

HANCOCK COUNTY ME HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2012 Update

SECTION 3. MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PLANNING PARTICIPATION

In compliance with 44 CFR §201.6(b)(1) Hancock County held all its planning meetings as open forums. Announcements at open, public meetings of the Hancock County Commissioners' monthly meetings, emails to town offices and Local Emergency Management Directors', announcements at the Local Emergency Planning Committee, announcement at the Downeast Public Health Liaison Committee meeting, newsletters, and direct mailings were all methods used to get information to and from the public and as a means to recruit volunteers for the mitigation planning committee. The Planning Team included opportunities for the public and representatives from our largest employees attend our planning meetings and address the group and provide comments during all stages of its formation. The EMA Planner, lead the team in reviewing the existing county and municipal emergency plans and incorporated information as appropriate. The background of the planning team members was diverse and provided needed expertise to the process. The following describes our documentation of the planning process, including how the plan was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.

DOCUMENTATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

CFR Requirement §201.6(a)(3):	Multi-jurisdictional plans may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process.
Elements	A. Does the new or updated plan describe how each jurisdiction participated in the plan's development?
	B. Does the updated plan identify all participating jurisdictions, including new, continuing and the jurisdictions that no longer participated in the plan?

The Hancock County Emergency Management Agency, once again, offered to accept the responsibility for hosting the review and re-write of the mitigation plan for the Hancock County municipalities and the Unorganized Territory (UT). The County EMA brought together a mitigation planning team comprised of representatives from the federal government, county government, local municipal governments, regional partners, local business organizations and a contract planner to facilitate at meetings and to guide the process. (See following table for the list of the team members). Not every municipality in Hancock County had a member on the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team. However, much of the information for this plan was gathered or provided by members of the planning team who met or spoke with representatives of each of the 37 municipalities to update their information, collect their comments and/or recommendations on the plan.

The initial planning meetings were devoted to an overview of the process, review of the hazard analysis, risk assessment, review of the mitigation measures, and prioritization of the measures and actions. Hancock County largest employers and utilities were invited to address the planning committee to provide input and recommendations.

Each municipality was informed and involved in several ways to provide information on municipal planning and development, critical Infrastructure Inventory, real property assessments, road Information, and a listing of re-occurring disaster damage areas. The means used to inform the public and each municipality included the following: local EMA Directors' meetings, Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings, town meetings and visits, newsletters, emails and telephone calls. Others were interviewed at their Town Offices.

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Three meetings were held to specifically determine the status of mitigation activities and projects, to determine if they are still relevant and to develop and prioritize any new actions. Discussion also included future public involvement and plan maintenance. (See section 6)

Finally, every community was encouraged to participate in the Mitigation Planning Process and plan maintenance through town meetings, planning committee meetings, budget meetings and information on municipal websites and cable access channels. Because “planning” is in broadest terms to include all phases of emergency management, awareness was further heightened by a carefully prepared exercise involving many partners. (Appendices B and C)

A. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team consisted of the following representatives, who were recruited during the Local EMA Director and the LEPC meetings:

Hancock County EMA, Ralph E. Pinkham

Hancock County-Bar Harbor Airport; M. Allison Navia

Hancock County EMA, Robert McKenney

Hancock County EMA, Linda M. Feury, (2010 employee/2011 Contract Planner)

Hancock County CART (Animal Rescue), Helen Kazura

Hancock County RCC (Regional Comm.), Renee Wellman

Hancock County Firefighters Association Representatives

American Red Cross, Gretchen O’Grady

Bangor Hydro-Electric Co.; Bob Platt

Bar Harbor Banking & Trust; Andrew Sankey

Bar Harbor Fire Dept., Matt Bartlett

Bar Harbor Public Works, Susan Banis

Bar Harbor Police Department, Shaun Farrar

Fair Point Communications, Scott Allocca

Gradient Planning, Marion Long

The Jackson Laboratory, Janice Von Brook

Maine Forest Service, Rick Henion

National Weather Service – Caribou, Mike Cantin

National Weather Service – Caribou, Matt Doody

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The following Organizations and Agencies participated in the development and review of the Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Plan:

2004	2010-12
Hancock County Commissioners	Hancock County Commissioners
H C Emergency Management Agency	H C Emergency Management Agency
Hancock County Fire Fighters Assoc.	H C Local Emergency Planning
Hancock Area County Managers Assoc.	Hancock Area County Managers Assoc.
Hancock County Planning Commission	Hancock County Planning Commission
Mount Desert Island League of Towns	Hancock County Airport
Schoodic Area League of Towns	Hancock County LEPC
	Hancock County Firefighters Assoc Rep
	American Red Cross
	Bar Harbor Banking and Trust
	Gradient Planning
	The Jackson Laboratory
	Verso Paper Co.
	Bangor Hydro-Electric
	Fair Point Communications
	Schoodic Area Firefighters' Committee

