

HANCOCK COUNTY ME HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2012 Update

SECTION 6. PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

The 44 CFR §201.6(c) (4) requires a formal plan maintenance process to take place to ensure that the Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the Plan at least every five-years, and continued public participation throughout the life of the Plan.

This section also includes an explanation as to how Hancock County and its municipal governments intend to incorporate their mitigation strategies into any existing planning mechanisms they have, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, or zoning and/or building codes.

This section includes the following four subsections as follows:

18. Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan
19. Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms
20. Continued Public Involvement, and,
21. Plan Review

18. MONITORING, EVALUATING, AND UPDATING THE PLAN

Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i):	The plan maintenance process shall include a section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.
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Hancock County has developed a method to ensure that regular review and update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan occurs. The Hancock County Emergency Management Agency has formed a Hazard Mitigation Plan Evaluation Team that consists of members from the County EMA office, County Commissioners, Selectmen, Town Managers, municipal EMA directors, municipal planners/planning boards, as well as Road Commissioners from member towns, along with the Hancock County Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Hancock County Firefighter’s Association, and the Hancock County Planning Commission. (See: Appendix A)

A. Monitoring the Plan

The Hancock County EMA is responsible for contacting the Hancock County Mitigation Team (hereinafter referred to as the “Team”) and organizing and convening its members after each disaster and/or annually. The methodology for monitoring the plan will be for the Team to review the plan to determine if any changes are necessary based on new information, such as after-action reporting, consequences/outcomes of a disaster situation, new laws that have been enacted or other factors that may impact upon its provisions. Following, Team members will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the mitigation strategies in the plan.

B. Evaluating the Plan

The Team will review each mitigation goal and objective to determine relevance to changing situations, consider land use developments in Hancock County, changes in state or federal policies, and to ensure that the goals and objectives address current and/or expected conditions. The Team will also review the risk assessment portion of the plan to determine if this information should be updated or modified. The parties responsible for the various

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implementation actions will report on the status of their projects and will include which implementation processes worked well, any difficulties encountered, how coordination efforts were proceeding, and which strategies should be revised.

C. Updating the Plan

Based on the aforementioned annual review or reviews made necessary following disaster events, the Hancock County EMA Office will make provisions for updating the plan and submitting it to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer in the fourth-year of the planning period. The State Hazard Mitigation Officer will review the plan prior to submittal to FEMA for conditional approval; after the plan has been conditionally approved by both the State and FEMA, the municipal jurisdictions will subsequently have one-year to formally adopt the revised plan.

19. Implementation into existing Planning Mechanisms

Requirement §201.6(c)(4) (ii):	[The plan shall include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate...
Elements	<p>A. Does the new or updated plan identify other local planning mechanisms (chart on comprehensive plans, flood, shoreland, resource protection, etc.)?</p> <p>B. The process for incorporating Mitigation Strategies and related information</p>

County government is limited in scope and authority in the State of Maine; as a “Home Rule” entity it lacks the authority, manpower, or fiscal capabilities to guide and/or control development of its towns. Governance is derived from state statutes and other jurisdictional rules.

Only seven of Hancock County’s thirty-seven municipalities have populations sized greater than two-thousand persons, making only these seven required to maintain a municipal building inspector. These communities utilize comprehensive land use planning, capital improvements planning, along with building codes to guide development in their communities. The remaining thirty-entities may not employ these same mechanisms due to the lack of a requirement for doing so based upon population size (those less than 2000 persons). Following ratification of the Hazard Mitigation Plan by its municipalities and formal adoption by Hancock County these existing mechanisms will have hazard mitigation strategies integrated into them.

There were few ordinance-related mitigation measures identified by the Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team and those so identified were rated to be of low probability. The majority of the mitigation measures that were identified and all those that were selected by the individual towns are either structural, public educational, or emergency planning measures.

The Hancock County EMA office will encourage all municipalities, regardless of population size based requirements to address the hazards in their respective comprehensive plans through adoption of flood, land use, and related ordinances. The Hancock County EMA Office, in conjunction with the Hancock County Planning Commission, will conduct periodic reviews of these municipal comprehensive plans and land use policies, analyze any amendments, and provide technical assistance to any municipalities in implementing these amendments within the scope of mitigation and all hazards planning. Those towns that do not presently possess ratified comprehensive plans (See: Appendix B) will address these hazards through incorporation into their municipal *Emergency Operations Plans*. To address those regions of Hancock County formally designated as part of the Unorganized Territory, i.e., those without local government

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bodies, Maine’s Land Use Regulatory Commission is the entity resource for addressing such matters.

