

Section 6 Mitigation Measures

Table 6.1 Summary of Plan Updates (Section 6)

Section		Modifications
6.1	Mitigation Goals, Objectives, and Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructured, updated, redefined and expanded processes in developing and evaluating mitigation goals, objectives and actions.
6.2	Mitigation Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructured, updated and expanded mitigation goals, objectives and actions. Created two charts indicating main mitigation opportunities (projects) by hazard threat and/or local government

6.1 Mitigation Goals, Objectives, and Actions

A **goal** is a general guideline that explains a desired achievement. Goals are broad policy statements representing global visions with long term results.

An **objective** is a strategy or implementation step to attain an identified goal. Objectives are more specific than goals and can be measured.

A **mitigation action** is a specific action that helps achieve identified goals and objectives

The Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission developed a list of draft goals, objectives, and alternative actions to be reviewed by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee, local elected officials, and the public. In compiling the draft list the Planning Commission reviewed the State of Alabama’s hazard mitigation goals, the hazard mitigation goals of several neighboring counties, FEMA How-To Guides, the results of the vulnerability analysis, and the County’s Comprehensive Plan goals. To ensure a comprehensive list of goals, objectives, and actions, the Planning Commission considered six mitigation categories as outlined in *Developing the Mitigation Plan* (FEMA 386-3):

- **Prevention:** Preventive measures are actions that keep problems from occurring or growing worse. These actions are typically government administrative or regulatory actions or

processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built.

- **Property Protection:** Protective measures are actions that guard persons and existing structures from hazard impacts.
- **Public Education and Awareness:** These actions inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them.
- **Natural Resource Protection:** These actions preserve or restore a community's natural resources.
- **Emergency Services:** These actions help protect people and property during and immediately after a disaster occurrence.
- **Structural Projects:** These actions involve constructing a structure such as a dam or levee to reduce the impacts of a hazard on people and property.

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee met on April 9, 2009 to review the draft goals, objectives, and actions. After several alterations, the committee came to an agreement on the list. The public, neighboring communities, and elected officials were given the opportunity to review and comment on the draft goals.

The final list of hazard mitigation goals are:

1. Increase public education and awareness of existing and potential hazards in Autauga County
2. Protect the citizens of Autauga County as well as public and private property from the impacts of natural hazards
3. Prevent the current and future risk of injury/death and damage from natural hazards in Autauga County
4. Encourage proper information management of data related to natural hazards in Autauga County
5. Improve emergency services and capabilities in Autauga County to protect citizens from natural hazards

The final list of objectives and alternative mitigation actions can be found in section 6-2. To determine a final list of alternative mitigation actions, the actions were evaluated using the STAPLE+E criteria: Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic, and Environmental. Table 6.1 identifies the considerations that were used to evaluate each mitigation action.

**Table 6.1
STAPLE+E Criteria and Considerations**

Criteria	Considerations
Social	• Community acceptance
	• Effect on segment of population
Technical	• Technical feasibility
	• Long-term solution
	• Secondary impacts
Administrative	• Staffing
	• Funding allocated
	• Maintenance/Operations
Political	• Political support
	• Local champion
	• Public support
Legal	• State authority
	• Existing local authority
	• Potential legal challenge
Economic	• Benefit of action
	• Cost of action
	• Contributes to economic goals
	• Outside funding required
Environmental	• Effect on land/water
	• Effect on endangered species
	• Effect on HAZMAT/waste sites
	• Consistent with community environmental goals
	• Consistent with federal laws

From Developing the Mitigation Plan (FEMA 386-3)

6.2 Mitigation Actions

Goal 1

Increase public education and awareness of existing and potential hazards in Autauga County

Objective 1.1 *Develop public education and outreach programs on hazards and hazard mitigation*

Action 1.1.1 Disseminate informational pamphlets for County residents that explain the risks of hazards outline precautionary measures that can be taken to help reduce the impacts of a disaster to themselves and their property, and emphasize the value of hazard mitigation.