For summary listing of all participating jurisdictions, see following table:

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Summary of Participating Municipalities “X” indicates participation; “-” indicates non-participation		
Jurisdictions	Participated in 2005 Plan	Participated in 2011 Plan
Amherst	X	X
Aurora	X	X
Bar Harbor	X	X
Blue Hill	X	X
Brooklin	X	X
Brooksville	X	X
Bucksport	X	X
Castine	X	X
Cranberry Isles	X	X
Dedham	X	X
Deer Isle	X	X
Eastbrook	X	X
Ellsworth	X	X
Franklin	X	X
Frenchboro	X	X
Gouldsboro	X	X
Great Pond	X	X
Hancock	X	X
Lamoine	X	X
Mariaville	X	X
Mount Desert	X	X
Orland	X	X
Osborn	X	X
Otis	X	X
Penobscot	X	X
Sedgwick	X	X
Sorrento	X	X
Southwest Harbor	X	X
Stonington	X	X
Sullivan	X	X
Surry	X	X
Swans Island	X	X
Tremont	X	X
Trenton	X	X
Verona Island	X	X
Unorganized Territory	X	X
Waltham	X	X
Winter Harbor	X	X

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- B. The public was given many opportunities to be heard. The primary method was articles written for the quarterly Hancock County EMA newsletters. The newsletters are distributed countywide to all municipal offices, Public Safety Agencies, Local EMA Directors and is also posted on the county's website. See sample below and Appendix A:

This plan update was developed with input from:

- Disasters declarations since the completion of the 2006 plan
- Discussions from the monthly County Directors meetings with MEMA
- Discussions in the local planning meetings and exercise planning sessions
- The Hancock County 2006 Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Discussions with surrounding counties as they revised their plans
- The State of Maine 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan

As a result of the meetings and references cited above, the following revisions will be found in this version of the plan:

Cover/Table of Contents: This section was revised with repagination

1. **Overview:** This section reviewed for accuracy, 2010 census data
2. **Prerequisites:** This section was simplified and revised to reflect changes in Hancock jurisdictions, including its portion of the Unorganized Territory.
3. **Planning Process:** This section was revised to reflect new hazard mitigation planning team members, team meetings and public involvement opportunities.
4. **Risk Assessment:** Major revisions as indicated; occurrence tables added for each profiled hazard; use of Consumer Price Index for estimating future losses; new text in red for draft purposes; deletions shown by strike-outs
5. **Mitigation Strategies:** Major revisions as indicated, especially status of mitigation projects; new text in red for draft purposes; deletions shown by strike-outs
6. **Plan Maintenance Process:** This section updated to note access to newer forms of media for communication purposes and more frequent evaluation and maintenance of the plan in the future.

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September 2011:

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED FOR MITIGATION PLANNING –

The Hancock County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has limited time to complete information for the draft update to your 2005 county-wide hazard mitigation plan. A current approved plan enables Hancock County municipalities to qualify to submit an HMPG application. We hope you're already familiar with what HMPG is, but for those who are not; the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Funding for projects will be available in April of 2012 under the HMPG process. Municipalities with a current mitigation plan will qualify to submit a grant application. What is needed from local municipalities is input to the projects list. The types of projects should align with the hazards and risk assessment, such as the following:

- Acquisition of real property for willing sellers and demolition or relocation of buildings to convert the property to open space use
- Retrofitting structures and facilities to minimize damages from high winds, earthquake, flood, wildfire, or other natural hazards
- Elevation of flood prone structures
- Development and initial implementation of vegetative management programs
- Minor flood control projects that do not duplicate the flood prevention activities of other Federal agencies
- Localized flood control projects, such as certain ring levees and floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities
- Post-disaster building code related activities that support building code officials during the reconstruction process
- Creating a defensible space and reducing fuel for wildland fires.

In the next week, we will be sending out a listing the current projects list, we need feedback from each municipality on whether the project has been completed, should be deleted, or if you have identified new projects. The intent is to list viable projects that would lessen the impact from the hazards being profiled in the plan. These hazards, listed in order of highest risk, are flooding, winter storms, summer storms, and wildfires. Your feedback for the project listings is essential in completing our updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. Specific guidelines require you to provide input to the planning process for our plan to be successful.

The planning committee reviewed the goals, objectives and strategies to lessen the impacts of a potential disaster. Examples of disaster mitigation strategies include floodplain management, whereby new construction in floodplains is limited, and the cutting back of tree limbs from electric power lines to prevent the trees from damaging the lines in a storm.

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The most critical piece of the Hazard Mitigation Planning process is the involvement of the public. The input from all municipalities and all interested citizens is essential for this plan to be successful.