

Mission

The mission of the Onondaga
County Multi-Jurisdictional
Hazard Mitigation Plan is to
protect the health, safety,
property, environment and
economy of the communities
within Onondaga County and to
increase resilience by partnering
to identify and reduce our future
vulnerability to natural hazards
in a proactive and efficient
manner.



Hazard Mitigation Planning Goals

- Protect Life and Safety
- Increase Understanding and Awareness of Natural Hazard Risk
- Promote Resiliency Throughout the County
- Protect the Environment and Natural Resources
- Promote and Support Partnerships
- Enhance Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Hazard Mitigation Overview

Hazard mitigation planning helps to reduce long-term risks caused by hazards or natural disasters, such as flooding, earthquakes, or severe storms. The ultimate purpose of hazard mitigation is to protect life and property, and minimize the costs of disaster response and recovery. Mitigation can take many forms, such as construction projects, policies, education, or environmental protection, and can be done by government, business and homeowners.

Proactive mitigation often leads to more cost-effective projects. By contrast, reactive mitigation tends to lead to severe damage repair and often more costly fixes; it simply costs too much to address the effects of disasters only after they happen. A surprising amount of damage can be prevented if we can anticipate where and how disasters occur, and take steps to prevent those damages.

Updating the Onondaga County Plan

This plan is a comprehensive update of the original 2013 Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Onondaga County Towns, Villages the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, and the Onondaga County Water Authority formally participated in this update, and this multi-jurisdictional plan serves as each entity's formal HMP. The plan complies with federal and state hazard mitigation planning requirements to establish eligibility for funding under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs.

Benefits of a Hazard Mitigation Plan

- An increased understanding of the natural hazards the County faces.
- Development of more sustainable and disaster-resistant communities.
- Eligibility for federal funds for pre-disaster mitigation planning before disaster strikes.
- Potential financial savings to residents, including flood insurance premium reductions.
- Reduced long-term impacts and damages to human health and structures, and reduced repair costs.

A central component of the hazard mitigation planning process is to identify the primary hazards of concern to Onondaga County. Hazards of concern are those hazards that are considered most likely to impact a community. For the purposes of this planning process, only natural hazards were considered.

A variety of potential hazards were identified and ranked by the Planning Partnership based on factors such as frequency, magnitude of impact, and/or geographic extent of losses. The primary Hazards of Concern included in the 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update include:

Flooding
Severe Storms
Severe Winter Storms
Earthquake
Geologic Hazards (Landslides)
Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
Invasive Species

Risk Assessment

The 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update includes an updated hazard risk and vulnerability assessment for each of the seven identified Hazards of Concern. A risk assessment is conducted to determine the potential impacts of hazards on the people, economy and built and natural environments of Onondaga County and its jurisdictions. The risk assessment provides the foundation for the rest of the mitigation planning process, which focuses on identifying and prioritizing actions to reduce risks from hazards.

Mitigating Hazards

Based on public input, identified risks, and available capabilities, Onondaga County and participating jurisdictions each developed mitigation strategies and implementable actions to mitigate natural hazard-related losses.

Mitigation actions identified by the county and participating jurisdictions can be viewed in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) in the HMP. Over 100 potential mitigation actions were identified during the planning process.

Total Population (2010 Census) 467,026 467,026 Total Land (square miles) 805.1 Structure and Infrastructure Project Regulatory, Eload Plans and Regulations, and Natural Systems Protection Severe Winter Storm Total Agricultural Land (acres) Number of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Policies and Percent in Regulatory Floodplain 1,753 (54%) Number of Repetitive Loss (RL) Properties 46 Total Agricultural Land (acres) 171,467.7 Winter of Repetitive Loss (RL) Properties 46 Total Agricultural Land (acres) 171,467.7 Wareness Programs, Local Plans and Regulations, and Natural Systems Protection Drought Severe Storm Severe Winter Storm

How can we reduce/eliminate risk?

By identifying and implementing activities, which can include:

- 1) local plans and regulations
- 2) structure and infrastructure projects
- 3) natural systems protection; and
- 4) education and awareness programs.

Where can I see the plan?

The 2019 Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan is available for viewing and download here, and on your municipality's web page.

http://www.ongov.net/planning/haz.html

Please contact your town, village, city, or the Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency with any questions or feedback.



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