Action 1.1.2 Develop an informational website with information on the hazards that can affect the County, how residents can protect themselves from a disaster, and mitigation actions the County and municipalities are taking to help reduce the risks.

Action 1.1.3 Cooperate with local media to produce regular public service announcements or news releases on hazard risk, safety, and the importance of mitigation.

Action 1.1.4 Utilize existing programs for school education programs on hazards, hazard safety, and mitigation.

Objective 1.2 *Educate property owners in hazard risk areas of their risks and the precautions they can take*

Action 1.2.1 Disseminate informational pamphlets or mailings on hazard mitigation for property owners in the 100 year floodplain or owners of repetitive loss structures.

Action 1.2.2 Develop informational workshops on hazard risks and hazard mitigation for property owners in high risk areas.

Action 1.2.3 Investigate avenues for real estate disclosure for properties in 100 year floodplain.

Objective 1.3 *Form a permanent Hazard Mitigation Committee*

Action 1.3.1 Form a permanent Hazard Mitigation Committee (HMC) of representatives from various organizations and departments that would meet regularly to help organize various hazard mitigation actions in the County.

Goal 2

Protect the citizens of Autauga County as well as public and private property from the impacts of natural hazards.

Objective 2.1 *Protect existing structures from damage caused by hazards*

Action 2.1.1 Investigate a county fund to facilitate voluntarily acquiring, elevating, or retrofitting structures in hazard prone areas.

Objective 2.2 *Promote management and regulatory procedures that would reduce the impacts of hazards on public and private property*

Action 2.2.1 Enforce forest and vegetation management policies.

Action 2.2.2 Enforce urban forestry and landscape management policies.

Action 2.2.3 Develop and implement a Vegetative/Tree Risk Management Plan

Action 2.2.4 Enforce best management practices.

Action 2.2.5 Enforce sediment and erosion control regulations.

Action 2.2.6 Enforce stream dumping regulations.

Action 2.2.7 Enforce wetlands development regulations.

Objective 2.3 *Develop local structural projects to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on public and private property*

Action 2.3.1 Construct barriers around structures in flood-prone areas.

Action 2.3.2 Construct dams or reservoirs to reduce flooding and erosion.

Action 2.3.3 Construct levees or floodwalls to protect communities with repetitive flooding problems.

Action 2.3.4 Purchase floodway or repetitive loss structures to eliminate potential for flood damage

Objective 2.4 *Maintain streams and culverts to reduce back-up and flooding*

Action 2.4.1 Regularly inspect and maintain bridges and culverts.

Action 2.4.2 Develop a stream corridor restoration plan.

Action 2.4.3 Develop program for debris removal and vegetation management along selected streams.

Objective 2.5 *Protect critical facilities from the impacts of natural hazards*

Action 2.5.1 Create and maintain a database and map of all critical facilities in the County.

Action 2.5.2 Inspect critical facilities regularly to ensure they comply with standard codes and can withstand the impacts of a disaster.

Action 2.5.3 Relocate critical facilities out of the 100 year floodplain.

Action 2.5.4 Ensure that all critical facilities have updated emergency response plans.

Action 2.5.5 Encourage, promote and fund all critical facilities to be equipped or retrofitted for back-up energy sources (i.e. generators)

Objective 2.6 Promote the development of shelters within the county

Action 2.6.1 Assist municipalities and the county in development of community shelters.

Action 2.6.2 Assist and encourage private citizens and companies in developing safe rooms.

Action 2.6.3 Encourage public and private schools to re-evaluate structures and re-enforce as required.

Objective 2.7 Promote the development of early warning systems within the county

Action 2.7.1 Develop and maintain an early warning system of weather sirens within the county

Action 2.7.2 Encourage and promote citizen obtaining weather radios.

Goal 3

Prevent the future risk of injury/death and damage from natural hazards in Autauga County

Objective 3.1 *Develop regulations limiting development in hazard-prone areas*

Action 3.1.1 Enforce floodplain development regulations.

