

HANCOCK COUNTY ME HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2012 UPDATE

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

Understanding that the Local Mitigation Plan requirements in 44 CFR §201.6 of the Interim Final Rule applies to local jurisdictions, the County of Hancock, State of Maine, decided to complete a multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan to include and incorporate each of its member towns. This is due to the fact that the majority of these communities are too small to complete such an undertaking on their own. This county-wide mitigation planning effort encouraged agencies at all levels, local residents, businesses, and the non-profit sector to participate in the mitigation planning and implementation process. This broader public participation enabled the development of mitigation measures that are supported by these various stakeholders and reflects the need of the county-wide community.

Since the criteria for the local plans requires that communities only address natural hazards, the Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team decided not to include in our discussions man-made and technological hazards, which were included in 2004 plan. We will only include in the plan natural hazards and agreed with FEMA that in many instances, natural disasters have secondary effects, such as dams breaking due to floods, or hazardous material releases due to tornadoes. Our County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is an all-hazards plan, as are the local EOP plans for the municipalities in Hancock County. We utilize the hazard analysis and risk assessment from the Mitigation planning as the backbone for developing and updating our emergency operations plans.

The Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Plan includes the following sections:

- Prerequisites (adoptions)
- Planning Process
- Risk Assessment
- Mitigation Strategy
- Plan Maintenance

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES

Hancock County, covering 2,351 square miles, has 67.5% land cover or 1,588 square miles and 32.5% water cover. Forests cover approximately 70% of the land area. It boasts the longest coastline of any Maine county, 952.7 miles. The major routes connecting Hancock County to its neighboring Counties of Penobscot to the north, Washington to the east and Waldo to the west are State Routes 15 & 3, and US routes 1 and 1A. The boundary to the south is the Atlantic Ocean, especially for the towns of Penobscot, Blue Hill and Frenchman Bay. The Penobscot and the Union Rivers flow through Hancock County the ocean.

Topographical features identified by the US Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, lists Hancock County as having the following: 35 beaches, 270 named ponds and lakes, and 235 named hills and mountains. The most notable of the mountains is Cadillac Mountain which is located in Acadia National Park, the only national park in Maine and the entire New England region. Cadillac Mountain is the highest point in Maine's coastal region. The park attracts an estimated 2.5 million visitors from spring to fall each year. Many of the County's 270 lakes and ponds are reached only by tote roads or by hiking trails.

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Hancock County is made up of thirty-six towns, one city (Ellsworth), and a portion of the State's Unorganized Territory (UT) which contains fifteen Unorganized Townships. The State of Maine and Hancock County Commissioners are responsible for the governance of the UT.

INDUSTRIES/MAJOR EMPLOYERS

The majority of the coastal communities rely heavily on both the fishery and tourist industries. Agriculture, of which the blueberry industry is prominent, and forestry also contribute to the economy. The largest employers in the County are Jackson Lab, Verso Paper, Maine Coast Memorial Hospital and Hinckley Company. Jackson Laboratory and MDI Biological Lab are noted research facilities and are located in Bar Harbor. There are two notable institution of higher education, Maine Maritime Academy, located in the center of Town of Castine and the College of the Atlantic, located in the Town of Bar Harbor.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Summary of Changes in Demographics 2000 to 2010

Hancock County vs. Maine/US Demographics 2010 vs. 2000	Hancock County			Maine		US	
	2010	2000	% +/- from 2000	2010	% +/- from 2000	2010	% +/- from 2000
Population	54,418	51,791	4.8%	1,328,361	4.0%	308.7 (mil)	9.7%
Persons per Square Mile	34.3	33.9	1.2%	43.1	0.041763	87.4	0.088
Median Age	46.3	40.7	12.1%	42.7	9.6%	37.2	5.1%
Population < 20	21%	25%	-18.6%	23%	-7.9%	26.9%	-6.3%
Population 20 - 64	61%	59%	2.7%	61%	6.5%	60%	1.8%
population >=65	18%	16%	12.4%	16%	13.1%	13.1%	5.3%
Housing							
Total Housing Units	40184	33945	15.5%	721,830	10%	131.7 (mil)	13.6%
Seasonal Housing Units	13,134	10,672	18.7%	118,310	14%	n/a	
Average Household Size	2.31	2.31	0.0%	2.11	-0.1	2.59	-0.012
Income							
Median household Income	48,899	35,811	37%	46,541	25%	51,425	22%
Median Family Income	60,554	43,216	40%	57,257	27%	62,363	25%
Per Capita Income	26,982	19,809	36%	24,980	28%	27,041	25%
% Families below poverty	6%	7%	-13%	9%	10%	10%	8%
% Individuals below poverty	11%	10%	5%	13%	16%	14%	9%

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Hancock County Towns/City	Year Round Population			Density (/sq.mi.)	Total Homes	Year Rd Homes
	2010 Census	2000 Census	% Change			
Amherst	265	230	15.2%	6.7	174	137
Aurora	114	121	-5.8%	3.1	105	56
Bar Harbor	5235	4820	8.6%	124.1	3495	2760
Blue Hill	2686	2390	12.4%	43.0	1936	1438
Brooklin	824	841	-2.0%	45.8	874	438
Brooksville	934	911	2.5%	30.0	934	507
Bucksport	4924	4908	0.3%	95.4	2551	2357
Castine	1366	1343	1.7%	175.1	704	416
Cranberry Isles	141	128	10.2%	44.1	375	80
Dedham	1681	1422	18.2%	42.9	1254	781
Deer Isle	1975	1876	5.3%	66.5	1936	1025
Eastbrook	423	370	14.3%	12.7	504	207
Ellsworth	7741	6456	19.9%	97.6	4240	3594
Franklin	1483	1370	8.2%	40.4	1043	736
Frenchboro	61	38	60.5%	12.7	76	25
Gouldsboro	1737	1941	-10.5%	37.7	1442	880
Great Pond	58	47	23.4%	1.6	85	27
Hancock	2394	2147	11.5%	80.3	1437	1185
Lamoine	1602	1495	7.2%	89.5	994	764
Mariaville	513	414	23.9%	13.2	416	233
Mount Desert	2053	2109	-2.7%	55.6	2287	1114
Orland	2225	2134	4.3%	47.4	1470	1070
Osborn	67	69	-2.9%	1.9	122	34
Otis	672	543	23.8%	27.0	744	336
Penobscot	1263	1344	-6.0%	31.7	883	640
Sedgwick	1196	1102	8.5%	44.3	800	595
Sorrento	274	290	-5.5%	68.5	314	165
Southwest Harbor	1764	1966	-10.3%	130.7	1484	959
Stonington	1043	1152	-9.5%	106.4	993	561
Sullivan	1236	1185	4.3%	46.5	806	603
Surry	1466	1361	7.7%	39.4	1119	726
Swans Island	332	327	1.5%	23.7	483	188
Tremont	1563	1529	2.2%	92.5	1260	836
Trenton	1481	1370	8.1%	81.4	1021	744
Verona Island	544	533	2.1%	87.7	292	257
Waltham	353	306	15.4%	11.9	206	158
Winter Harbor	516	988	-47.8%	35.8	519	302
Unorganized Townships	213	138	54.3%	0.5	806	116
Total Hancock County	54418	51714	5.2%	34.3	40184	27050

