under development
Zoning				*

Evacuation Plan				*
Flood Control Projects				*
Emergency management and response training	*	*	*	*
Emergency Management Plan	*	*	*	*
Floodplain Management	*			*
Stormwater Management Plan				*

Municipalities were also asked to rank their hazard mitigation needs. Figure 2.3 shows the results of that ranking. Funding was ranked the highest followed by equipment and training. Competent, affordable manpower (not included in the survey) and property acquisition received the lowest scores. The results of the municipal survey were reviewed and considered when determining the final hazard ranking and in developing hazard mitigation goals, objectives, and alternative actions.

Figure 2.4 Municipality Hazard Mitigation Needs Average Score



2.4 Public and Neighboring Community Involvement

Autauga EMA and CARPDC involved various organizations for neighboring communities and counties. One of Autauga EMA first actions was to involve the Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's membership includes the surrounding area and includes governments, institutions (educational and financial) organizations and businesses for Elmore County and Montgomery County. The EMA office used the chamber as one of its major forums in disseminating information and conducting the public survey.

As indicated in the introduction of this section, there were numerous organizations that provided information, and technical and advisory support in the development of this document. They ranged from banks to private firms, hospitals to educational, state agencies to non-profits. The most important neighboring counties, EMA offices, regional planning organizations and educational institutions were involved.

The public was given the opportunity to review and comment on the plan before it was submitted for adoption and approval. Copies of the plan were also available at the Autauga County EMA, the Autauga County Commissioner's Office, and all local public libraries. A notice was posted in the *Prattville Progress* announcing that the plan was available for comment and review.

Other organizations as indicated above chose to remain in an advisory status and provide information and technical assistance as requested.

2.5 Plan Reviews

The Autauga County Hazard Mitigation Committee reviewed several county and municipal plans as part of the planning process to ensure compliance with their recommendations. Reviewing the plans also provided information on critical facilities, resources, infrastructure, community services, economy, land use, and growth corridors. At the time of the hazard mitigation planning process, the Prattville Planning Commission was currently in the process of updating the City's Comprehensive Plan. In addition, the Autaugaville Town Council is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan. Much of the research and mapping completed for the comprehensive plan was used in the hazard mitigation planning process.