Action 3.1.2 Offer technical assistance to municipalities to develop, address, or enforce floodplain zoning, hillside development regulations, subdivision and development regulations, design review standards, and environmental review standards.

Action 3.1.3 Develop stormwater management plans and regulations for those watersheds in the County that do not currently have a plan.

Objective 3.2 *Protect natural resources and open space from natural hazards*

Action 3.2.1 Acquire easements or create development buffers in hazard prone areas, specifically 100 year floodplains.

Action 3.2.2 Promote open space preservation.

Action 3.2.3 Require special use permits for hazard prone areas.

Action 3.2.4 Promote natural resource planning.

Objective 3.3 *Direct new growth away from hazard prone areas*

Action 3.3.1 Review, evaluate, and discuss designated growth areas in existing county and local plans to ensure development will occur out of hazard prone areas

Action 3.3.2 Review planned infrastructure to ensure that it will be developed outside of hazard prone areas.

Objective 3.4 *Ensure that property owners in the 100 year floodplain purchase flood insurance*

Action 3.4.1 Recommend encourage and assist communities to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS).

Objective 3.5 *Ensure that residents receive relief and are evacuated as quickly as possible in the event of a disaster*

Action 3.5.1 Develop evacuation routes and an evacuation plan to be used in the event of a disaster.

Action 3.5.2 Create early warning system, including stream gauges, to warning of impending flash flooding.

Goal 4

Encourage proper information management of data related to natural hazards in Autauga County

Objective 4.1 *Develop data management policies to ensure adequate data management*

Action 4.1.1 Encourage departments responsible for creating and storing data related to parcels, centerlines, buildings, addresses, hydrology, and hazards to develop and enforce data maintenance policies.

Action 4.1.2 Encourage the development of data sharing policies and agreements between departments and organizations responsible for data creation, management, and use.

Objective 4.2 *Develop and update detailed databases related to hazards and hazard mitigation*

Action 4.2.1 Develop and maintain hazard occurrence databases to record information on hazards such as date and time of occurrence, duration of disaster, amount of damage, number of injuries, etc.

Action 4.2.2 Develop detailed databases on parcels and buildings in and out of the 100 year floodplain. The data could include first floor elevations, number of stories, basements, value of structure, acreage of parcel in floodplain, etc.

Action 4.2.3 Work with FEMA to update current NFIP floodplain maps and determine base flood elevations for the County.

Goal 5

Improve emergency services and capabilities in Autauga County to protect citizens from natural hazards

Objective 5.1 *Improve coordination and communication between departments*

Action 5.1.1 Develop and distribute a list of contact persons for each organization that may play a part in emergency response, services, relief, or hazard mitigation.

Action 5.1.2 Encourage the heads of each department or organization involved in emergency response, services, relief, or hazard mitigation to meet several times a year to discuss hazard mitigation.

Action 5.1.3 Develop a clear chain of command that would be used in the event of a disaster.

Action 5.1.4 Update emergency management communication systems.

Objective 5.2 *Ensure adequate training and resources for those involved in emergency response, services, relief, or hazard mitigation*

Action 5.2.1 Develop informational workshops or programs on hazard mitigation and available funding for organizations, departments, elected officials, and volunteers.

Action 5.2.2 Disseminate informational brochures for organizations involved in emergency response, services, relief, or hazard mitigation.

Objective 5.3 *Ensure adequacies of equipment and technology*

Action 5.3.1 Inventory all available equipment and technology used for emergency response, services, and relief to determine deficiencies.

6.3 Hazard Mitigation Opportunities

Those municipalities wishing to participate in the plan submitted at least one hazard mitigation project opportunity form. A project opportunity form identifies a hazard mitigation project a community would like to complete. Table 6.2 shows the municipalities who submitted forms along with the type of projects submitted. Table 6.3 compares the submitted project opportunities with the hazards identified in this plan.

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