



# SECTION 7. PLAN MAINTENANCE

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## 7.1 DEVELOPMENT PROCESS SUMMARY

This development of Northumberland County's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) was a comprehensive effort that utilized a variety of sources and data for trend analysis, reviewed a vulnerability and risk assessment for local hazards, created a fluid process to streamline future updates to the HMP, and identified the hazard mitigation measures needed to limit the effects of local hazards.

The 2017 HMP states that it will be updated every five years. The HMP will actually be reviewed and evaluated more frequently, as it will be consulted in the creation and/or update of other County planning documents (see Section 7.3). Any potential modifications to the HMP that would impact those other documents were noted by County planning staff.

The Plan Maintenance section was created based on discussions with the Planning Team regarding how the HMP would be monitored, evaluated, and updated over the next five years. The HMP's relationship with the County Comprehensive Plan and Emergency Operations Plan was discussed and documented in Section 7.3. The Planning Team, municipal representatives, and other stakeholders were offered the opportunity to review and comment on this section along with the rest of the HMP during the public meeting.

## 7.2 MONITORING, EVALUATING AND UPDATING THE PLAN

Hazard mitigation planning in Northumberland County is the responsibility of all levels of government (i.e., county and local), as well as the citizens of the County. As listed in FEMA 386-4, the Northumberland County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team (HMT) must continuously monitor and document the progress of the HMP's recommended actions. The Planning Team (listed in Section 3.2), under the direction of the Planning Team Leader, will be responsible for maintaining this HMP. The HMT plans on meeting every six months, but no less than once per calendar year and following each emergency declaration, with the purpose of reviewing the Plan. The Planning Team Leader will assemble the HMT for annual\biannual reviews of the HMP. Each year, the County will solicit new projects from the municipalities by sending Project Opportunity Forms and informing the municipalities of the opportunity to update their mitigation measures.

Each review process will ensure that: the Risk Assessment reflects current conditions in the County and the municipalities, the Capability Assessment accurately reflects local circumstances, and the hazard mitigation strategy is updated based on the County's damage assessment reports and local mitigation project priorities. The Planning Team will complete a Progress Report to evaluate the status and accuracy of the HMP and record the Planning Team's findings. The Northumberland County Planning Team Leader will maintain a copy of these records.

As directed by FEMA 386-4, the Progress Report will include the following information: the hazard mitigation action's objectives; who the lead and supporting agencies

responsible for implementation are; how long the project should take, including a delineation of the various stages of work along with timelines (milestones should be included); whether the resources needed for implementation, funding, staff time, and technical assistance are available, or if other arrangements must be made to obtain them; the types of permits or approvals necessary to implement the action; details on the ways the actions will be accomplished within the organization, and whether the duties will be assigned to agency staff or contracted out; and the current status of the project, identifying any issues that may hinder implementation.

The HMP must be updated on a five-year cycle. This HMP will be updated and resubmitted to FEMA for approval within the five-year period. The monitoring, evaluating, and updating of the Plan every five years will rely heavily on the outcomes of the annual Planning Team meetings.

### **7.3 INCORPORATION INTO OTHER PLANNING MECHANISMS**

#### **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

##### *Method*

The Northumberland County Planning Commission is responsible for maintaining and updating the County Comprehensive Plan, and provides a model Subdivision and Land Use Ordinance for use by the municipalities. The Planning Commission meets regularly to review, discuss, and comment on municipal subdivision and land development plans, municipal floodplain ordinances, municipal stormwater management plans and ordinances, and other community planning and development matters. After the adoption of the existing HMP, these reviews will include informal cross-referencing of the planned development or regulatory activity with the provisions of the HMP. It uses this information to identify necessary revisions and to amend the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission's meetings are open to the public and are advertised according to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act (65 PA C.S.A.). All 36 municipalities are covered by the County Comprehensive Plan. These practices will continue using the information in the HMP.

##### *Maintenance Schedule*

Article III of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247 of 1968, as reenacted and amended) requires all Pennsylvania counties (except Philadelphia) to adopt a comprehensive plan and update it at least every 10 years. Coupling this requirement with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000)-required five-year update cycle for HMPs, when possible, will allow the County to better integrate the County Comprehensive Plan and HMP planning processes and strengthen public participation for both efforts.

Northumberland County's current Comprehensive Plan was adopted on June 28, 2005. This plan provides general direction and a blueprint for the future of Northumberland

County and constituent communities. Recommendations from the HMP can be incorporated into the document.

## **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

### ***Method***

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 PA C.S. Sections 7701-7707, as amended) requires each county and municipality to prepare, maintain, and keep current an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The Northumberland County Department of Public Safety is responsible for preparing and maintaining the County EOP. The risk assessment information presented in the HMP can be used to update the hazard vulnerability assessment section of the County EOP. The risk assessment information will affect subsequent updates to the EOP.

### ***Maintenance Schedule***

The EOP is reviewed at least biennially. Whenever portions of the plan are implemented in an emergency event or training exercise, a review is performed and changes are made where necessary. These changes are then distributed to the County's 36 municipal Emergency Management Coordinators (EMCs).

The Northumberland County Department of Public Safety should consider the County's HMP during its biennial review of the County EOP. Recommended changes to the HMP, based on changes to the EOP, will then be coordinated with the Planning Team.