The municipal capital improvements planned for future investment will also contribute to the goals of the Hazard Mitigation Plan; municipal planning boards will work with capital improvement planners to secure high-hazard areas for future low-risk uses.

After adoption of the Mitigation Plan, the Hancock County EMA Office will assist the municipal officers in implementing their selected mitigation measures. The County EMA Office will conduct annual reviews and surveys with the municipal officers and local EMA directors to determine the status of their measures. The County EMA office will assist the municipalities with the completion of FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Hazard Mitigation Grant packages as part of its ongoing outreach initiatives to each community.

The agency within each municipality that is responsible for the implementation and completion of each mitigation measure will notify the County EMA Office whenever assistance is needed or whenever a measure is completed. Existing programs such as the municipal Road Maintenance Plan, Emergency Management program and local fire prevention programs will be utilized to their greatest extent to complete the community’s mitigation measures.

20. CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Requirement §201.6(c)(4) (iii):	[The plan maintenance process shall include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.
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Hancock County is committed to involving the public directly in the continual reshaping and updating of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. While the Hazard Mitigation Plan Evaluation Team members charged with the review and update of the plan are themselves members of our public communities, a broader solicitation and representation of the County’s populace will be afforded opportunity to directly comment upon and provide feedback about the Plan through a variety of means, including the Hancock County website, attendance at public hearings, Tabletop, Workshops/Seminars, Functional, and Full-Scale exercises, and other such forums.

The Plan will be provided to the County’s municipal Emergency Management directors and distributed to all municipal town offices for public review and comment. Invitation for doing so will be communicated by these town offices utilizing the variety of media typically employed locally for such purposes. Contained in the Plan is the contact information of the Hancock County EMA Office, to which they may direct their feedback or other commentary on the Plan, its provisions, and its proposed implementation.

In addition, the Plan will reside upon the County’s website in a downloadable (.pdf formatted) document and any proposed changes will be posted on the County EMA Office website. This site will also contain the contact information for members of the public to direct their comments or concerns. A link to this site will additionally appear upon the Maine Emergency Management Agency’s website.

It should please be noted that the County considers hazard mitigation as more than just a written plan; the Plan itself is part of a larger strategy that includes preparedness, training, exercises, response, project implementation and recovery operations. Demonstrating this vision and commitment are the following public outreach efforts undertaken by Hancock County and include:

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- Maintaining and updating the Hancock County EMA website
- Communication via its newsletter, published quarterly
- Maintaining emergency communications systems
- Exercises, with After-Action follow-up as necessary
- Continuous updating of Emergency Operating Plans (EOPs)
- Participation in forums such as the annual Maine Partners in Preparedness Conference

21. Plan Review

Requirement §201.6(d)(3):	A local jurisdiction must review and revise its plan to reflect changes...and resubmit for approval within 5 years...to be eligible for grant funding.
Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Reflect changes in development B. Reflect progress at local level C. Reflect changes in priorities

A. Changes in Development

Due mostly to the recent and current economic climate, little development is occurring and as such, only modest population increases in the small, rural towns is attributable largely to lower housing costs and/or taxes. Because of its location on the Maine coast, tourism remains, along with fishing, one of Hancock County’s economic strengths. If Bar Harbor continues to develop as a cruise ship destination, additional infrastructure may be added, but it is currently in the study phase. Because most other seasonal tourist/vacationers drive to their coastal destinations, future fluctuations in fuel costs could negatively impact upon the volume of visitors to the area, leading to further economic downturns.

B. Progress in Local Mitigation Efforts

In the Strategy section of this plan tables are provided that show at the county and jurisdiction levels, what actions were new, completed, deleted or deferred. Depending on resources, some locales are making steady progress, but many will need additional funding before projects can be either initiated or implemented. As also demonstrated in the table, a number of towns were able to complete projects within their own budgets. The towns of Lamoine and Surry were awarded federal funds for projects through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); others were able to utilize disaster funds through the Public Assistance (PA) Program.

C. Revision in Priorities.

The plan was revised to reflect any changes in local priorities as described in the Strategy section. During the 2010-2012 revision process, each jurisdiction has worked with the County to verify their projects, prioritize or re-prioritize them based on current conditions, and add new projects where needs have arisen. The biggest difference between this plan and the original is that the generic projects have been replaced with more specific, measureable projects.

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The address and phone number of the Hancock County Emergency Management Agency is:

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