## **ACT 167 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANS**

### ***Method***

Act 167 requires that all stormwater management plans include an analysis of present and projected land development in flood hazard areas and its sensitivity to damages from future flooding or increased runoff. In drafting Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans, the HMP's hazard profile on floods was consulted to identify the location and extent of flooding, range of magnitude, past occurrences, likelihood of future occurrences, and vulnerability assessment due to flooding events. The floodplain maps included in this HMP can be used as a reference to meet Act 167 requirements.

### ***Maintenance Schedule***

Like the HMP, stormwater management plans must be reviewed (and revised, if necessary) every five years.

As these plans are reviewed by the Northumberland County Planning Commission, information gathered in the revision of these plans will be incorporated into the revision of the HMP, and vice versa.

## **PLAN INTERRELATIONSHIPS**

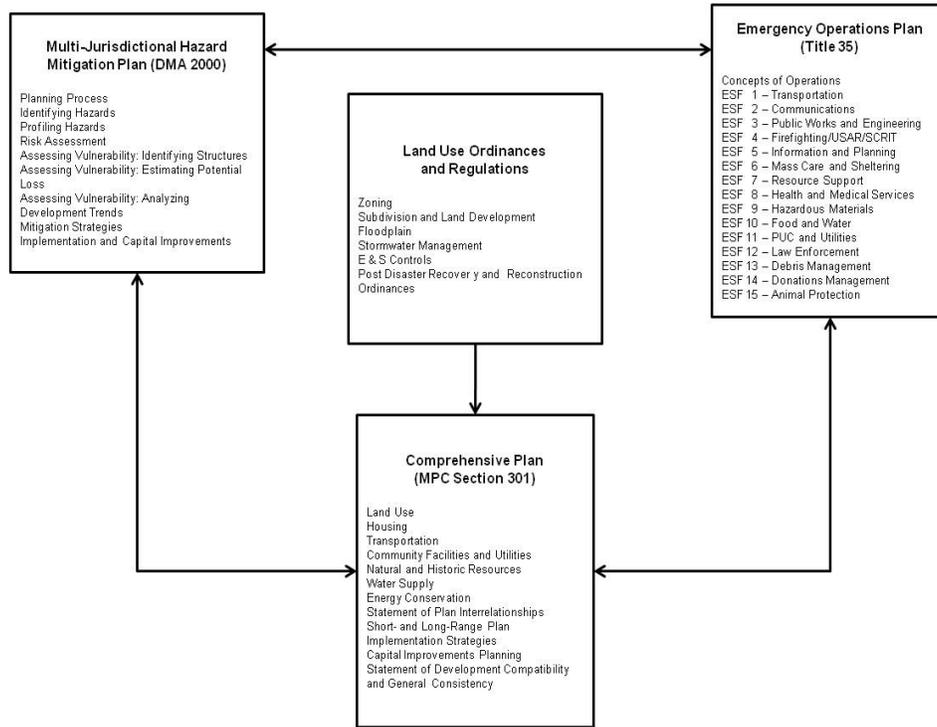
Figure 7.3.4-1 illustrates the interrelationships between the HMP, County Comprehensive Plan, County EOP, and other community planning mechanisms. Ensuring consistency between these planning mechanisms is critical. In fact, Section 301 (4.1) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires that comprehensive plans include a discussion of the interrelationships among their various plan components, “which may include an estimate of the environmental, energy conservation, fiscal, economic development, and social consequences on the environment.”

When developing the HMP, certain sections of the County Comprehensive Plan, EOP, and various land use ordinances and regulations provided key information. Moving forward, each of these documents **should not be** treated as unrelated and updated separately. The County and each participating municipality are responsible for incorporating the specific mitigation actions recommended in this Plan into the necessary planning documents, including the appropriate comprehensive plan, the County EOP, and any land use ordinances and regulations.

For example, zoning and other land use regulations will be amended to reflect the newly identified hazard areas, to ensure that development in those areas is minimized or at least conducted in a way that otherwise mitigates against the effects of hazards (e.g., requiring structures built in the floodplain to be elevated). As proposed changes to building codes are presented, their potential for mitigating damage due to hazards will be examined, and the changes will only be adopted if they are shown to lower risk. Changes to stormwater management plans will incorporate identified mitigation actions and will encourage increased participation in the NFIP.

To that end, Northumberland County and its municipalities must ensure that the components of the HMP are integrated into existing community planning mechanisms and are generally consistent with goals, policies, or recommended actions. Northumberland County and the Planning Team will utilize the existing maintenance schedule of each plan to incorporate the goals, policies, or recommended actions as each plan is updated.

Figure 7.3.4-1: Plan Interrelationships



## 7.4 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Northumberland County Department of Public Safety will ensure that the HMP is posted and maintained on the County website <http://www.publicsafety.norrycopa.net/> and will continue to encourage public review and comment on the Plan through information posted to the website and public notices in local newspapers.

The citizens of Northumberland County are encouraged to submit their comments to elected officials and/or members of the Planning Team. To promote public participation, Northumberland County welcomed comments on sections of the HMP at every public meeting. This offered the public the opportunity to share their comments and observations. All comments received will be maintained and considered by the Planning Team when updating the HMP.

Northumberland County will continue to reach out to municipalities via telephone, mail, and e-mail regarding mitigation projects, especially those municipalities that did not submit projects for inclusion in this HMP. Any additional Hazard Mitigation Project Opportunity Forms received during the life of this five-year HMP will be incorporated into the Plan as an interim, updated and included in the next five-year Plan update.